The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPT. 7, 1907.

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THE CROP SCARE

The remarkable statements cabled to London by the Ogilvies, that in their opinion no good milling wheat will be available for export from Canada this year, and that they look for sensational developments a little later, have naturally caused much alarm, even though contradicted by government reports and those of such an authority as the Manitoba Free Press, whose special reporters have been traversing the country and sending in daily reports for more than two weeks past. The government reports indicate a crop of 75,000,000 to 80,000,000 bushels. The Free Press looks for an aggregate yield equal to that of last year. Mr. Robert Meighen, of the Lake of the Woods Milling Co., agrees with the government crop estimate, and "while he admits that a certain quantity will be of a lower grade than last season, yet he is of the opinion that a large percentage of the crop will be of a high grade and of good milling quality, unless weather conditions from this time forward should cause serious damage."

Apparently, much depends upon the weather of the next few weeks, for the harvesting is still in progress. A Free Press reporter, writing on Sept. 2nd, of conditions in one section of Saskatchewan, makes it clear that the danger is not yet past. It is worth while to quote what he says:—

"From Dauphin to Grandview, when due allowance is made for short heads and weedy crops the average of the district will be about 20 bushels, with a considerable number of fields going 25 and 30. There is not more than ten per cent frost damaged. When seen on August 24, 25 and 26 this crop wanted two or three weeks of hot weather to ripen, and since then there have been several days of most unfavorable weather and little or no sunshine, so that it will be well on in September before many fields are ready for the binder. From Deepdale westward to Canora, taking in Roblin, Togo and Kamsack, the crop is a much heavier stand. The heads are long and very even, promising an average of 25 bushels, with fields that should have gone 35 and 40 per acre, but this section has a frost damage of 25 and 30 per cent. and the crop is so heavy that it will be very late in ripening. Round Togo and Kamsack I saw nothing that could be cut before September 15. Round Canora the conditions were earlier and some of the fields may be ready by Sept. 10. From Canora westward, taking in Wadena, which was specially reported on; Quill Lake and Watson, where I had, owing to a heavy rain, to take the report of the judge of the government seed competition, and Humbolt, which I personally inspected, the average yield will be 22 to 25 bushels, if the crop ripens without frost damage.

"In all I have driven 158 miles through crops in the section reported on and have taken samples of many fields. No one can do this and not be struck with the tremendous growth that has been made since the crop went in. At Wadena I saw barley cut that was sown on June 10, and all the crops are marvellous, considering the short and cool growing period of 1907. I do not believe any country, or any section of any country today has done as much in the same period of growth, and should a fine September be granted the wheat crop will be one to make the whole country sit up and take notice. It is no use disguising the fact, however, that there must be a long period of hot weather, without frost, to accomplish this."

Correspondents from other districts send more cheerful reports. For example, one, writing from Brandon, Man., on Sept. 2nd, said:—

"Two days of beautiful harvest weather has brought the crops along very rapidly. Hundreds of farmers in south Brandon district were cutting their wheat today. In north Brandon the crop is heavier and a few days later, but if the hot weather continues cutting will be general there too by Wednesday or Thursday. The farmers in north Brandon claim they have one of the biggest crops ever reaped in this district and claim a yield from 30 to 35 bushels to the acre."

So far as can be gathered from what seem to be well-informed sources, there will be no such crop failure as the Ogilvie cables would seem to indicate. It appears to be equally clear, however, that some reports sent out have been too optimistic. The yield will not be as large nor the quality as good as had been represented Much depends upon the weather of the next two or three weeks, but taking the most favorable view it is clear that the western boom has received a temporary check, the effect of which will be felt to some extent throughout Canada.

TORONTO'S GRIEVANCE

The citizens of Toronto are very restive under the grip of the street railway company. When certain proposals by the company were being considered in the city council chamber this week Mr. J. W. Woods, president of the board of trade, made this emphatic statement:—

"Since coming into this chamber this afternoon, I have twice been told that under the decision of the privy council the Toronto Railway Company may lay its tracks upon any and every street in the City of Toronto. If this be true, if no contract, however carefully drawn, can preserve to a municipality the control of its own streets, then I for one, and I think every other citizen in Toronto, however opposed he may have been in the past to public ownership, is ready to hold up his hand for the expropriation and municipal operation of our street railway system."

