

FINAL CROP RETURNS

Nearly Two Hundred Million Bushels of Wheat Produced in Canada Last Year

Final estimates of the yield and value of the principal field crops of Canada for the season of 1912 have been issued by the census and statistics office of the Department of Trade and Commerce. Upon a total area under field crops of 32,474,000 acres a harvest has been reaped, the value of which, calculated at average local market prices, makes a total of \$509,437,000. The area under wheat last year was 9,758,400 acres, of which 781,000 acres represents the harvested area of fall wheat grown principally in Ontario and Alberta, and also to a limited extent in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

The total production of wheat was 199,236,000 bushels of the value of \$123,522,000. Fall wheat produced 16,396,000 bushels of the value of \$13,735,000. Oats upon 9,216,900 acres yielded 361,733,000 bushels of the value of \$116,996,000. Barley upon 1,415,200 acres yielded 44,014,000 bushels of the value of \$20,405,000, and flax upon 1,677,800 acres yielded 21,681,500 bushels of the value of \$19,626,000.

Prices and Yields.

By comparison with 1911 the results of last year's harvest, both as regards yield and value, are upon the whole inferior. The average prices realized for most of the crops were somewhat less, whilst the yields from wheat, rye, peas, beans, and corn for husking, were also lower. On the other hand oats yielded about thirteen and a half million bushels more than in 1911, and the following crops also show more or less an excess yield:—Barley, buckwheat, mixed grains, flax, potatoes, turnips, etc., fodder corn, sugar beet and alfalfa.

Average Yield Per Acre.

The average yields per acre for the year 1912, compared with 1911, are as follows:—Wheat, 20.42 bushels, against 20.87; oats, 39.25, against 37.76; barley, 31.10, against 28.94; rye, 17.44, against 18.89; peas, 14.98, against 15.80; buckwheat, 26.34, against 22.69; mixed grains, 33.67, against 29.78; flaxseed, 12.92, against 11.41; beans, 17.40, against 19.06; corn for husking, 56.58, against 59.59; potatoes, 172, against 144; turnips, etc., 402, against 374; hay and clover, 1.44 ton, against 1.61; fodder corn, 10.26 tons, against 9.92; sugar beets, 10.74 tons, against 8.66; and alfalfa, 2.79 tons, against 2.24.

The quality of the grains of cereals as shown by average weight per measured bushel is somewhat inferior to that of last year in the case of wheat, rye, peas, mixed grains and flax, but is superior in the case of oats, barley, buckwheat, beans and corn for husking.

In the Prairie West.

In the three North-West Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the production of wheat is placed at 183,322,000 bushels, compared with 194,083,000 bushels in 1911; of oats at 221,758,000 bushels, compared with 212,819,000, and of barley at 26,671,000 bushels, compared with 24,043,000 bushels. The wheat production of 1912 in Manitoba was 58,899,000 bushels from 2,653,100 acres; in Saskatchewan, 93,849,000 bushels from 4,891,500 acres; and in Alberta 30,574,000 bushels from 1,417,200 acres.

Conditions as affecting live stock are reported to have been much the same as those of 1911. Mild weather through the fall and up to Christmas enabled the farmers to economize their feeding supplies, and live stock have entered their winter quarters in excellent condition.

Though the anticipated output of 5,000,000 tons was not reached by the Dominion Coal Company last year, the figures will be quite near that goal. An approximate output for the year gives the total as 4,950,000, or over 700,000 better than the 1911 output. Practically every one of the Nova Scotia collieries will register an increased output in 1912, and the Commissioner of Mines will be able to make up for his government the largest royalty payment yet recorded.

The Transcontinental Railway Commission has made a total expenditure of \$116,517,691 since organization in 1904. This does not include any interest on capital expenditure or any refund of expenditure on Quebec bridge approaches. For the past fiscal year the expenditure was \$21,110,993. The total grading done to the end of the fiscal year was 1,609.94 miles; track laying, 1,427.02 of main line, and 275.51 of sidings. The contracts for steel bridge superstructures totalled 51,879 tons of steel. The report of Chief Engineer Gordon Grant gives the total length of the line from Moncton to the west side of Water Street, Winnipeg, as 1,804.73.

MOOSE JAW NEEDS MORE FIRE PROTECTION

Rubbish is the Greatest Evil With Which Fire Chiefs Have to Contend—Preventive Legislation

Moose Jaw needs modern fire fighting apparatus and has outgrown its present alarm system, is Chief Baines' announcement to the city council in his annual report. The new central office equipment should be installed at once, also the outside wiring completely remodelled, dividing the city into at least five or six alarm circuits, and more alarm boxes should be installed. The council of 1912 passed a resolution that \$120,000 be placed in the first fire protection by-law to do that work. The amount required to build three new stations, motorize them with the necessary equipment and apparatus, remodeling the central station, remodelling and perfecting the alarm system, would be about \$178,000. That would give the city the fire protection it required, with the exception that South Hill would require a new station shortly to accommodate a ladder truck. He urged the building of the stations at the earliest possible date. That programme would pay for itself in the reduction that would be received in the insurance rates now charged.

The department must have an aerial truck with at least seventy-five feet ladder. The high pressure system would require a special hose wagon. They would require new low pressure hose wagons. The central apparatus was different in many ways from that of the sub-station, and it would not be well to equip central with new out-of-date horse-drawn apparatus.

City's Growth Demands Improvements.

The west end of the city was being built with wholesale houses, factories, lumber yards, oil storage, etc., and heavy fires might occur in that section. The horse-drawn apparatus in the centre should be transferred to the sub-stations and new up-to-date motor driving apparatus installed in the central. The east end has needed a station for some time, as it was well built up. The majority of buildings throughout the city were built of inflammable material which made it necessary to keep the fire department up-to-date to prevent a conflagration.

Moose Jaw had the distinction of being the last city of any importance in the west that had not purchased two or more pieces of motor apparatus. There were several buildings in the city now too high for their longest ladder and several more under construction.

Must Remove Causes.

Through the summer the cellars and yards were kept as free as possible from combustible rubbish, but the excuse given by the occupants was that the people could not get teams. He would suggest that the city put on teams and undertake the collecting and disposing of that rubbish, charging a fee for the same. Combustible rubbish was perhaps the greatest evil a fire chief had to contend with. It was peculiar that the public must be protected against themselves in those respects. The by-laws governing same should be revised and amended.

The building by-law should be amended or enforced. The practice of allowing the erection of frame buildings and shingled roofs, even temporarily in the city should not be allowed. All shingles should be laid on asbestos paper weighing at least 14 lbs. to 100 square feet in all parts of the city. That was a great preventative against fires spreading from burning embers and paid its cost in reduction of insurance.

Provide Fire Escapes.

All buildings three stories or over should be provided with ample fire escapes, and having the outside stand pipe built with private siameses and hose connections at each floor and on the roof for the use of the fire department. All buildings abutting on lanes should have metal sash and wired glass.

More strict regulations governing buildings used by moving picture theatres or any buildings where there were large gatherings of the public should contain a clause providing that before the city issue a license or the building was used, applicants must produce a certificate from the building inspector and chief of the fire department certifying that the building was considered safe for public gatherings.

In Ontario, the fire tax amounts to seventy-three or seventy-five cents per hundred dollars collected, while in Alberta, where rates are particularly high, the rate is \$1.04 in Manitoba \$1.58 and in Saskatchewan \$1.01. In New Brunswick the rates are \$2.04 and in Nova Scotia approximately \$2.00 a hundred. In Quebec, a stated sum is imposed. The insurance companies have to pay \$500 irrespective of the amount of business they do.