

Yield and Value of Canadian 1915 Grain Crops

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With the recent publication by the Dominion Government of the yield of root and fodder crops we are in a position to take stock of the harvest of 1915 as a whole. It will certainly go on record as one of the most bountiful ever reaped in Canada, the more striking because in strong contrast with the season of 1914 when, in consequence of unprecedented drought, the grain yield was one of the poorest. In giving the grain yields of 1915 we are dependent upon the revised estimates of September 30 last, when the threshing results were only partially available. The final official estimates of the year are not usually issued until some time in January, but judging from the general trend of the reports from the west it is possible and even probable that the finally ascertained yields may even exceed the high totals already published.

Total Yields of 1914 and 1915.

In the following table are presented the average yields of all the principal field crops of Canada for the two seasons of 1914 and 1915.

Field crops.	1914.		1915.		Difference between 1914 and 1915.
	Bush. per acre.	Bush. per acre.	Bushels.	Bushels.	per cent.
Fall wheat	21.41	28.07	20,837,000	33,926,000	163
Spring wheat	15.07	25.667	140,443,000	302,332,000	215
All wheat	15.67	25.89	161,280,000	336,258,000	208
Oats	31.12	42.33	313,078,000	481,035,500	154
Barley	24.21	33.70	36,201,000	50,868,000	140
Rye	18.12	22.07	2,016,800	2,478,500	123
Peas	17.64	16.52	3,362,500	3,240,400	97
Beans	18.20	13.71	797,500	594,000	74
Buckwheat	24.34	23.56	8,626,000	8,101,000	94
Flax	6.62	12.48	7,175,200	12,604,700	175
Mixed grains	35.36	36.69	16,382,500	7,128,500	105
Corn for husking	54.39	57.62	13,924,000	14,594,000	105
Potatoes	180.02	130.81	85,672,000	62,602,000	73
Turnips, etc.	394.30	372.21	69,003,000	64,281,000	93
Hay and clover	1.28	1.39	10,259,000	10,953,000	107
Fodder corn	10.25	10.00	3,251,450	3,429,870	105
Sugar beets	8.98	9.00	102,500	102,500	100
Alfalfa	2.42	2.83	218,360	261,955	119

How extreme is the contrast between the character of the two seasons of 1914 and 1915, is reflected in the table, and the final column affords a measure of the difference by expressing the total yields of

the total yield is more than double, or 208 per cent that of last year, and for the next important crop, viz., oats, the yield is 54 per cent more than that of 1914. Of the crops inferior in yield only beans and potatoes are more than a quarter less than yield of 1914; and only in the case of potatoes is the inferiority of much real significance from the consumers' point of view. With regard to this crop it is noteworthy that the conditions which make for an extraordinarily good grain crop are usually adverse to potatoes, and vice versa. Last year, for instance, when the grain crops suffered so severely from prolonged drought, potatoes were a record crop, both as to quantity and quality. This year, when grains have yielded bumper returns, the record for potatoes is in the contrary direction. Similarly, in Germany, the largest potato-growing country in the world, the grain harvest of 1914 was good, but the potato yield was comparatively poor; this year, so far as can be learned, the grain crops in Germany have been poor in consequence of drought,

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1915, as percentages of those of 1914. Of the 15 crops recorded, it will be seen that 10 of them give yields superior—in many cases vastly superior—to those of last year, and that for only five crops (peas,

beans, buckwheat, potatoes and turnips, etc.), is the yield inferior. For the principal crop, viz., wheat, whilst the potato crops have thriven and yielded good returns.

Total Value of Field Crops, 1914 and 1915.

It is possible from the data available to make a rough estimate of the probable value of this year's principal field crops, as compared with last year. This is done in the accompanying table, wherein the values of 1914 are taken from the Canada Year Book and those of the current year's crops are computed, in respect of cereals from estimates of unit values received by the producers, and in respect of root and fodder crops given in the Census and Statistics Monthly of November, 1915.

11.—Values of Field Crops in Canada, 1914 and 1915.