The World report says that Mr. Woods was greeted with loud applause. Toronto receives a very handsome revenue from its percentage of the earnings of the street railway, but this apparently does not compensate for an unsatisfactory service or the company's practical control of the streets. From the continuous fire of criticism by the press the outsider would perhaps be justified in the conclusion that public sentiment in Toronto in favor of public ownership is gaining strength. Certainly the remarks of the president of the board of trade lend color to this view.

BELCOURT FOR SENATE

The rumor persists that Mr. N. A. Belcourt, M. P. for Ottawa, will go to the senate. The Toronto News makes this comment:—

"Mr. N. A. Belcourt, M. P. for Ottawa, will be appointed to the senate. Why? He has a seat in parliament, the parliamentary term has not expired, and Mr. Belcourt has done nothing in politics which entitles him to exceptional consideration. The fact seems to be that he desires a life appointment, and that the premier will not, or cannot, resist his demands. The feeling grows both at the capital and in the country that the English-speaking provinces have ceased to have influence in determining appointments, and in determining public policy, and that the premier is very easily overcome by the reactionary forces which control the situation."

The programme of the new minister of railways with regard to the Intercolonial does not differ from the declared programme of the former ministers. All have expressed a desire to give the people good service and if possible to make the road pay its way, if this could be done without unduly burdening the traffic. All of them have failed to carry out their programme to the extent that could be done were the railway divorced from politics and conducted by a non-partisan commission. The Hon. Mr. Graham has no easy task.

Following the vigorous political campaign in Quebec province, the local opposition in New Brunswick is warming up to its work, and the leaders appear to be unusually cheerful in their views respecting the outlook. A general discussion of provincial affairs is desirable, and there has been for years past too great an apathy on the part of the public. As this paper has before stated, the great changes that have taken place in the personnel of the provincial government in the last few years add much to the general interest in the situation.

Of the political situation in St. John the Charlottetown Guardian says:—"At this writing there is doubt whether either Hon. Dr. Pugsley or Hon. Mr. Graham will be opposed in seeking re-election in St. John or Brockville. It is usually futile to put up opposition in such cases. Constituencies prefer to have ministerial representatives, for obvious reasons, and in this case, with a general election coming next year, there is little inducement to oppose the new ministers at the present time."

NEW CANCER TREATMENT

BUDAPEST Sept. 7—Dr. Haler, an eminent local physician, asserts that he has secured very beneficial results in cancer cases at the University Hospital through the use of an injection of gelatine. In forty cases thus treated he was unsuccessful in only three.

CONUNDRUMS

When are ships like infants?
When they are in their slips.
When are sheep like note paper?
When folded.
What workmen are always on strike?
Stone-cutters.
Why are drunkards and lawyers alike?
There favorite places are at the bar.
Why does our Thanksgiving dinner make us think of Ash?
Because it gives us Turkey.

Ottawa, Sept. 6—(Special)—John E. Snowball, of the library bureau of Canada, is charged, according to an evening paper, with being short in his accounts. The result is that the officials of the Assurance Corporation Company, with whom he was bonded, has him in charge. Either restitution must be made or prosecution will be instituted. A time limit has, it is understood, been set.

Stores open till 11 tonight. St. John, Sept. 7, 1907.

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Men's light dressy boots..... .....$1.75, $2.00, $2.25.
Ladies' Dongola patent tip boots..... .....$1.50, $1.65, $2.00.
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LOST SHIPS

Here on the sands when the tide comes in,
I look on the waste of sea,
And I dream of the ships of the long ago,
And years with their mystery,
Then it was that the blood was wild,
And the golden hopes were undefiled,
For the ships I sent to a far-off world,
Proud, with snow-white sails unfurled,
Would bring back gold to me.

The white gulls swing from a fleckless sky,
And cry as in days of yore,
But the hope I heard in the siren's song
Is lost in the breakers' roar,
Far, far out where the sky and sea
Meet in the mist, on the boundary
Of Life's vast tide, I look for sails
That I sent away—but naught avails—
They're gone forever more.

