

## Conditions in the West

**Seeding Conditions mostly Favorable. Alberta in Good Shape. High Prices at Calgary Bull Sale. Wheat Market Erratic**

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Calgary, April 12, 1916.

Leaving Winnipeg the day after last writing I have seen something of conditions in the West. Up until Sunday, April 9th, there was a great deal of snow on the ground, both in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Since then there have been heavy rains and while there is danger of floods in some places the rains has helped to melt the snow, and with ten days of drying wind there will be a better chance of getting on the land.

In Alberta considerable progress has been made in seeding, more especially in the Southeastern part of the province. Men like George Lane, for example, who seed 3,000 acres of wheat alone, expect to finish seeding in a week's time. This means they will be about a week later than last year, by actual days, but they claim their land is in better condition. When they have little snow in winter and high winds and hot sun in March the moisture is largely evaporated before they can seed and furthermore they suffer badly from soil drifting. Snow fall was heavy in many parts of Northern Alberta, but in the Edmonton district there has been no snow for some two weeks and seeding is proceeding.

Reports from the province as a whole would indicate that seeding would be general in about another week. The entire province of Alberta reports soil in excellent condition as to moisture, but a reduction in seeding area from lack of fall ploughing.

### Annual Bull Sale at Calgary.

Alberta has been much in the limelight this week as this is the week of the great annual bull sale at Calgary, which in the old days when Alberta was altogether a ranch country was the very centre of the cow country.

Alberta has not departed from her first love though ranching in its old form has largely disappeared, being replaced by the great stock farms where a certain amount of grain as well as cattle is the order. The past winter has been a severe one for Alberta

with heavy snows, but there are no reports of big losses of cattle, as there was during the last winter of heavy snow, namely in 1907, because now every rancher is prepared to feed through the months of January and February.

The bull sale opened on the morning of the 11th with an attendance of some 450 men, and 304 bulls to be sold. From the first blow of the auctioneer's hammer bidding was good and in two days the 304 bulls were disposed of for the tidy sum of \$73,570 or an average of \$242 per head. The highest price paid was \$705 for a four-year-old Hereford; \$700 was paid for another Hereford, eighteen months old. The highest price for Shorthorns was \$635, while \$400 and \$500 was paid for a number of animals of both these breeds. Fully ninety-five per cent of these bulls were bred in Alberta and 75 per cent were two-year-old or under.

It is conceded that a two-year-old bull of good breeding and in fair show condition costs about \$100 to produce so that at the general average of \$242 there is a handsome profit to the producer. All sales are for spot cash and any bull not paid for in half an hour after being sold is put up again for re sale.

Wheat markets have continued to be governed almost entirely by weather conditions in Western Canada and in the South, and cables have been very generally ignored. Foreign buyers continue to be quite indifferent and are apparently holding off for the big movement from seaboard, which is expected to come immediately following the opening of interior navigation. One day bad reports from the south will put the Winnipeg market up several cents, the announcement of beneficial rains the following day has a depressing effect.

Flour is holding steady, but all trade is curtailed by the congestion of traffic which still prevails over the entire West.

The latest news as to the opening of navigation seems to indicate that it must be the 25th of April before any boats go out.

## Glasgow Wheat and Flour

(Special Correspondence.)

Glasgow, March 30, 1916.

There has been a very considerable fall since last week, but very little business has been passing. Buyers are exceedingly timid and want to keep close to the market. Their idea is to take out, and buy up anything cheap that is going.

The delay in deliveries is exceedingly troublesome, but before long there must be some steady business, because for about six weeks there has been practically nothing bought for shipment.

The price of bread has been reduced in London, but it is still 1½d. per 4lb. loaf above Glasgow, so it is not likely there will be any change here.

We have had a bad week as far as shipping goes. Quite a lot of steamers have been sunk, several of them with wheat and flour on board. We think, however, that taken as a whole, the Government have the position much better in hand than at any time since the beginning of the war. They are also gradually getting the shipowners in hand, and we think supplies will be a little more plentiful than for some time back.

