

STILL IN FARMERS' HANDS

Are Thirty-four Million Bushels—Large Percentage of Wheat Crop Was Good—Accuracy of Canadian Statistics.

Of a yield of 149,989,600 bushels of wheat harvested last year 141,096,000 bushels or 94 per cent. were merchantable, and at the end of March 33,942,000 bushels or 22 per cent. of the whole were yet in the farmers' hands. The quantity held by the farmers in the maritime provinces at that date was 468,000 bushels, in Quebec 477,000 bushels, in Ontario 5,002,000 bushels, and in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta 27,095,000 bushels.

At the same date last year the quantity in hand in all Canada was 30,484,000 bushels, or 18.28 per cent. of the total crop of 166,744,000 bushels of which 159,868,000 or 95.87 per cent. was of merchantable quality.

Good Crop of Oats.

Oats which last year gave a yield of 323,449,000 bushels, was merchantable to the extent of 301,773,000 bushels or 93.29 per cent., and the quantity on hand at the end of March was 127,587,000 bushels, or 39.44 per cent. In the maritime provinces there was on hand at that date 6,985,000 bushels; in Quebec, 17,447,000 bushels; in Ontario, 50,742,000 bushels; and in the northwest provinces exclusive of British Columbia, 52,413,000. In the preceding year the quantity in hand out of the harvest of 353,466,000 bushels was 141,499,000 bushels or 40.03 per cent., and there was a total of 321,190,000 bushels or 96 per cent. of merchantable oats.

The barley yield of 1910 was 45,147,000 bushels, and of this quantity there was in hand at the end of March 13,135,000 bushels or 29 per cent. The merchantable yield was 41,505,000 bushels or 91.93 per cent. The barley crop of 1909 was 55,398,000 bushels, and the quantity on hand at the end of March last year was 16,517,000 bushels, or 29.81 per cent. The merchantable quantity of that crop was 51,499,000 bushels or 92.87 per cent. The Ontario crop last year was 20,727,000 bushels and that of the three northwest provinces 21,377,000 bushels.

Live Stock Are Healthy.

The merchantable yield of corn last year was 83.63 per cent. of the whole crop; of buckwheat, 88.66 per cent.; of potatoes, 77.31; of turnips, and other roots 86.81 per cent.; and of hay and clover 88.72 per cent., which is nearly the same as the percentages of the same crops in the previous year. The quantities of these crops on hand at the end of March were nearly the same in both years except that the supply of potatoes this year is 20,000,000 bushels less, and the supply of hay and clover 2,494,000 tons more.

The per cent. condition of live stock on farms and ranches is nearly the same for both years but is a little higher for all classes, this year. For the respective years 1911 and 1910 horses are 95.37 to 93.98, milch cows 93.29 to 91.42, other cattle 90.87 to 89.30, sheep 93.77 to 92.43, and swine 94.36 to 92.77. These proportions are closely maintained throughout all the provinces. They denote a healthy condition of live stock in general.

Disputes the Canadian Statistics.

An Old Country writer in a London contemporary has disputed the accuracy of certain Canadian crop figures. Mr. Archibald Blue, chief of the Ottawa Statistical Department, has written the following letter in reply:—

"Your correspondent does not indicate very precisely the source of his statistics as to the production and exports of Canadian wheat, but according to the figures published by the Canadian department of trade and commerce he appears rather to have underestimated the average production and to have overestimated the average exports. These figures are, as regards production, supplied by the provincial governments, and in the three earlier years they do not include the province of Quebec, nor in 1905 that of British Columbia.

"Being responsible only for the Dominion statistics I would prefer to limit attention to the annual estimates of production for the whole of Canada (British Columbia excepted) as published by the Dominion Government for the three years 1908, 1909 and 1910. The following are the actual data as to the production of wheat in Canada and the imports and exports of wheat and flour for the fiscal years 1908-09, 1909-10 and 1910-11, the figures being in bushels:

Consumption of Wheat.

"Estimated production—112,434,000, 166,744,000, 149,989,600.

"Imports for home consumption of wheat and flour—224,000, 200,000, 336,000 (estimated).

"Exports of wheat and flour—57,104,000, 63,785,000, 61,000,000.

