

THE GRAIN CROPS OF 1915.

The final returns of the yield, quality and value of the grain crops of Canada for the season of 1915 have been issued by the Census and Statistics Office at Ottawa.

As a result of the returns of the average yields per acre, made after threshing, says the report, the total yields of the grain crops in bushels for the season of 1915, compared with 1914, are computed as follows: wheat, 376,303,600, as against 161,280,000 in 1914; oats, 520,103,000, as against 313,078,000; barley, 53,331,300, as against 36,201,000; rye, 2,394,100, as against 2,016,800; peas, 3,478,850, as against 3,362,500; beans, 723,400, as against 797,500; buckwheat, 7,865,900, as against 8,626,000; flaxseed, 10,628,000, as against 7,175,200; mixed grains, 17,523,100, as against 16,382,500; and corn for husking, 14,368,000, as against 13,924,000 bushels.

For the principal grain crops the total yields represent the most abundant harvest in the history of Canada. With regard to wheat and oats, this result is due to a double cause: Expansion of the acreage by special effort as a consequence of the war, and an exceptionally favorable season, giving for Canada the highest average returns per acre on record.

TOTAL VALUES.

The total values of the principal grain crops of 1915 are as follows: wheat, \$312,569,400; oats, \$176,894,700; barley, \$26,704,700; rye, \$1,899,900; peas, \$5,730,700; beans, \$2,206,800; buckwheat, \$5,913,000; flaxseed, \$15,965,000; mixed grains, \$10,034,700; corn for husking, \$10,243,000. Including the root and fodder crops, particulars of which were published last November, the total value of the field crops of Canada in 1915 amounts to nearly \$800,000,000, comprising grain crops, \$568,161,900, potatoes and sugar beets, \$36,739,500, and fodder crops, \$192,768,100.

In the three northwest provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the production of wheat in 1915 is estimated at 342,948,000 bushels, as compared with 140,958,000 bushels in 1914; oats at 334,840,600 bushels, compared with 150,843,000; barley at 35,317,200 bushels, compared with 19,535,000 bushels; and flax at 10,559,000 bushels, compared with 7,083,000 bushels.

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ALLEGED ELABORATE ARSON PLOT.

The cases of Morris Aloof and Nathan Aloof, his son, charged respectively with conspiracy to commit arson and actually committing arson, were before Fire Commissioner Latulippe at a preliminary enquête this week. The charge concerns the burning of property at 1467 Garnier Street, said to be of a value of \$12,000 and much over-insured. The day before the fire at the end of November, a number of the policies on the building were cancelled. According to the evidence of a neighbour, there were extensive and deliberate plans not only to burn down this property, but also an adjoining property. The spilling of gasoline and the blocking of a door-way to make it difficult for the firemen to enter the building are alleged as part of the scheme.

A BIG TITLE.

A notice in the Canada Gazette records intention to apply for an Act to incorporate a company to carry on fire and sprinkler leakage, weather, hail and automobile insurance under the title of the Insurance Company of Canada. The application emanates from Montreal, and is the biggest piece of "nerve" in the way of title-choosing we have seen for a long time. We cannot imagine the Ottawa authorities allowing such a title if the application is pushed forward.

In starting a new fire insurance company (Whitlings says) the promoters are apt to ignore the most important item of the expense account, the cost of experience.

THE MONTREAL CITY and DISTRICT SAVINGS BANK

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of this Bank will be held at its Head Office, St. James Street, on Monday, the Fourteenth day of February next, at 12 o'clock noon, for the reception of the Annual Reports and Statements, and the election of Directors.

By order of the Board,

A. P. LESPERANCE, Manager.

Montreal, January 13th, 1916.

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