

Production and Value of Canadian Field Crops, 1916

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In the November issue of the Census and Statistics Monthly are published estimates of the yield and value of the potato, root and fodder crops of Canada for the past season; and therefore with the estimates of the grain crops previously published we are in a position to form some idea of the general character of the harvest of 1916 and of its total value, as compared with preceding seasons.

Outstanding Features of the Season.

We may first summarize in few words the outstanding features of the season. With regard to wheat, the area sown, estimated for all Canada at 11,517,600 acres, was nearly 1½ million acres, or over 11 per cent. less than the record acreage of 1915, but also it was 1.2 million acres, or nearly 12 per cent. above the harvested acreage of 1914. The increase in the price of wheat on the outbreak of the war caused an universal effort to produce a larger quantity in 1915; but evidently for 1916 the spurt made could not be maintained, especially as the progress of the war entailed the withdrawal from agriculture of large numbers of men by enlistment. Notwithstanding the reduced acreage in 1916, the prospects for another large wheat harvest continued to be excellent in Canada until the end of July and the beginning of August, when the sudden outbreak and rapid spread of severe attacks of rust in the west changed the prospect and ultimately reduced the yield of wheat in the Provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan to one of the lowest on record and caused the grading quality to be generally low. The grain crops of Ontario and Quebec were also very disappointing. The only bright spot as regards yield was the splendid crop of hay, which proved to be the highest on record for Canada, justifying the statement that during each of the past three years record crops were gathered; in 1914 for potatoes, in 1915 for grain and in 1916 for hay. Another favorable circumstance connected with the recent harvest is the high prices, which will largely offset the low yield.

Comparative Yields of Field Crops.

We shall best gain a comprehensive view of the harvest results of 1916 by setting out in tabular form the total yields and value of the different crops as compared with 1915, cautioning our readers, however, that the estimates of the grain yields are only provisional, and that the values attached to them are at present hypothetical being subject to revision in the light of the final report on the field crops of the year, usually issued by the Census and Statistics office in January. The average values per unit attached to the grain crops are based upon market records, and are placed at a moderate amount; so that the total values need not be regarded as excessive comparing the results of the past three years as regards yield, the year 1915 stands out as giving a bumper harvest between the two lean years 1914 and 1916. In Table I. percentage comparisons are made between the years 1915 and 1916; but as these two years represent high and low extremes a percentage comparison is also made between 1916 and the annual average of the five years ended 1915.

I. Production of Field Crops in Canada, 1915 and 1916.

Field Crops.	Yield per acre.		Total yield.		Per cent	
	1915.	1916.	1915.	1916.	of 1915.	1911-15.
Fall Wheat	29.41	22.54	35,551,600	23,491,000	66	94
Spring Wheat	28.93	15.00	340,572,000	135,632,000	40	62
All Wheat	28.98	15.78	376,303,600	159,123,000	42	65
Oats	45.76	34.55	520,103,000	338,469,000	65	85
Barley	35.33	24.31	53,331,300	32,299,000	61	70
Rye	21.32	20.30	2,394,100	2,058,500	86	88
Peas	17.73	14.41	3,478,850	2,166,000	62	56
Beans	16.70	16.66	723,400	541,400	75	63
Buckwheat	22.88	19.68	7,865,900	6,720,000	85	77
Flax	13.18	10.93	10,628,000	7,759,500	73	63
Mixed Grains	37.54	25.98	17,523,100	10,333,000	59	63
Corn for Husking	56.72	36.25	14,368,000	6,271,000	44	39
Potatoes	130.81	136.20	62,604,000	61,128,000	98	80
Turnips, Etc.	372.21	264.12	64,281,000	41,256,000	64	58
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.		
Hay and Clover	1.39	1.86	10,953,000	14,799,000	135	127
Fodder Corn	10.00	6.65	3,429,870	1,976,700	58	66
Sugar Beets	7.83	4.75	141,000	71,000	50	46
Alfalfa	2.83	2.91	261,955	261,450	100	106

Note.—In the percentage columns the crops of the year 1915 and of the quinquennial average are represented by 100.

The percentage comparisons in Table I. show that the yield of wheat in 1916 is less than half of that of last year and also 35 per cent less than the annual average of the five years, 1911 to 1915. Oats are 35 per cent below last year and 15 per cent below the average. Barley is 39 per cent below last year and 30 per cent below the average. And so with most of the other crops; they are greatly below those of last year, and are also considerably below the average. Potatoes proved to be a poor crop in both 1915 and 1916; they are this year 2 per cent worse than last year, and 10 per cent below the average. On the other hand, hay and clover show returns 35 per cent above last year and 27 per cent above the average, whilst alfalfa is equal to last year and six per cent above the average.

Comparative Values of Field Crops.

