

far below the average of ten years, which is 455,618 barrels. There has been a handsome increase in the exports of grain and a very large increase in exported flour and hay as compared with recent years. Notwithstanding the short season the quantity of traffic both in passengers and in freight exceeded that of any previous year in the history of the port of Montreal.

In manufacturing we have again to record general additions to plant, a much increased output, and in many cases inability to cope with the demand for goods.

The cut of lumber in the Ottawa valley and in most districts in Ontario and Quebec will, because of low water, be slightly smaller than for the previous year, and the cost of production will again be higher. Deals are all sold at higher prices, the market for high grade white pine is good, while the common grades of lumber which have been so difficult to sell since the depression of 1907 in the United States, are in better demand, although the cheap southern pine is still a menace to our product. In the United States and Canada the use of fire-proof building material and of cement and iron generally in place of wood is growing rapidly. Already it is suggested that the United States has passed the highest point of per capita consumption of lumber. As yet, however, we use only a fractional amount of fire-proof material as compared with an old-world country such as Germany. So that an important readjustment of our lumber requirements relatively to other things will gradually come about. This will certainly not lessen the necessity for conservation, but it may cause the punishment for our wastefulness to fall a trifle less heavily than we deserve.

Ontario's mineral production grows rapidly. For 1910 the total was \$39,313,000 (at the mines, or \$43,017,000 when marketed), against \$17,854,000 in 1905, the largest items being silver and nickel. Out of a total production of minerals for all Canada of \$105,000,000 as marketed, Ontario contributes about 40 per cent., although it possesses no coal and that mineral makes 28 per cent. of the total for all Canada. The estimated silver production at Cobalt for 1911 is about 31,500,000 ounces, worth about \$16,300,000. The value for 1910 was \$15,478,000 and the total product of the Cobalt camp to date is a little under \$65,000,000. This means with freight and smelter charges added, a value in the silver markets of about \$69,000,000. A few years ago we moved into the third place among the silver producers of the world, but our production was still very small as compared with Mexico and the United States. Now, however, we contribute 15.1 per cent. against 25.9 from the United States and 33.3 from Mexico. Adding 8.6 per cent. from Central and South America, we find that 82.9 per cent. of the world's production of silver comes from America. We are watching with keen interest the developments in the Porcupine district where the question of the importance of Ontario as a gold producer is being tested. Very important sums, running altogether into millions, are being spent in development by men of experience and there is certainly a large value of gold in sight. It seems probable that the production for 1912 will be enough to attract still further attention to this district. The whole north country of Ontario has great possibilities in agriculture, mining and other industries, but much more must be done in affording transportation before even a moderate state of development is possible. It is nearly impossible, for instance, to demonstrate the merits of a camp such as Gowganda so long as supplies have to be hauled about fifty miles after leaving the railway.

Notwithstanding the general effect of the drought, the provinces of Ontario and Quebec had a very successful year. Farm and town real estate values continue to rise and real estate transactions have exceeded all previous experience in scale and price. Building was perhaps never on so large a scale, whether for municipal, manufacturing, business or residential purposes. There has been an unusual amount of investment in securities and in this respect the public has had some experience of the folly of creating so-called mergers, not so much to improve the conditions of the particular business as to create bonds and shares on an imaginary basis of profits for stock-jobbing purposes. A very large amount of savings in these provinces is also being risked in real estate speculation in the outlying sections of rapidly growing cities in other parts of Canada. These properties on which such rash speculation is based often lie many miles from any settled part of the particular city, and it is to be regretted that the individual who is induced to invest the savings of years in such ventures, very often possesses slight idea of the risk he is running.

MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN AND ALBERTA.

Practically all the early estimates of the yields of produce for 1910 in the western provinces were astray, the error in underestimation varying in the case of wheat from 12,000,000 to 25,000,000 bushels. The drought throughout the whole west had not affected the yield or the grade as seriously as was expected, and this was particularly the case in Manitoba where the bulk of the high-grade wheat was produced.

Opinions as to the outcome of the crop of 1911 have also been widely different, owing largely to unsatisfactory weather conditions. The season of 1911 did not open altogether favourably although preceded by a favourable autumn, in so far as the preparation of the land and increased acreage were concerned. The area under cultivation had been increased 15 per cent. for wheat, 4 per cent. for oats, 12 per cent. for barley and 4 per cent. for flax over the year 1910. The weather conditions were such that the grain grew rapidly and the outlook was promising well into the month of August. At that date estimates of a wheat yield of 200,000,000 to 225,000,000 bushels, of oats 200,000,000 bushels, barley 40,000,000 bushels, and flax 10,000,000 bushels were made by competent judges, and it appeared for a short time as if these figures might be reached. Towards the end of August, however, the weather became cold and wet. The result was that the ripening season was shortened and throughout large areas in Saskatchewan and Alberta the grain was in a green condition when the frost came in September. In Manitoba, however, the crop had ripened somewhat earlier than in Saskatchewan and Alberta and the results in the older province, both as regards grade and yield have been satisfactory. Despite the extraordinarily unfavourable weather which prevailed during September, October and November over a large part of the west, it is conceded by competent authorities that the three western provinces have the largest and most valuable crop which they have yet produced. From recent information collected by our own staff we estimate that the final results will be approximately as follows:

Wheat	175,000,000 bushels.
Oats	180,000,000 "
Barley	35,000,000 "
Flax	6,000,000 "

having a money value to the farmer of upwards of \$200,000,000. Of the wheat not quite 50 per cent. will grade as milling wheat. In the case of the other cereals the percentage of high-grade grain will be somewhat higher. The high prices which have existed for the lower grades, however, in consequence of the export demand for all kinds of coarse grains, have largely offset the loss consequent upon the damage by unfavourable weather.

There are some object lessons to the farmer in connection with the past season's work which might well cause him to pause and seriously consider. Most important of all is the question of a greater diversity of farming. We have frequently touched upon this question, and while something has been accomplished, there is still great room for improvement. We refer particularly to the apparent indifference of a very large percentage of our farmers to the raising of high-grade cattle, hogs, horses and sheep and also to the lack of effort on their part to produce such profitable commodities as milk, butter, eggs, cheese, vegetables, fruit, meats, poultry and all the minor by-products which the farm is capable of producing. It is a deplorable state of affairs that western Canada imports from the United States very large quantities of the commodities mentioned, the value of which runs into millions of dollars yearly. The main cause of these unsatisfactory conditions is that the majority of farmers confine their efforts almost solely to the raising of grain, and appear to forget entirely the value of the home market for the products mentioned. It is true that the agricultural colleges in the three provinces are doing excellent work, but the progress which is being made is comparatively slow and can only be materially accelerated by the farmers generally helping in the good work. Experience has proved that large profits, not long delayed, await the farmer who will intelligently carry out a system of intensified farming. He must pay attention to a proper rotation of crops, to the value of increasing and preserving the fertility of the soil by the use of manure and other fertilizers, and to the extermination of noxious weeds. He must also have a right conception of the amount of labour required, in addition to his own and that of his family, for carrying on properly the work of the farm.