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Crop Reports are Quite Satisfactory

FIRST Government Returns Show Large Increase in Acreage—Yields May be Above Average—Agricultural Developments in New Brunswick—General Crop Condition at End of April Was Up to a High Standard

CANADA'S first government crop report this year deals with the area and condition of the fall wheat crop, the condition of hay and clover meadows at the close of the winter, etc. Owing to the mild winter and the favorable conditions which prevailed during the critical months of March and April, the fall wheat crop is reported to the census and statistics office as being exceptionally good on April 30th. In Ontario, where 1,043,000 acres were sown as estimated last fall, not more than 6.8 per cent. is reported as winter killed, and in Alberta, with 230,000 acres estimated as sown, the proportion winter killed is only 6.2 per cent. These proportions are lower than in any year since 1908-9 for Ontario and lower than in any previous year on record for Alberta. Last year the percentage winter killed was 19 in Ontario and 15.6 in Alberta.

In Ontario the area winter killed amounts this year to 71,000 acres, and in Alberta to 14,300 acres. These figures, deducted from the areas sown, leave 972,000 acres in Ontario and 215,700 acres in Alberta as the areas under fall wheat to be harvested. With 10,900 acres in Manitoba, 4,100 acres in Saskatchewan and 6,000 acres in British Columbia, the total area under fall wheat to be harvested this year amounts to 1,208,700 acres, as compared with 973,300 acres, the area harvested in 1914. Whilst, therefore, as previously reported, the area sown to wheat last fall was 9 per cent. more than the area sown in the fall of 1913, the increased area to be harvested, owing to the small area winter killed, amounts to 24 per cent.

Not less satisfactory is the general condition on April 30th, which, measured by the standard of 100 as representing a full crop, is 93 in Ontario as compared with 81 last year and 83 in Alberta as compared with 87. For Ontario the figure is higher than in any year since 1910, when 95½ was recorded; for Alberta this year's condition was only exceeded last year and in 1911. The condition for the whole of Canada on April 30th was 91, which, converted into a standard of 100 as representing the average condition at the same period for the six years 1909-1914, indicates a condition of 112, or an anticipated yield per acre of 12 per cent. in excess of the average, provided that conditions between now and harvest time are not abnormal.

As in the case of wheat, the amount of winter killing proved to be unusually small, not more than 10 per cent, being the estimate for all Canada as compared with 14 per cent. last year and 22 per cent. in 1913. The average condition was 91 per cent. of the standard or full crop, as compared with 86.7 per cent. last year (May 6th), 89.6 per cent. in 1913, and 74.6 per cent. in 1912.

New Brunswick's acreage in wheat this year will probably be 35 per cent. in advance of 1914. Last year there were 12,237 acres under wheat, the yield being 256,700 bushels. The government has imported about 5,000 bushels of seed

wheat, which is being sold to the farmers at cost. The object of wheat-growing is largely to supply the farmers with flour; at the same time it gives a quantity for poultry-feeding, and the by-products, such as bran and middlings, can be used for cattle feed. More than this is not looked for by the agricultural department, although it has been demonstrated that a superior quality of wheat can be raised in New Brunswick. It is estimated that there will be an increase in acreage in oats this year of about 25 per cent. over 1914. Last year 190,100 acres were planted in oats, the yield being 5,986,592 bushels. Other crops will remain about the same.

Last year the potato crop of New Brunswick reached the enormous figure of 9,875,570 bushels. The difficulties which were encountered in marketing this unusually large crop are likely to lead to an appreciable reduction in the potato acreage in New Brunswick this year. Official estimates place this reduction at about 25 per cent.

All over the province there is a decided awakening in live stock, due in part to the increased demands for this class of farm product and to the departmental policy of bonusing pure-bred stock bought by the agricultural societies. There is an initial bonus of 20 per cent. on animals costing more than \$50, and an additional yearly bonus of 10 per cent. while the animal is in serviceable condition. Some sections are making great advancement in live stock in consequence. Sheep-raising is especially receiving attention. This branch has been stimulated by the policy, adopted last year, of placing in each county as quickly as possible a demonstration flock of pure-bred sheep. These demonstration flocks consist each of nine ewes and one ram, purchased by the government, and placed for three years under the care of a reliable farmer. The latter becomes the owner of the flock at the expiration of the three years, provided he has returned to the department of agriculture a specified number of the progeny of the flock. Live stock statistics of last year were as follows: Horses, 64,075; cattle, 253,273; sheep, 142,141; swine, 88,167.

General business in St. John and throughout the maritime provinces continues to be fairly satisfactory. The winter business at the port has exceeded all previous records, and the outlook for summer is fairly bright. There is a scarcity of both steam and sail tonnage to meet the demands of lumber shippers. Everything capable of being employed for transatlantic traffic is being pressed into service. Freights continue firm. The highest quotation has been 135s. for a United Kingdom port. Nearly all the lumber that was cut during the winter has been floated to the mills so that the lumber situation is satisfactory. The industrial outlook is fairly good, being stimulated by war orders. The labor market is slightly depressed, owing to the closing of winter port traffic. Building trades are busy at present, but there are no large contracts on hand. Real estate shows slight evidences of activity.