It is difficult to give a proper estimate of prices, but the spot price for Kansas Patents and Manitobans is roughly 42s. 6d. for the former, and 43s. for the latter. Top Winter Patents are not in much demand, but are roughly about 43s. to 43s. 6d. c.i.f. The best value is in Canadian 90 per cent Winters, which can be bought at 41s. to 40s. 6d. c.i.f.

In your last issue we notice you referred to the possibility of a duty being placed on American flour and to the articles published in "Milling." You must, of course, remember that it suits the millers to take the view indicated here, but the importers are not going to be squeezed out of existence by the argument that the room given to flour would be given to wheat, and that the milling of this wheat would bring the officials and the wages to this country.

While they claim that the Government should buy the flour from them, we would like to ask these gentlemen whether it was imported flour or home

milled flour that went so far wrong in the hands of the Government, and also to point out to them that, but for the foreign importer and the flour he is selling, the home millers would have been at a very much higher level.

While nominally their argument is worked out for the good of the country, it is pretty much their own interest they are after.

A lot of the English and Scotch milled flour, more particularly the English milled flour, would not suit even for Italy and France, because it has not the proper keeping properties. We think this was brought out by some of the lots the Government bought which had so much moisture in them that they did not keep.

We also think that they ought to bear in mind that the foreign flour importers in Glasgow have increased their imports by about one hundred thousand sacks, as compared with last year, while we believe the imports of wheat have decreased in the same period.

### CHINA'S COTTON INDUSTRY.

Scarcely more than thirty years ago not a single cotton spinning or weaving mill fitted with an up-to-date plant and operating on modern lines could be found in this country. It has been ascertained that 37 such mills have been established since then, a fact that may be regarded as satisfactory, as it is always difficult to move quickly in the initial stage of a new enterprise. Now that a good start has been made a more rapid and extensive development in this branch of industry in the future may confidently be expected. Of the 37 cotton mills 21 are situated in Shanghai, while the rest are scattered throughout the four Provinces, Kiangsu, Chekiang, Hupeh, and Honan. Most of the larger and flourishing mills at Shanghai have been promoted and are working under foreign direction. Foreigners own 12 mills at Shanghai, while 9 are owned and operated by the Chinese.

## Textile Mills

*throughout Canada are working overtime on military and regular business*

Four mills are now under construction. Several plants have resumed operations during the past few months. A number of concerns have recently doubled the capacity of their plants. Practically all the mills are installing new equipment as quickly as it can be secured.

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### THE WEEK'S STOCK MARKET.

With total transactions of 126,136 shares, the past week on the Montreal Stock Exchange was the most active in the year. Not only was a new record made in the number of shares traded in, but in many cases the prices at which stock sold constituted new high records. In the previous week there were 91,369 shares sold, a figure which was far outdistanced by the record of the week which has just ended.

The leaders in the week's trading were: Steel Company of Canada, which was a favourite throughout the week, and advanced to a new high level at 61; Canada Cement, which made a new high record at 65; Canada Steamship Lines at 27½, and Dominion Steel at 51¼. While these stocks were the leaders, the market broadened out considerably during the week, and many securities which were previously neglected for some time, came to life. These included Dominion Bridge, Detroit United, Dominion Textile, Nova Scotia Steel and Quebec Railway.

Comparisons of last week's business with that of the week preceding follow:

	Week ending—	
	April 15.	April 8.
Shares .. .. .	126,136	91,369
Mines .. .. .	1,893	780
Bonds .. .. .	\$267,150	\$269,200
Unlisted shares .. .. .	190	2,300
Do., bonds .. .. .	\$4,000	\$31,800

### VAST RECLAMATION PROJECT.

Theodore Kryshtofovich, representing the Russian Minister of Agriculture, is authority for the statement:

"Russia will begin the reclamation of 30,000,000 acres of swamp land as soon as the war is ended. The drainage and road making all will be done by American machinery and after American methods."

In Chicago a few days ago Kryshtofovich explained in detail a tremendous scheme which has been mapped out by the Russian government. He said:

"Besides investigating all kinds of road-making machinery, dredges, steam shovels, etc., I have another important mission. That is to establish trade relations between our peasants and the American people, with the Russian government acting as middleman without profit. It sounds strange, but that is what we are doing."

Monarch Grain Growers', Limited, Edmonton, Alta., have secured an Alberta charter with an authorized capital of \$100,000.