

WORLD'S CROP FORECASTED.

The July number of the "Bulletin of Agricultural and Commercial Statistics," just issued by the International Institute of Agriculture, includes some very interesting information. The following selections appear the most important:

As regards wheat, it may be said in a general way that the forecasts furnished by the principal producing countries are scarcely to be considered as satisfactory. The United States does not expect to obtain more than 207,000,000 quintals, including both winter and spring wheat, and this figure is barely 75 per cent. of its crop in 1915. It should, however, be recorded that this estimate is 10 per cent. better than the average of the five years period 1909 to 1913, for the crop of last year, as well as that of 1914, was an exceptionally good one. India, also a large producer, has this year reaped no more than 87,000,000 quintals, showing a deficit of fully 15 per cent. as compared with last season and nearly 10 per cent. below the average of the five years period 1909 to 1913.

In Europe, on the other hand, the outlook is better. Italy estimates the wheat crop at 52,000,000 quintals, or 112 per cent. of last season's and 104 per cent. of the five years average. As regards Spain, a crop superior to last year's is expected, and the forecast is for 42,000,000 quintals, while it should be noted that Spanish wheat harvests did not yield an average of more than 35,000,000 quintals during the five years period 1909 to 1913. Tunis and Japan both announce lighter crops than in 1915, though they are alike larger than the average of the five years period. Taken together, the seven countries, including Switzerland, which have already furnished data, make up a total of 396,510,000 quintals, or 76,734,000 quintals below that of last year and 19,314,000 quintals in excess of the average of 1909 to 1913.

The estimates of the rye crop in the United States are about 10 per cent. below those of last year, but 26 per cent. better than the five years average. This crop may therefore be considered as relatively a good one. In Spain and Italy the outlook is favorable. In these three countries, with the addition of the figures for Switzerland, the estimates are for a total of 21,165,000 quintals, or 411,000 quintals larger than in 1915 and 3,469,000 quintals above the average for 1909 to 1913.

For barley a harvest decidedly inferior to that of 1915, and similarly superior to the five years average, may be expected in the countries which have furnished data so far. In fact, the sum of the estimates furnished by the United States, Japan, Spain, Italy, Tunis and Switzerland is 88,780,000 quintals, showing a deficit of 7,836,000 quintals on the 1915 crop and a surplus as compared with the average of the five years period amounting to 7,611,000 quintals.

CANADIAN WOOL CONSUMPTION.

Recent returns made public show that the domestic production of wool in Canada is entirely inadequate to meet the needs of the home mills. Since the removal of the tariff on the imports of wool into the United States about 50 per cent. of the Canadian clip finds a better market there than at home. The following table shows the exports of wool and the total consumption of wool in Canada for the fiscal year ending March 31st for the years named:

	Exports. Pounds.	Total Home Consumption. Pounds.
1913	978,640	19,930,764
1914	2,878,028	15,874,090
1915	5,197,158	18,896,828
1916	4,566,748	28,073,981

These figures show that the total consumption of wool by Canadian mills in 1916 was 49 per cent. over 1915, 72 per cent. over 1914, and 41 per cent. over 1913.

MONTREAL BUILDING RETURNS.

For the first seven months of 1916 the total value of new buildings erected in Montreal was \$2,980,000 compared with \$3,851,000 for the same period in 1915. But the month of July this year shows an advance, the figures being \$545,670 as compared with \$432,490 for July, 1915.

The total investment for 1913 was \$27,037,000. In 1914 the investment dropped to \$17,304,000, and last year it was only \$7,486,000.

GOVERNMENT CROP REPORT.

Preliminary Estimate of Crop Yield.

The Census and Statistics Office has issued a preliminary estimate of the yield of fall wheat, of hay and clover and of alfalfa, based upon appearances at the end of July, as estimated by correspondents, and also a report on the condition of other field crops at the same date. The preliminary estimate of the average yield per acre of fall wheat in Canada for 1915 is 25.76 bushels as compared with 29.41 bushels last year, 21.41 bushels in 1914 and 23.26 bushels, the average of the six years 1910 to 1915. The harvested area of fall wheat in the five provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia amounts in 1916 to 1,042,200 acres, as compared with 1,208,700 acres in 1915, and the total estimated yield for this year is 26,850,000 bushels as compared with 35,551,600 bushels last year and 20,837,000 bushels in 1914. In Ontario the total estimated yield for 1916 is 18,773,000 bushels from 774,800 acres, an average yield per acre of 24.23 bushels, and in Alberta, the other large fall wheat growing province, the total yield is estimated at 7,520,000 bushels from 247,700 acres, an average of 30.36 bushels per acre.

The estimated yield of hay and clover in 1916 is 14,941,000 tons from 7,974,000 acres, as compared with 10,953,000 tons from 7,875,000 acres in 1915 and 10,259,000 tons from 7,999,000 acres in 1914. The average yield per acre works out in 1916 to 1.88 ton, which is the largest on record for Canada. The total yield of 14,941,000 tons is also the largest hay harvest gathered in Canada, as well as one of the best in quality. Alfalfa shows a total yield of 166,000 tons from 89,900 acres, as compared with 261,955 tons in 1915, the average yield per acre being 1.85 ton against 2.83 tons.

