

Canada's 1916 Grain Crop Worth \$808,000,000

Lower Yield Offset by Higher Prices

(Special to The Journal of Commerce).

The revised estimate of the grade yield of the crops of 1916 work out as follows: Fall wheat, \$1.53 against 91 cents in 1915, spring wheat \$1.29 against 82 cents, all wheat \$1.31 against 83 cents, oats 52 cents against 34 cents, barley 82 cents against 49 cents, rye \$1.11 against 79 cents, flaxseed \$2.05 against \$1.50, peas \$2.22 against \$1.66, beans \$5.40 against \$3.05, buckwheat \$1.37 against 75 cents, mixed grains 90 cents against 57 cents and corn for husking \$1.07 against 71 cents, barley 25 (35½ and 24½); rye 20 (21¼ and 18); peas 14½ (17¼ and 17½); beans 12¼ (16¾ and 18¼); buckwheat 17½ (23 and 24¼); mixed grains 25¼ (37½ and 35¼); flaxseed 11¼ (13 and 6½); corn for husking 36¼ (56¾ and 54½). For wheat, oats, barley and flaxseed these average yields, although inferior to the excellent returns of 1915, are higher than those of 1914, which was a year of low yields due to drought. For rye the average is lower than in 1915, but higher than in 1916. For peas, beans, buckwheat, mixed grains and corn for husking the average yields are lower than in either of the two previous years.

Offsetting the low yields and grades is the increase in the average prices of grain. These prices are considerably higher than those of 1915, and are even higher than the prices which ruled in 1914 after the outbreak of the war. The average prices per bushel received by farmers for the grain are:

Crops.	1915.		1916.	
	acres.	bushels.	acres.	bushels.
Wheat	14,675,200	12,879,560	14,675,200	12,879,560
Oats	11,424,600	9,835,100	11,424,600	9,835,100
Barley	1,707,650	1,651,100	1,707,650	1,651,100
Rye	145,120	145,120
Flaxseed	605,700	605,700

For other crops the estimated total production in 1916 is as follows: peas 2,172,400 bushels from 150,280 acres; beans 412,600 bushels from 32,500 acres; buckwheat 5,976,000 bushels from 341,500 acres; mixed grains 10,077,000 bushels from 397,770 acres and corn for husking 6,282,000 bushels from 173,000 acres.

The average yields per acre of the principal grain crops for 1916 are, in bushels, as follows, the yields of 1915 and 1916 being placed within brackets for comparison: Fall wheat 21½ (28¾ and 21½); spring wheat 16¾ (29 and 15); all wheat 17 (29 and 15½); oats 35¼ (45¾ and 31).

Correction of Areas. Previous estimates of the areas sown to wheat, oats and barley in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta for the years 1915 and 1916 have been corrected by the preliminary results of the Census taken in June, 1916, and for 1916 the corrections include also rye and flax. These results indicate that the annual estimates of areas sown, as compiled from the reports of correspondents, are considerably below the Census returns as compiled from the individual schedules filled up for every farm. Thus, in 1915 the Census returns show, for the three provinces, 13,423,600 acres of wheat instead of 11,744,700; 6,349,600 acres of oats instead of 6,290,000 and 1,160,300 acres of barley instead of 862,000. Similarly, in 1916, the Census returns, after the deduction of areas estimated to be unproductive, are for wheat 11,872,600 acres instead of 9,068,200; for oats 6,198,100 acres instead of 5,673,000; for barley 1,239,400 acres instead of 898,500; for rye 67,500 acres instead of 23,800 and for flax 600,700 acres, instead of 705,000 acres, the area in the case of flax being less. The increases thus shown are largely in the more recently settled districts where the system of reporting by correspondents is necessarily less fully developed. A final statement of the harvest results of 1916, to include all crops, is dependent upon completion of the Census compilation, a work that is now being proceeded with.

Quality of Grain.

The quality of the grain crops of 1916, as determined by the average weight in lb. per measured bushel, is as follows: Fall wheat 59.52 lb., spring wheat 56.51 lb., all wheat 57.10 lb., oats 33.86 lb., barley 45.66 lb., rye 54.95 lb., peas 59.88 lb., beans 60 lb.; buckwheat 46.35 lb., mixed grains 43.13 lb., flax 55 lb., and corn for husking 56.51 lb. For wheat and oats these weights per measured bushel are lower than in any previous year on record.

Total Areas and Yields.

The total harvested areas and the total production of the principal grain crops of Canada in 1915 and 1916, as corrected by the Census returns of 1916, are therefore now estimated as follows:

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