

SASKATCHEWAN'S LARGE WHEAT ACREAGE.

Increase of Twenty Per Cent. Over Last Year's Figures—
Gain in Land Values.

The increase in the wheat acreage in Saskatchewan this year is 933,401 or 20 per cent. over that of 1910, the total acreage being 5,598,235. The acreage under oats is placed by the Provincial Department of Agriculture at 2,291,823, a gain of 209,216 or more than 10 per cent. over the acreage of the previous year. The acreage under both crops was more than trebled in the past five years. The following are some interesting details respecting this progressive province:

Wheat.	1911 Estimated	1910	Inc.
District.	Acreage.	Acreage.	Per C.
1. South Eastern	1,694,694	1,639,762	3.35
2. South Central	774,827	620,358	24.90
3. South Western	280,197	170,644	64.20
4. East Central	349,876	303,924	15.12
5. Central	1,601,575	1,348,922	18.73
6. West Central	534,591	318,531	67.83
7. North Eastern	31,526	20,841	51.27
8. North Central	149,895	114,968	30.38
9. North Western	181,054	126,835	42.77
The Province	5,598,235	4,664,834	20.01

Inc. = 933,401 acres.

Oats.	1911 Estimated	1910	Inc.
District.	Acreage.	Acreage.	Per C.
1. South Eastern	591,556	595,786	.71
2. South Central	305,602	256,313	19.23
3. South Western	92,366	71,380	29.40
4. East Central	484,442	427,801	13.24
5. Central	441,575	422,560	4.50
6. West Central	157,198	116,022	35.49
7. North Eastern	51,890	43,242	20.
8. North Central	91,366	82,178	11.18
9. North Western	75,228	67,325	12.68
The Province	2,291,823	2,082,607	10.05

Inc. = 209,216 acres.

The largest increases have taken place in the south-central district within the bounds of which lies the large pre-emption area south and west of Moose Jaw, the west-central, which includes the Goose Lake country, the south-western, including all that country tributary to the western Saskatchewan portion of the main line of the C.P.R., the north-eastern, which includes the fertile Carrot River Valley and the north-western, within the limits of which is located the Battleford district whither the large areas of free government land recently thrown open have drawn many homesteaders. The east central gained in oats what it lost in the wheat acreage.

Result of New Settlers.

The market increases are almost wholly attributable to the work of the new settlers. The American settlers who came in during the year have also left the imprint of their toil on the prairies. These for the most part are wealthy farmers who sold out their holdings in the States and came well equipped for undertaking the cultivation of large areas. This will be particularly noticeable in the large increase in flax. The department, however, is not yet in a position to give official figures of the acreages under barley and flax, as a large percentage of these crops was not sown at the time the correspondents sent in their returns on which the wheat and oats acreages are based. The increase in settlement, the consequent increase in the amount of new land broken and the better condition of the seed-bed this year, are some of the causes which contributed to the marked increase in the wheat acreage. Wheat seeding was not general until the 22nd of April, being from two to three weeks later than last year, although at one point in the north, seeding was started as early as March 16th. The more than usually favorable fall and spring conditions have, however, more than made up for the delay in starting, and the crops are now further ahead than they were at this time last year. The first oats sown was on April 2nd and the oats seeding was general by May 4th.

There is a slight increase in the ruling average wages of male farm help, while that for domestic help remains much the same as last year. For hired men the wages run from \$250 to \$333 per year, or \$20.95 to \$39.40 per month, and for servant girls from \$12 to \$18.70 per month. As was the case last year, the need seems to be for more experienced male farm help, while in every district except adjoining for-

eign settlements where the native supply can be drawn from there is a scarcity of female help.

Big Increase in Land Values.

Land values have gone up fully 25 per cent. The average price of improved land runs from \$20 to \$27 and for unimproved from \$15 to \$23 per acre.

	LAND VALUES.	
District	Improved Lands	Unimproved Lands
1. South Eastern ..	\$22.60	\$29.45
2. South Central ..	28.75	37.45
3. South Western ..	18.00	24.80
4. East Central ...	17.35	27.15
5. Central	21.60	28.80
6. West Central ...	21.40	29.65
7. North Eastern ...	17.20	22.70
8. North Central ..	16.60	21.10
9. North Western ..	16.70	22.25
Province	\$20.00	\$27.05

Stock Conditions are Good.

The health condition of stock is well up to the standard, although last winter was more prolonged and severe than that of 1909, and more trying on the health of animals generally. Abortion was the chief trouble among mares, while horses were subjected to colds. In some parts horses came through the winter poor in flesh, having suffered from colic and indigestion brought about by too much straw feeding. A number suffering from glanders were destroyed. Swamp fever was rarely mentioned. Distemper and pneumonia caused some loss. Swine, which were practically free from disease last year, suffered most this season. Many succumbed to a disease which attacked them suddenly, causing paralysis. The farmers were at a loss to correctly determine the nature of the complaint. The Provincial representative of the Dominion Health of Animals Branch who diagnosed a number of cases in the Elbow district, where it was most prevalent, puts the trouble down to a dietetic disarrangement, and states there is no trace of cholera. There has been no disease amongst sheep, while cattle have have also been practically immune, only isolated cases of infection by ringworm, warble, and like being reported.

CANADIAN BUILDING STATISTICS.

A gain of thirty per cent. over the same period of 1910 is shown by the statistics of building operations in twenty-six Canadian cities and towns for the first six months of the year:—

Town or city.	1st 6 mos. 1910.	1st 6 mos. 1911.	Approx. Inc. % 6 mos.
Toronto	\$9,820,648	\$11,939,953	22
Vancouver	6,885,880	9,188,406	33
Winnipeg	9,906,100	8,581,550	13
Calgary	2,394,942	8,212,248	242
Montreal	7,126,880	7,305,816	2
Regina	1,342,003	2,036,030	111
Saskatoon	1,657,131	2,575,441	55
Hamilton	1,232,725	2,246,657	82
Edmonton	1,054,476	1,620,431	54
Victoria	1,202,835	1,432,585	19
Ottawa	1,690,025	1,393,370	12*
Moose Jaw	513,210	1,205,575	154
Brandon	401,700	803,574	101
Sherbrooke	300,000	675,000	125
Fort William	939,280	750,075	20*
Lethbridge	650,570	485,625	26*
London	452,466	458,423	1
Windsor	100,480	395,495	261
Port Arthur	310,465	315,660	2
Sydney, N.S.	204,652	382,052	87
Halifax	175,450	211,150	20
St. John's	214,500	214,181	0*
St. John, N.B.	222,000	211,700	5*
St. Thomas	112,850	136,150	21
F Kingston	100,143	136,462	36
Stratford	100,000	62,500	67*
	\$49,240,411	\$64,068,026	30

*Decreases.

In thirty-seven years, ended with 1910, the number of persons convicted of arson by the efforts of the fire underwriters was 304, and the average sentence of those convicted exceeded fifteen months, excepting two, who went to jail for life.