

ing figures on the Western harvest of last fall:

(BY T. KELLY DICKINSON.)

"Canadian Finance" of Winnipeg has struck an average of the various official and recognized private estimates of the western grain production for the year 1916, which shows that, including root and fodder crops, the value of the crop reached the abnormal figure of \$500,000,000.

The wheat crop is shown at 310,196,000 bushels, for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta; Oats, 324,986,000 bushels; Barley, 41,066,000 bushels, making a total of all grains, including flax and rye, of 681,869,000. This table makes an interesting comparison:

	1915.	1914
Wheat...	310,196,229	140,958,000
Oats..	324,986,413	150,843,000
Barley..	41,066,636	19,535,000
Total (inc. flax and rye)...	681,869,000	318,419,000

VALUE OF 1915 WESTERN CROP.

Wheat at \$1.02..	\$316,400,153
Oats at .39..	126,744,601
Barley at .60..	24,639,981
Flax at \$1.72..	8,679,868
Other grain at .75..	645,000

Total grain..	\$477,109,603
Root and hay crops..	14,970,000

Grand total, 1915.. \$492,079,603

Up to Dec. 31, 1915, there was realized from the crop the sums of \$215,700,959, (based on grains actually inspected), comparing with above \$75,000,000 at the end of 1914—difference enough to account for the change in general trade conditions.

This table shows the amount realized on crop at year-end, 1915.

Wheat ..	187,738,800 at \$1.02	\$191,493,576
Oat. . .	43,749,050 at .39	17,062,129
Barley . .	7,122,600 at .60	4,273,560
Flax . . .	1,636,450 at 1.72	2,814,694
Rye. . . .	76,000 at .75	57,000
		\$215,700,959

As you will see, honourable gentlemen, the Western provinces alone will furnish this country during the year with a new income of \$500,000,000 which is added to the nation's wealth. What then might we not say in regard to the harvests of the other provinces, the products of our forests, mines, fisheries and other resources of the Dominion?

As far as I can judge, the only important industry of the country which has not yet recovered from the depression of last year and the year previous is the building industry. I have before me the report of an interview given by the president of the appraisers of the city of Montreal, Mr. Ferns, published in the "Star" of the 15th inst., in which he predicts renewed activity in this industry in the very near future:

The President of the Board of Assessors, James Hamilton Ferns, who has deep knowledge of local realty conditions, and who keeps strict tab on Montreal's population, prophesies immensely improved realty conditions and a big growth in population, for the year just entered upon.

"The impression has got abroad," said Mr. Ferns to-day, "that there was a considerable slump in population in 1915, owing to the large number who enlisted for overseas service. Such an impression is wrong. A compilation of the voters' lists shows there are only about five hundred persons less on the 1915 lists than the lists of the previous year. Thus it stands to reason that if there is a reduction of only five hundred voters, despite the heavy enlistment, the population has increased very materially.

"The way the outer wards are filling up is satisfactory proof of how our population is growing. In Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and other wards there were hundreds of vacant houses in the early summer of last year, but now these have been snapped up and contracts have been given out for the construction of scores of new dwellings.

"From enquiries I have been making there are excellent grounds for believing that building operations will be very active this spring and summer in nearly all of the wards. We may not have a great many new office buildings, but the growth in dwellings is of far more importance.

NO UNEMPLOYMENT.

"But in addition to these signs of approaching prosperity is the fact that scarcely ever in the history of the city is so much work being offered. To-day the Canadian Pacific railway, and other great business activities are actually advertising for help. Builders who have large contracts are also finding it hard to get the men they require. Wages in the city are high. Machine shops are in full blast.

"A week ago there was a heavy snow storm and the chief engineer had to report he encountered no little difficulty in getting both horses and men. Healthy and promising conditions such as these are bound to attract population, and it will be a matter of surprise to me if the current year is not a phenomenal one in the matter of the growth of population.

"From reports made to me by the assessors I believe it will not be necessary to reduce assessed values in 1916. There is going to be a distinct boost in realty conditions; there will be no further slump in values. There are far less vacant stores in the business districts to-day than twelve months ago.

"All these signs point to revived trade and far better times.

OUTLOOK CHEERFUL.

"Montreal is adding to her population every two years, a number just about equal to the total population of 1862. No conditions can in the long run overcome the buoyant effect of an increase of thirty thousand souls every year, and in a city which is growing as fast as Montreal the demand for real estate is bound to increase. Those who have invested in real estate are sure to have their values increased. There is no city but what has its quiet periods. I believe ours is past and that we are on the eve of a splendid prosperity. Those who have been moaning about hard times really do not know what hard times are. In the whole of