

TOPICS OF THE DAY

The Cheese Situation

Appearances point to the fact that manufacturers of cheese in Canada have accepted the situation as regards the fixed price. Liberal sales have already been made upon the fixed terms, and this would tend to show that the Canadian manufacturers have recognized the hardships under which the British people labor, and the importance of retaining the British market. There have been during the past week several sales for shipment to the United States estimated at about 10,000 boxes. Great Britain is still receiving large shipments of cheese in the Antipodes, and this, coupled with their own make and imports from Ireland and Holland, will, it is expected, give the people of the United Kingdom their normal requirements. Advices from New York state that considerable blocks of cheese are expected to be shipped to Germany.

Sugar Market Active

A great deal of activity is being displayed at the present time in the refined sugar market. In fact, the market has seldom, if ever before, been so busy. According to one of the largest refiners, never in his time have the meltings been so heavy, and, despite this, they are unable to meet demands as promptly as customers would like. There is now a very heavy demand from the European and Asiatic markets on the United States and Cuba for sugar supplies. Prices would seem to be of secondary importance in the cane sugar, and it is said that bids have been made as high as 6.05 cents per pound f. o. b. by Europe and Japan. Europe recently secured about 150,000 tons of Cuban raws, but since then further purchases have not been considered, even as increased bids. Sugar prices continue to hold firm at \$9.95 per hundred pounds for granulated in bags and \$10 per hundred pounds in barrels.

Retailers Optimistic

Retail merchants are showing little pessimism over the possibility of an easing up in business by reason of the partial crop failure in some parts of the West, according to Bradstreet's. They say that only in rare instances are the country storekeepers cutting down their orders by reason of the crop conditions. There are, of course, a few sections in Southern and Eastern Alberta and Southwestern Saskatchewan where further orders are not being placed, but there is an almost total absence of cancellations on account of crops, which is contrary to expectations. This is, however, possibly due, the wholesale houses state, to the scarcity of merchandise in general. The uptrend in prices may have had some effect on the merchants who prefer to carry the stock over rather than run the risk of paying still higher prices later on.

Throughout Ontario the crops are "fair to good." Pasturage is so scarce that thousands of cattle are finding their way to the markets, which under favorable conditions would be kept until the fall and probably stabled over the winter. Very heavy losses are being sustained by the farmers in this respect. The prices for medium and common animals are still on the decline.

In the markets there has been a steady advance in prices of several lines. Soaps registered another advance of 50 cents per case. Leathers are inclined to be slightly higher again. Canned goods are practically off the market. Lined oil is advancing almost daily in keeping with the Savannah market.

Montreal reports say there has been a good seasonal demand for wholesale merchandise. Stocks of dry goods are light, and higher prices in some lines expected. There is a big demand for refined sugars; supplies are light. A big shipment was made to the European market this week. The crops in most districts have been benefited by rain, the moisture causing improved conditions. In some districts, however, the rain has come too late to benefit them much. In these districts large quantities of sheep and cattle will have to be sold this fall on account of shortage of fodder. Hay crop in Quebec is about all gathered in. Pasturage is very good all through the Province.

Hamilton reports that retail trade is brisk for this time of the year, but that it is not as good as a month or even two weeks ago. Wholesale trade is also a little dull, as is customary during the latter part of July and the early weeks of August. The sporting goods lines, however, are quite active. There is a good deal of building going on, and more is anticipated for the immediate future.

Calgary reports that the cattle feed situation is improving. Rains have fallen throughout the southern section of the Province, breaking the long drought, which was playing havoc with agriculture. Provincial Government officials conferred with the ranchers at the Board of Trade rooms and laid plans for further assist-

ing the farmers in districts where the crops are poor. Free freights and other encouragements were determined upon. The crops are, despite the recent rain, still in a critical state so far as yield is concerned. It is too late for the fields to fully recover from the long dry spell. Just how the average yield per acre will turn out is extremely hard to estimate owing to the almost complete failure in many sections.

Winnipeg reports harvesting is now general throughout the larger part of Manitoba. Binders are working in fields of barley and fall rye. Wheat cutting is going on in all sections. Hail did some damage in the Rosenfeld district a few days ago. Severe thunderstorms over the week-end resulted in barns being burned at several points in the Province. The weather has turned cool and all grain is reported to be filling well. Many farmers and agricultural agents predict that this year's yield in Manitoba will equal the record crop of 1915.

Repair War's Ravages

To hold our future prosperity in our own hands, says Barley's Bank Monthly for July, the circumstances surrounding the signing of the Peace Treaty make it clear that a mere signature will not bring peace in its best sense—peace as meaning something more than a cessation of hostilities. In this sense peace can only be obtained by steadfast endeavor, by work, sacrifice and co-operation. Before we can have a real and satisfying peace we have to do more than beat our enemies; we have to repair the ravages they have wrought—ravages material, financial and economic. The hideous portion of our task, that which involved so much human sacrifice, is over, but a difficult part remains. We have loyally to co-operate with our Allies in the reconstruction of war-worn Europe, and to do this we have to realize that reconstruction equally with war—but without the same urgent patriotic stimulus—means work. We have to realize—and this fact cannot too often be emphasized—that "real things"—food, clothing, houses, etc.—involve real work, and that both we and our Allies are badly in need of "real things."

Foreigners Leaving Canada

Is Canada in danger of a more serious labor shortage in the near future? This is a pertinent query at the present time. It is only a few months ago that fears of widespread unemployment were being gravely considered by the authorities, and now in contrast to this a big labor shortage seems a possibility in the near future. The cause for such worry is found in the huge proportions which the return of foreign-born workers to their own lands is assuming. From every city in Canada with a large foreign population come reports similar to the one which comes from Brantford, one of the most active manufacturing centres in the Dominion. The despatch states that as soon as shipping routes to Germany are opened there will be a big exodus of enemy aliens from that city, who number some 1,200. The steamship offices there are daily besieged by foreigners asking for tickets to Germany, Austria, Turkey and Bulgaria. This is also the experience of Toronto, and other Canadian cities. Already thousands of the aliens have left Canada with well-lined purses as a result of the war prosperity.