Table II. shows the estimated value of the field crops of Canada for the years 1914, 1915 and 1916. The year 1914 was an "off year" owing to drought as is the year 1916 owing to rust. The result brought out by this table is that for the year 1916 the total value of the field crops of Canada is estimated according to the data at present available, at \$729,346,500, as compared with \$797,669,500 in 1915 and \$638,580,300 in 1914. Thus, owing to the great increase in prices, the total value for 1916 is only \$68,323,000 less than the high record of last year, and it is \$90,766,200 higher than the value of the small crops of 1914, when the value was higher than in any previous year.

II.—Estimated Values of Field Crops in Canada, 1914, 1915, and 1916.

Field crops.	1914.		1915.		1916.	
	value per bush.	Total value	value per bush.	Total value.	value per bush.	Total value.
	\$ c.	\$	\$ c.	\$	\$ c.	\$
Fall wheat	1.05	21,818,000	0.90	32,001,500	1.50	35,236,500
Spring wheat	1.24	174,600,000	0.83	280,567,900	1.50	203,448,000
All wheat	1.22	196,418,000	0.83	312,569,400	1.50	238,684,500
Oats	0.48	151,811,000	0.34	176,894,700	0.50	169,234,500
Barley	0.60	21,557,000	0.50	26,704,700	0.80	25,839,200
Rye	0.83	2,394,100	0.79	1,899,900	1.20	2,470,200
Peas	1.46	4,895,000	1.66	5,730,700	2.15	4,556,300
Beans	2.31	1,844,300	3.05	2,206,800	5.40	2,923,600
Buckwheat	0.72	6,213,000	0.75	5,913,000	0.85	5,712,000
Mixed grains	0.66	10,759,400	0.57	10,034,700	1.00	10,333,000
Corn for husking	0.71	9,808,000	0.71	10,243,000	0.90	5,643,900
Flax	1.03	7,368,000	1.50	15,965,000	1.80	13,967,100
Potatoes	0.49	41,598,000	0.57	35,964,000	0.81	49,654,000
Turnips, etc.	0.27	18,934,000	0.26	16,560,000	0.41	16,761,000
Hay and clover	14.23	145,999,000	14.22	155,807,000	11.52	170,504,000
Fodder corn	4.91	15,949,700	4.96	16,999,100	4.92	9,725,300
Sugar beets	5.99	651,000	5.50	775,500	6.20	440,000
Alfalfa	14.17	3,095,600	12.98	3,402,000	10.70	2,797,300
Total		638,580,300		797,669,500		729,346,500

Champ Clark's idea that a country can keep out of war by attending to its own business would cause a Belgian to smile sadly and mockingly. So far as nations are concerned it does not take two to make a quarrel—only one.

Is a Sham Proposal.

"A mere suggestion, without a statement of terms, that negotiations should be opened is not an offer of peace. The putting forward by the Imperial Government of a sham proposal, lacking all substance and precision, would appear to be less an offer of peace than a war manoeuvre. It is founded on calculated misinterpretation of the character of the struggle in the past, the present and the future.

"As for the past, the German note takes no account of the facts, dates and figures which established that the war was desired, provoked and declared by Germany and Austria-Hungary.

"At The Hague conference it was a German delegate who refused all proposals for disarmament. In July, 1914, it was Austria-Hungary who, after having addressed to Serbia an unprecedented ultimatum, declared war upon her in spite of the satisfaction which had at once been accorded.

"The Central Empires then rejected all attempts made by the Entente to bring about a pacific solution of a purely local conflict. Great Britain suggested a conference. France proposed an international commission; the Emperor of Russia asked the German Emperor to go to arbitration, and Russia and Austria-Hungary came to an understanding on the eve of the conflict. But to all these efforts Germany gave neither answer nor effect.

Merely a Passing Phase.

"Belgium was invaded by an empire which had guaranteed her neutrality, and which had the as-

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The Allies Reply to German Peace Proposals

Paris, Dec. 30.

In reply to the proffers of Germany and her allies for a peace conference, the Entente Allies, in a collective note, declare that they "refuse to consider a proposal which is empty and insincere." The note was handed to American Ambassador Sharp to-day by Premier Briand, and was made public simultaneously in London and Paris, as follows:

"The Allied Governments of Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Montenegro, Portugal, Roumania, Russia and Serbia, united for the defence of the liberty of their peoples and faithful to engagements taken not to lay down their arms separately, have resolved to reply collectively to the pretended propositions of peace which were addressed to them on behalf of the enemy governments through the intermediary of the United States, Spain, Switzerland and Holland. Before making any reply, the Allied powers desire particularly to protest against the two essential assertions of the note of the enemy powers that pretend to throw upon the Allies responsibility for the war, and proclaim the victory of the Central Powers.

"The Allied Governments cannot admit an affirmation doubly inexact and which suffices to render sterile all tentative negotiations. The Allied nations have sustained for thirty months a war they did everything to avoid. They have shown by their acts their attachment to peace. That attachment is as strong to-day as it was in 1914. But it is not upon the word of Germany, after the violation of its engagements, that the peace broken by her may be based.