CROPS IN FARMERS' HANDS

Amount is Smaller Than in Any Previous Year on Record —Light Crop and High Prices Responsible

A bulletin issued by the census and statistics office, Ottawa, gives the results of the usual annual enquiry as to the stocks of grain and other crops remaining in the hands of farmers on March 31st, and the proportion of the crops harvested in the previous year which turned out to be of merchantable quality. The returns received from crop-reporting correspondents show that of the total estimated yield of wheat in 1914, 12½ per cent., or 20,247,000 bushels remained in farmers' hands at the end of March. At the rate of 1¾ bushels per acre this quantity should allow of the sowing this spring of about 11,570,000 acres, or 1,522,000 acres more than were sown in the spring of 1914, independently of quantities of wheat stored in elevators which may be returned to farmers for seeding purposes. The quantity of wheat remaining this year in the hands of farmers is, however, smaller than in any previous year on record, the light crop and the high price being together responsible for this result. In 1914 the quantity of wheat estimated to be in farmers' hands at March 31st was 38,353,000 bushels, or 16⅘ per cent. of the large harvest of 1913; in 1913 at March 31st the proportion was 22 per cent., or 50,234,000 bushels, and at March 31st, 1912, it was 27 per cent., or 62,188,000 bushels.

Oats and Other Crops.

Of the remaining grain crops the proportions of the previous year's production estimated to be in farmers' hands on March 31st are also smaller than in any former year on record. Oats show a balance of 85,843,000 bushels, or 27 per cent.; barley, 7,430,400 bushels, or 20⅘ per cent.; rye, 343,700 bushels or 17 per cent.; buckwheat, 1,792,500 bushels or 21 per cent.; corn for husking, 2,928,000 bushels, or 21 per cent., and flax-seed, 740,700 bushels, or 10 per cent. Of potatoes, which gave the excellent yield last year of 85,672,000 bushels, 37.7 per cent., or 32,310,000 bushels were in farmers' hands on March 31st, this proportion being larger than in any of the last five years, excepting 1913, when 43 per cent., or 36,619,000 bushels, remained over from the harvest of 1912. Of turnips and other roots, 10,267,000 bushels, or 15 per cent., remained over, and of hay and clover the quantity in farmers' hands is placed at 2,173,000 tons, or 21 per cent. of the total crop of 10,259,000 tons.

Nearly all Wheat Saleable.

Out of the total wheat crop of 161,280,000 bushels, all but 6½ per cent., or 150,793,000 bushels proved to be of merchantable quality. This percentage, although below the exceptional record of 1914, when the proportion non-merchantable was less than 3 per cent., is about equal to the average of the last six years, during which the lowest proportion of merchantable grain was in 1910-11, after the poor season of 1910, when 12.8 per cent. was estimated to be of non-merchantable quality. The proportions of other crops in 1914 which proved to be of merchantable quality are as follows: oats, 91 per cent. (285,988,000 bushels); barley, 88 per cent. (32,022,000 bushels); rye, 90 per cent. (1,815,800 bushels); buckwheat, 84 per cent. (7,279,000 bushels); corn for husking, 80 per cent. (11,100,000 bushels); flax-seed, 88 per cent. (6,370,200 bushels); potatoes, 86 per cent. (74,165,000 bushels); potatoes, 86 per cent. (74,165,000 bushels); turnips, etc., 87 per cent. (60,218,000 bushels), and hay and clover, 88 per cent. (9,094,000 tons).

"I agree that it would be a sin to pray for peace until the barbarous, world-enslaving pretensions of Germany have been killed," declared Earl Grey at a Royal Colonial Institute meeting in London this week.

A new edition of the useful chart which shows the business done, death claims, number of assessments made, income, expenses, assets, etc., of the leading assessment life associations and friendly societies licensed to do business in Canada, from 1905 to 1914 inclusive. Also table of rates for $1,000 of insurance in each; National Fraternal Congress tables, hunter rates, and compound interest tables, has been issued by the Bulletin Publishing Company, Toronto, and can be obtained for 25 cents.

UNITED STATES FARMERS TO CANADA

The influx of farmers from the western States last week was as heavy as in the spring of 1914. This statement was made by Mr. J. Bruce Walker, commissioner of immigration, Winnipeg, in a recent interview. They were plentifully supplied with money and effects. A noticeable feature of the spring movement is that for the first time on record the demand for Manitoba homesteads nearly approximates the demand for free lands in Saskatchewan. Up to within six months ago homestead entries in Manitoba had never been more than 20 per cent. of the entries in Saskatchewan in any one period of comparison.

BRITISH COLUMBIA "STICK" FOR KEW GARDENS

A stick of timber from British Columbia is ready for shipment to the famous botanical gardens at Kew, Surrey, England. It was cut on the limits of Brooks, Scanlon and O'Brien, at Gordon Pasha Lake, up the mainland coast, and when felled was 236 feet long, with a 5-feet butt and a 14-inch top. After a slight flaw had been taken off, the timber was 216 feet long. It was tapered down and trimmed, with a base 32 inches square and a 12-inch top. This stick is 12 feet longer than the flagstaff erected on the grounds of the court house, Vancouver. The timber is being presented to Kew Gardens by the government of British Columbia.

BUSINESS INSURANCE

"Business insurance is the instantaneous creation of a fund available immediately upon the arising of an inevitable crisis that may be long delayed or that may come at any moment. As far as that particular crisis goes, the completed fund is at once established, and at the same moment a new element of security is added to the business protected. Certain possibilities of danger to the firm are wiped out, and the credit rating of that firm is so much the stronger. Bankers, manufacturers and wholesalers know the value of this insurance, and they arrange their credits accordingly. The financial standing of the protected firm is improved, and as a natural result the earning power is increased. The negotiable cash asset represented on the books by business insurance increases year by year, not only on account of the higher loan values, but also by reason of the profits that accrue to the policies, and which in many cases are added to their value." These remarks are culled from an example of effective insurance publicity emanating from the Canada Life Assurance Company's office, prepared by Mr. J. K. McMaster, under the caption of "Since 1847." The booklet deals with life insurance pioneers, progress and plans.

TO MARKET BRITISH COLUMBIA LUMBER

Hon. W. P. Ross, minister of lands for British Columbia, has secured the appointment of the chief forester of the province as a special commissioner of the Dominion Government to investigate the possibility of shipping Canadian lumber to all the important foreign lumber markets of the world. He will visit in particular the United Kingdom, France, Italy, South Africa, Australia New Zealand, India, China and Japan. The information gained from this investigation will form the basis of the steps to be taken by Mr. Ross in making it easier for British Columbia manufacturers to export to foreign markets. The minister has also under consideration plans for co-operating with the timber industries of the province in creating a greater demand for provincial lumber products in the Canadian prairies and Eastern Canada.

The annual value of the forest products of British Columbia in 1913 was nearly $34,000,000. The forests of the province are so extensive as to support in perpetuity five times as great an industry, or one worth $170,000,000. This sum of money, practically all of which would be distributed in the province for labor, supplies and transportation, would help prosperity to all classes, benefiting the farmer with the tradesman and mechanic. The markets of British Columbia lumber and other forest products must be found outside British Columbia.