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MONTHLY REPORT
CROP AND BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE NINTH
FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT.

October.

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The harvesting of a satisfactory flax crop has completed farm production for the year so far as the field crops are concerned. The quality and the yield of flax is satisfactory. The late potato crop is being harvested, and is of poor to fair quality. Potatoes share with other items of farm produce in the high prices that have been prevailing, and are commanding a rate, both wholesale and retail, which is better than for several years.

Crop year receipts of wheat from Sept. 1st at Minneapolis and Duluth are 33,793,000 bushels, or less than half the receipts for the same period a year ago. Wheat prices during the month have gradually advanced to extremely high levels, at which there are reports that the farmers who have been holding grain are disposed to sell.

The bad car situation, with other conditions, has produced comparatively light deliveries at terminals. With colder weather during the coming month, it is probable that deliveries at interior points will improve, with a resulting increase in the amount of wheat coming upon the market. Southwestern wheat is being brought to Minneapolis mills in considerable quantities to mix with the poor to fair Northwestern crop, and has had some effect in decreasing cash premiums on the higher grades of wheat grown in this district.

Reports from the grain growing territory indicate that a considerable amount of fall work has already been done, and with a reasonable prospect of from ten days to two weeks of good weather, the total amount of fall plowing accomplished this year will probably meet all expectations and create a favorable condition in anticipation of spring seeding.

Seed wheat warnings are being distributed by banks and agricultural associations. Farmers are being urged to make seed selections out of the 1915 crop and provide themselves early with a sufficient amount for spring use. Very little of this year's crop is recommended for seed, since most of it is of light weight, gray and shriveled.

Leading lines of business anticipate a continuation of the present favorable volume of wholesale trade until well after the first of the year. The volume of business done with interior points is very satisfactory, and collections are good. Retail trade is also brisk, and at the larger centers the merchants express themselves as satisfied that the remaining fall and approaching holiday business will show a favorable volume.

The car situation has produced some demand at banks in the more important centers, where loans and discounts have been increasing rapidly during the past three weeks. The demand from country points is comparatively light, and the volume of rediscounts by country banks is less than a year ago. This is taken as indicating the strong position of the country banks, which are uniformly

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enjoying large deposits and have plenty of available cash.

There is a healthy activity in rural sections. A considerable number of settlers have come into the Northwest this year, and a substantial amount of permanent construction incident to farm improvements is under way. The building record at the larger cities is very satisfactory. Labor is everywhere in good demand at excellent wages. There are no changes of any consequence in trade or manufacturing conditions. The larger concerns that have been running practically to capacity for some months past still have orders ahead, and the general condition of prosperity over the district has given the smaller institutions all the business they can do.

In the commercial centers, as well as in the rural districts, bank rates remain about the same, although the larger cities look forward to a possible improvement as a result of the increased demand.