Field Crops.	1914.		1915.	
	Value per bush.	Total Value.	Value per bush.	Total Value.
Fall wheat	\$1.05	\$21,818,000	\$0.85	\$28,837,100
Spring wheat	1.24	174,600,000	0.85	256,982,200
All wheat	1.22	196,418,000	0.85	285,819,300
Oats	0.48	151,811,000	0.32	153,931,300
Barley	0.60	21,557,000	0.55	27,977,400
Rye	0.83	1,697,300	0.73	1,809,300
Peas	1.46	4,895,000	1.20	3,883,500
Beans	2.31	1,844,300	2.00	1,188,000
Buckwheat	0.72	6,213,000	0.65	5,265,500
Mixed grains	0.66	10,759,400	0.55	9,420,600
ing	0.71	9,808,000	0.70	10,215,500
Flax	1.03	7,368,000	1.60	20,167,500
Potatoes	0.49	41,598,000	0.57	35,684,200
Turnips, etc.	0.27	18,934,000	0.26	16,713,000
Hay and clover	14.23	145,999,000	14.22	155,751,600
Fodder corn	4.91	15,949,700	4.96	17,012,100
Sugar Beets	5.99	651,000	5.50	891,000
Alfalfa	14.17	3,095,600	12.98	3,400,200
Total		638,580,300		749,135,400

The result of the estimate thus made is that the returns from the principal field crops of Canada this year, reach a total of \$749,135,400, as compared with \$638,580,300, an increase of \$110,555,100. These figures afford some measure of the extent of the returning prosperity due to this year's abundant harvest. In the West it is anticipated that part of the profits from the large grain harvest may be utilized as capital for the promotion of mixed farming, thereby tending to increase the supply of meat and render the western farmer less dependent upon wheat growing as a single branch of agriculture, and to maintain the fertility of the soil by the processes and the crops incidental to the keeping of more live stock.

Canadian Flour Exports in 1915

Although the exports of flour through the port of Montreal during the past season, as compared with the corresponding season in 1914 and 1913, show a decided falling off, this fact can be attributed to reasons incidental to the war, and in point of quantity the total exports of flour from Canada as will be indicated in the official Customs Returns will probably show an increase. The returns of the Port of Montreal for the past season of navigation show a total quantity of 1,613,214 sacks, as compared with 2,764,140 sacks in 1914 and 2,747,192 sacks in 1913. This decrease is attributed to three principal reasons: First, the fact that the Government purchases of flour in 1915 were nil as compared with 1,176,630 sacks in 1914, practically all of which was shipped through Montreal. Secondly, the scarcity of ocean freight space during 1915 which compelled millers to ship large quantities through New York, Portland, and other Atlantic ports. Third, high flour prices early in the year, due to the high prices of wheat, restricted buying by English importers, while, on the other hand, English mills were well provided with wheat purchased in the fall of 1915 at much lower values. The following gives the quantity of exports of flour, and rolled oats from the Port of Montreal as compared with the two previous years:

	1915.		1914.	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Bran, cwt.	245,159	\$ 227,966	523,312	\$ 461,130
Flour of Wheat, brls.	1,300,648	11,300,849	1,957,421	8,801,945
Indian Meal, brls.	855	2,992	1,279	4,523
Oatmeal, brls.	8,578	47,002	41,669	185,024
Cereal Foods, prepared		725,621		1,058,339

The export flour trade during the past four months has been exceptionally heavy and there is

every reason to believe that the 1914 figures will be greatly exceeded. Many of the flour mills are

now contracted ahead for practically their entire output until next April and May and the demand is still urgent. Much of this business is an allied government account and of late several very large shipments have been made through Boston by Canadian concerns in the absence of sufficient ocean freight space offering from Canadian ports. It is evident that the current fiscal year will be one of the greatest ever experienced by the Canadian flour mills.

BRITAIN'S NOVEMBER TRADE WITH CANADA.

	November	
	1915.	1914.
Imports From Canada.		
Wheat	£1,860,837	£1,401,146
Wheatmeal and flour	300,505	26,174
Barley	100,922	14,771
Oats	12,475	40,699
Bacon	314,631	91,446
Hams	26,186	8,726
Butter	44,730	336
Cheese	447,459	466,860
Canned salmon	66,242	36,971
Canned lobsters	66,064	224
Exports to Canada.		
Spirits	36,393	57,767
Wool	29,030	9,877
Pig iron	15,361	873
Wire	998	1,811
Galvanized sheets	2,473	26,486
Tinned plates	3,758	16,967
Steel bars	16,456	4,788
Pig lead	1,015	1,232
Cutlery	5,015	6,226
Hardware	1,652	2,910