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The Improved Grain Crop.

Washington.—(By Canadian Press) The probable production of wheat in the Northern Hemisphere, outside of Russia, will be about 2,700,000,000 bushels compared with 3,000,000,000 bushels produced last year, says the United States Department of Agriculture, basing its statement on official estimates and forecasts from 25 countries, and unofficial advices from 3 countries. Wheat harvests in the Northern Hemisphere are reported to be practically completed.

Figures for the 25 countries, which exclude France, Germany, Rumania and Russia, show an aggregate of 2,242,000,000 bushels compared with 2,500,000,000 bushels last year. No reliable estimate of the Russian crop is available but various reports indicate that the exportable surplus will be less than last year. Private forecasts of the French crop range from 245,000,000 bushels to 312,000,000 bushels, as compared with 275,000,000 bushels last year.

The German crop estimated on the basis of forecasts from Prussia and Bavaria is about 92,000,000 bushels compared with 106,000,000 bushels last year, and the Rumanian crop according to private reports will be about 70 per cent. of last year when the harvest was 101,000,000 bushels.

The Canadian crop has improved during the past month under favorable weather conditions, the department reports. The September 1 forecast is 291,000,000 bushels, which is an increase of 9,000,000 bushels over the August forecast but 183,000,000 bushels less than the final estimate of last year. Harvesting in the Prairie Provinces is about two weeks late, and there is still some chance of gain or loss in the crop. Rains during August improved conditions generally, but in Alberta rain was too late to save the crop where drought injury was severe. Some damage has been caused by frost but its extent has not yet been determined. Grain yields in Manitoba are reported as considerably above average, but due to the late season the area to be harvested is less than last year. Yields in Saskatchewan and Alberta are considerably below average.

Production of flax seed in Canada is reported to be 10,345,000 bushels compared with 19,500 bushels last year. Flax seed is considerably below last year's production. In 1923, 90,769,000 bushels compared with 76,998,000 bushels, and oats 463,998,000 bushels compared with 563,998,000 bushels last year.

Needs Fulfilled

A hygienic vegetable holder fulfils a need which most cooks experience. Made of wire, it is divided into several compartments, and in these the various vegetables which are not required for immediate use can be neatly packed.

For the bobbed-hair girl a new hairpin has been designed. This is made with the top folder over to form a small wedge-like portion which grips the hair firmly.

A washable comb-strop is an invention which prolongs the life of the comb. Repeated washings weaken the teeth, and the easiest way to clean them is to run them up and down the cotton strands of the strop.

A fat tailored bow of more ribbon is all the trimming needed on a full hat of the same color with a sharply up-turned brim.

Ontario Battle on Liquor Issue

TORONTO, Oct. 10. (By Canadian Press)—Ontario is in the throes of another battle over the liquor issue. October 23 being the date for the taking of the plebiscite on the question of continuance or repeal of the present prohibition law known as the Ontario Temperance Act and the substitution of government control of the sale of spirituous liquors for beverage purposes. It is a straight issue between prohibition and government control, only two questions being before the voters. They are:

1. Are you in favor of the continuance of the Ontario Temperance Act?
2. Are you in favor of the sale as a beverage of beer and spirituous liquors in sealed packages under government control?

The voter will place an X after the question he desires to answer in the affirmative. A mark after both questions will spoil the ballot. The questions seemed to call for the answer, "yes" or "no" after each and the first draft of the ballot prepared contemplated that form of verdict, but following a conference called by Premier Ferguson and attended by representatives of both "wets" and "drys," it was announced that the task of the voter had been reduced to the mere placing of a cross after one of the questions.

What Result Will Call For.

While there is no guarantee that the result of the plebiscite will be the repeal of the liquor question, it is generally understood that a majority will mean the early repeal of the Ontario Temperance Act which came into effect by order-in-council in 1916 as a war measure. The possibility of such a development, however, is decidedly uncertain, in view of the fact that Ontario has in the past always voted for more restrictions on the liquor traffic whenever a straight issue has been placed before the people. The temperance people are not resting on past victories, though, but have entered the present campaign with full steam up. Thousands of workers are employed and hundreds of meetings are being held in support of the demand for continuance of the prohibition act. The Moderation League, championing government control, is also organized throughout the province and has many speakers engaged. The League is strongly presenting the flourishing of bootlegging as an argument for government control.

History of the Act.

The Ontario Temperance Act was put into force by the Hearst (Conservative) Government in 1916 with the assurance that the people would be permitted to pass judgment on the act at a convenient time following the end of the war. The first plebiscite was held in 1919, four questions being submitted. The first and most important: "Are you in favor of the repeal of the Ontario Temperance Act?" was given 370,848 affirmative votes while 777,537 voted against repeal. In 1921 by a vote of 539,556 to 372,632 the province of Ontario adopted the Dominion Temperance Act amendment prohibiting the importation of intoxicants from another province or elsewhere.

The O.T.A. prohibits the sale of beer or spirituous liquors except by government vendors on a doctor's prescription.

Women Have Big Say.

More than 2,000,000 ballots have been printed for the present plebiscite, the lists having been greatly enlarged through the heavy enrollment of women voters, and it is generally believed that the 23rd of this month will see the biggest vote ever recorded in the province. The machinery for taking the vote will be similar to that of the last provincial general election. Returning officers will be appointed for each electoral district and these in turn will name deputies for each subdivision. In many rural municipalities the lists are up to date, but in many of the cities the 1923 lists will be used, with, of course, additions which are being made under the supervision of local election boards. Every British subject, 21 years of age or over who has resided in Canada for a year and in the polling subdivision for three months prior to Oct. 23, will be entitled to vote.

Canada Temperance Act.

In the event of a verdict for sale under government control, the temperance people are said to have a card up their sleeve in the Canada Temperance Act. This is a federal measure which, when endorsed by a majority

vote in any province, prohibits importation into that province of beer or spirituous liquors. A vote on the Canada Temperance Act was taken in Ontario in the spring of 1921 and was endorsed by a vote of 539,556 to 372,632. This bar to importation into the province will still apply, some of the "dry" forces claim, even if the provincial government attempts to introduce government control. Neither side, however, has yet raised the question, in the present campaign, of the permanency of the Canada Temperance Act.

Narrow black satin ribbon and a flat group of pink and white ostrich feathers are used on a large hat of black panne velvet.

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VALT MASON

all the gold brick men, I wish, will gather round to read the list, and copies they will make and file to guide them in their work of guile. And if we're bothered now by sharks who

size us up as easy marks, who ring our doorbells every day, returning income tax next when they're shooed away, who tag behind us everywhere, and fill our lives with dole and care, what shall we do in days to come when placards advertise the sum each delegate was made to dig? The future with despair looks big. Promoters then will put on fat, and all the skates who pass the hat, and advocates for every cause

will greet us with their outstretched paws, and spring a huge laugh when we say we cannot spare a groat a day. "We know you rich and rich men, we've hunted you, your income tax; the list is tacked to yonder tree where any passer-by may see; you know you paid two thousand bones they say to us in bitter tones; you represents an income great, so pat on the paver's breast, and you would pay a paying gang."

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