The cliffs are bleak on the dreary shore,
Shadows beside the sea,
And each one looms a spectre grim,
Mocking the memory,
Laden ships come from lands afar,
And I see them cross the harbor bar,
But the ships I sent in the long ago,
Staunch, with sails unfurled of snow,
Are lost—all lost to me
—Milwaukee Sentinel.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

Mrs. Noobride—Yes, my dear, I was married last month. I'd like you to call on me and see the pretty little flat I have.

Miss Jelluse—I've seen him, my dear! —London Tit-Bits.

* * *

Two duellists were taking the early train for Fontainbleau their place of meeting.

"A return ticket,' said the first duellis to the ticket agent.

"Single for me," said the other man, quietly.

"Aha," blustered the other, "you are afraid you won't come back, are you? As for me I always take a return."

"I never do," said the second man; "I always take my return half from the dead man's pocket."—London Opinion.

* * *

Apropos of Gounod, a story is told which shows the difference between the Fench and the English style of regarding things. A music-mad young English lady was introduced to a great musician, and, overwhelmed by the happiness of standing in the presence of the composer of "Faust," she addressed him thus:

"O, I am lost for words to express my admiration. Inspired musician, genius, mighty master, what shall I call you?"

Gounod here interrupted her by patting her on the head and saying:

"Throw your arms around my neck and call me your little rabbit!"—Weekly Telegraph.

* * *

"Ah, that's pretty!" said Mr. Snooks, looking over a number of architectural designs. "What is that?"

"That," said the architect, "is a fifteen-hundred-dollar bungalow."

"What will it cost to build it!" asked Mr. Snooks.

"About $8,000," said the architect.—Judge.

* * *

Farmer Hayrick—What is the prospect for this summer.

Farmer Corncrib—Fine; I've got ten cows for the railroad to run over and any number of hogs for the auto fellers. I oughter clear $500.—Puck.

* * *

She (setting the trap)—I heard yesterday that you were to be married in the spring.

He (walking into it)—Help me to make the report true, won't you, dear?—Illustrated Bits.

* * *

A father and mother, with six children, spent their holiday at the seaside. Immediately on arrival they set about looking for cheap lodgings.

At length they came to a notice of a "furnished room to let" and made inquiries.

"Oh, yes," said the landlady in answer to the father's question, "It's here the room is to let, but there's only one bed in it."

"Oh, that's all right," replied the father; "we're used to roughing it. The wife and bairns'll sleep on the floor."—London Tatler.

ONE OF THE SEVEN PLAGUES OF EGYPT

One of the plagues sent on Pharoah when he would not yield to Moses and allow the Israelites to leave Egypt was that of the locust plague. Yet within the past two months many parts of Africa have suffered from a plague of locusts that could not have been excelled at the time of Moses. Billions of these animals have recently been on the move across the Transvaal in South Africa. The stench from their decaying bodies has poisoned the air around for many miles. The streets of Johannesburg have been literally paved with dead and crawling locusts.

Everything has been covered by locusts. Locusts in the soup, locusts in the beds and under the beds—literally the land was covered with locusts. They devoured much of the crops, and enormous smoke fires were constructed by the authorities to try and drive them northwards. The green crops over hundreds of miles of land have disappeared as if by magic in a single night, and in place of the green coloring there has been found a dull brown tinge from the countless bodies of the locust swarm.

Barbed wire fences were covered so that they looked to be solid. In the cities, pedestrians slipped and struggled through a covering of locusts several inches in depth. The ladies of Johannesburg refused to go out of their homes for nearly a week, and every home of any importance was barred as against some dangerous enemy in the city's midst.

In Algeria hundreds of men were employed under mounted officials to trap into specially dug trenches millions of the young locusts before they had obtained their wings. Then quicklime is placed over the insects. Smoke has some slight effect in diverting the course pursued by the locust swarm, and where it is found that underbrush is especially loaded with young locusts the entire bit of ground is thoroughly burned over. In some places when the locusts have just obtained their wings, enormous swarms have been seen moving across the sky, having the appearance of a thunder cloud and darkening the sun for a brief period.

Before Justice Mason in Fairville yesterday James Blacklaw was fined $50 and costs for selling beer without license in his shop at Mispec. The information was laid by Policeman Lawson. County Secretary Vincent prosecuted and W. H. Trueman appeared for Blacklaw. Mr. Trueman gave notice of appeal.

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School Slates, 4c., 7c., 9c., 10c., 15c.
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