

valid legislation. The particular act in question will be superseded next July by the more drastic measure recently approved by Governor Wilson and patterned somewhat after the New York law that was declared unconstitutional. This new act greatly increases the liability of employers for damages resulting from industrial accidents. It does this by removing the two important defences of negligence of a fellow employe or the assumption of the risks inherent to the employment by the employe. The new statute, however, is primarily a workmen's compensation measure. This latter feature of the act is made elective, by which means it is hoped to overcome the constitutional objections which have nullified similar laws in other States.

The calling in question by old country writers of the figures of production and export of Canadian wheat has drawn an interesting statement on the subject from Mr. Archibald Blue, chief officer of the Census and Statistics Office at Ottawa, which is reprinted in the current monthly of the department. Mr. Blue writes:—"The following are the actual data as to the production of wheat in Canada and the imports and exports of wheat and flour for the fiscal years 1908-09, 1909-10 and 1910-11:—

Schedule	1908-09 bush.	1909-10 bush.	1910-11 bush.
Estimated production.	112,434,000	166,744,000	149,989,600
Imports for home consumption of wheat and flour.	224,000	200,000	336,000
	112,658,000	166,944,000	150,325,600
Exports of wheat and flour.	57,104,000	63,785,000	61,000,000
Balance retained for home consumption seed, etc.	55,554,000	103,159,000	89,325,600
Seed.	13,563,000	16,266,000	18,813,000
	41,991,000	86,893,000	70,512,600
Consumption at 6.24 bush. per head.	44,833,000	46,736,000	48,578,000
Deficiency and surplus	2,842,000	40,157,000	21,934,600

1 Estimated.

"In the foregoing statement the requirements for seed are reckoned at the average rate of 1.75 bushels per acre upon the acreage of the following year, i.e., 7,750,400 in 1909, 9,294,800 in 1910 and 10,750,000 estimated for 1911. The consumption of wheat per head in Canada is admittedly high. Some authorities have placed it at 6.70 bushels. Figures I collected two years ago indicated 5.80 bushels as the per capita consumption in the North-west provinces. The estimate of 6.24 bushels, above used, is based upon the statistics of production at the Census of 1901 and the imports and exports of that year, the population of Canada being estimated as 7,184,744 in 1908-09, 7,489,781 in 1909-10 and 7,784,900 in 1910-11. The table shows a deficiency for 1908 which would have to be made good from the stocks held over from 1907, of which there is no record. In 1909 a proportion of the surplus would be required to replenish depleted stocks in the elevators and mills; and in this connection it will be noticed from the table

that while the production of 1909-10 is 54,000,000 bushels in excess of 1908-09 the export is only about 7,000,000 more."

"It may be reckoned," continues Mr. Blue, "that about 5 p.c. of the total production, as above estimated, should be deducted owing to losses in cleaning, etc., and if we put the average losses from frosted and other grain used for feeding at 3 p.c., a total reduction of 8 p.c. reduces the above surpluses by 13,340,000 bushels or to 26,817,000 bushels in 1909-10 and by 11,999,000 bushels or to 9,936,000 bushels in 1910-11. In the spring of each of the last two years data have been collected from agricultural correspondents as to the amount of the previous year's crop then remaining in the hands of farmers. These showed that of the crop of 112,434,000 bushels in 1908-09, 20.23 p.c. or 22,747,000 bushels remained in farmers' hands at the end of February, 1909; and similarly that of the crop of 166,744,000 bushels in 1909-10 18.28 p.c. or 30,484,000 bushels were in farmers' hands on March 31, 1910. The Weekly Report of the Department of Trade and Commerce gives the total quantity of wheat in store at the terminal and eastern transfer elevators for the week ended February 24, 1911, as 9,931,062 bushels, figures which happen to agree rather closely with the reduced surplus of 9,936,000 bushels above indicated. The whole question—one that has been raised on previous occasions—is difficult, and with the data available it is not possible to arrive at very certain conclusions. The estimates of the wheat crop, as published by this office, are based upon returns of reliable agricultural correspondents, and any tendency to exaggeration or to too sanguine estimates is carefully guarded against. At the same time the figures published are only estimates and have not the authority of actual statistics. Such statistics will be available upon completion of the results of the forthcoming Census on June 1st next, when records of area and of yield will be taken for every farm throughout Canada."

Western Fire Losses.

An editorial article in the Manitoba Free Press calls attention to the frequent occurrence of disastrous fires in the West, which, says the Winnipeg journal, seems to point to something wrong in regard to the construction of the buildings in towns and villages. Most of the buildings in western towns, continues this writer, are of frame structure, and when fire gets a fair start the ordinary small fighting equipment cannot save the building affected, or those closely adjacent. It is possible that brick or cement buildings, wherever they could be erected at reasonable cost, would more than pay for the additional expense in increased security from fire. The west needs to get back to eastern style so far as the building of business blocks in towns and villages is concerned. The brick-making and cement industries will gradually be developed so as to largely supersede the use of lumber, which is fast draining the available supplies, and the result will be more permanent towns, and towns possessing a much more stable and solid appearance.