Condition of Spring-Sown Crops.

The condition of spring-sown grain is about equal to last month being over eighty per cent. of the standard representing a full crop. On July 31st, 1915, the figures were exceptionally high, being over 90 per cent., but in 1914 they were below 80 per cent. The respective percentages this year are as follows: Fall wheat 82, compared with 80 on June 30th, spring wheat 89 both dates, all wheat 87 both dates, oats 83 and 86, barley 83 and 88, rye 87 and 91, peas 75 and 82. The condition of other crops on July 31st was as follows: Beans 82, Buckwheat and mixed grains 83, flay 86, corn for husking 74, potatoes, 84, turnips 87, mangolds 85, hay and clover 100, alfalfa 95, corn for fodder 79, sugar beets 82 and pastures 95. Converted into a standard wherein 100 represents the average yield per acre of the eight years 1908 to 1915 the condition of the principal grain crops at July 31st, 1916, was as follows: Fall wheat 102.5, spring wheat 106, all wheat 105, rye 103.5, barley 101.2, oats 105, flax 105. That is to say the yields per acre of these crops according to their appearance on July 31st are expected to be above the average yields of the previous eight years, 2½ per cent. for fall wheat, six per cent. for spring wheat, five per cent. for all wheat, 3½ per cent. for rye, 1.2 per cent. for barley, five per cent. for oats and five per cent. for flax. Many correspondents in Manitoba report the appearance in the wheat crops of rust due to murky atmosphere and extreme heat. They were not able to estimate the extent of the damage beyond stating that this would be serious if not checked by a change of weather.

JUTE AND HEMP.

According to advices from New York, there is no special feature to report in the hemp market. Trading is confined within narrow limits, neither manufacturers nor consumers manifesting more than a passing interest. Jute is also dull and without feature.

Current prices in the New York market are as follows:

	per lb.
Manilla hemp, current spot	0.12½
Shipments	0.13¼
Midway shipments	0.15%
Sisal hemp shipment	0.10%
Isle of Palina	0.03½
Fula	0.03½
Juamava	0.04%
Jute August-September	0.07¼

Ocean going vessels passing through Panama canal during fiscal year ended June 30th, 1916, numbered 787. Net tonnage was 2,479,761, cargo 3,140,046 tons, tolls collected \$2,399,830.

SMART WOODS
LIMITED CANADA

Manufacturers of

Jute and Cotton
Bags, Tents,
Clothing, Etc.

FACTORIES IN

MONTREAL, TORONTO,
OTTAWA, WINNIPEG

Conditions in the West

Wheat Yield Will Be Low In Manitoba Averaging 11 Or 12 Bushels—Outlook Is Not Discouraging.

(By E. Cora Hind.)

Special Correspondence to Journal of Commerce.

Winnipeg, Man., August 18th.—Have completed the inspection of the Province of Manitoba and after travelling 353 miles by motor and many hundred miles by train I am convinced the best we can hope for in a wheat crop is 11 to 12 bushels and threshing machine returns may place the yield even lower. Eleven bushels per acre would be a little better than half the average crop, the average yield of Manitoba over a period of years being just about 19 bushels.

Last week I wrote of conditions in south and south-western Manitoba, and hoped I had seen the worst, Central Manitoba was slightly better, but north western Manitoba was worse, in as much as the crop was heavier and later, and the straw being completely killed by the rust there was nothing in it to fill the berries which were quite green and will therefore shrivel badly. Northern Manitoba, to wit the portion lying between the Riding and Duck mountains, has a good crop. The rust is there but fortunately it came too late to do serious damage. This district of Manitoba, unlike the other portions of the province, got little snow last winter and spring was two weeks earlier than in the south, something that has never happened in the history of the province before. It was these two weeks which proved the salvation of the crop it being out of the milk and pretty well into stiff dough before the rust appeared. This territory lies along the main line of the C. N. R. about six hours run from Winnipeg. The territory will probably yield about 22 or 25 bushels per acre.

Outlook Not Discouraging.

Oats will be a fair crop, early barley is good but late barley is badly rusted. Root crops, corn, alfalfa and hay are all good, and while the loss is serious it must not be taken as in any way crippling the province. There is bread and seed and some to sell even of the wheat crop, there are plenty of cattle, a fair supply of hogs, an enormous dairy output, some of which is now on its way to Great Britain. Putting the phenomenal crop of 1915 and the small crop of 1916 together they make considerably more than two good average crops and that is the sensible way in which the farmers are looking at it.

I will inspect Southern Alberta next and hope by the time the next letter is due to have more cheerful conditions to report, from that territory.

Wheat prices are high and they took another jump on the issuance of this report in the Free Press this morning. The gain for the week ending August 12th was 12½ for October; 10% for December and 10¼ for May. The closing prices being \$1.48¼ for October, \$1.45% for December and \$1.50 for May. There was a re-action to \$1.40¼ for October, but to-day the pendulum swung to \$1.46% for a time and closed at 45% cents for the day.