"Balance retained for home consumption, seed, etc.—55,554,000, 103,159,000, 89,325,600.

"Seed—13,563,000, 16,266,000, 18,813,000.

"Consumption at 6.24 bushel per head—44,833,000, 46,736,000, 48,578,000.

"Deficiency or surplus—2,842,000 (deficiency), 40,157,000, 21,934,600.

"The consumption of wheat per head in Canada is admittedly high. Some authorities have placed it at 6.70 bushels. Figures I collected two years ago indicated 5.80 bushels as the per capita consumption in the northwest provinces. The estimate of 6.24 bushels, above used, is based upon the statistics of production at the census of 1901 and the imports and exports of that year, the population of Canada being estimated as 7,184,744 in 1908-09, 7,489,781 in 1909-10 and 7,784,900 in 1910-11.

Stocks Held Over.

"The table shows a deficiency for 1908 which would have to be made good from the stocks held over from 1907, of which there is no record. In 1909 a proportion of the surplus would be required to replenish depleted stocks in the elevators and mills; and in this connection it will be noticed from the table that while the production of 1909-10 is 54,000,000 bushels in excess of 1908-09 the export is only about 7,000,000 more.

"In the spring of each of the last two years data have been collected from agricultural correspondents as to the amount of the previous year's crop then remaining in the hands of farmers. These showed that of the crop of 112,434,000 bushels in 1908-09, 20.23 per cent., or 22,741,000 bushels remained in farmers' hands at the end of February, 1909; and similarly that of the crop of 166,744,000 bushels in 1909-10 18.28 per cent. or 30,484,000 bushels were in farmers' hands on March 31, 1910. The weekly report of the department of trade and commerce gives the total quantity of wheat in store at the terminal and eastern transfer elevators for the week ended February 24, 1911, as 9,931,062 bushels, figures which happen to agree rather closely with the reduced surplus of 9,936,000 bushels above indicated.

How Estimates Are Compiled.

"The estimates of the wheat crop, as published by this office, are based upon returns of reliable agricultural correspondents, and any tendency to exaggeration or to too sanguine estimates is carefully guarded against. At the same time the figures published are only estimates and have not the authority of actual statistics. Such statistics will be available upon completion of the results of the forth-coming census on June 1st next, when records of area and of yield will be taken for every farm throughout Canada."

HERBERT'S NEW PAPER.

Herbert is a progressive town on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, between Moose Jaw and Medicine Hat. It is about eighty miles west of Moose Jaw and is the centre of a large and fertile district. There is a population of 600 prosperous citizens, all thoroughly interested in the growth of a town, which is making history and geography in Western Canada. One of the most notable recent developments is the inauguration of the Herbert Herald, a weekly newspaper of eight pages, which will tell the world what Herbert has to offer. Mr. S. R. Polley, formerly of the editorial staff of The Monetary Times, is running the paper and is also acting as secretary-treasurer of the Board of Trade and of the Agricultural Society. We naturally feel great interest in his enterprise and can with good cause congratulate him upon his first two issues, which would easily do credit to a town of far larger size. The journal's pages contain considerable matter of local interest as well as articles of a general nature. The town's German residents are not overlooked, a section of the paper being printed in that language. We wish our contemporary and the town of Herbert every success.

PHOENIX OF LONDON.

The annual report of the Phoenix Assurance Company, Limited, of London, England, shows good results and indicates the sound progress of that old and well-known company. Policies taken out on December 31st last under all classes of full bonus policies, and at all ages, have already received an addition to the sum assured of \$17 per \$1,000, which vests immediately. These policyholders have in addition, a guarantee from the company, that in the event of a claim arising during the next five years a further addition of \$12.50 per \$1,000 will be made for each annual premium paid before the next valuation on December 31st, 1915. This guarantee also applies to all full bonus policies effected before that date.

There has been a substantial advance in the amount of new business written. The company issues a concise leaflet entitled "Three Minutes." A Canadian board has been recently appointed, consisting of Messrs. Robert Meighen (chairman), James Reid Wilson and C. W. Dean. The joint managers are Messrs. R. MacD. Paterson, and J. B. Paterson, and the life superintendent Mr. H. B. F. Bingham.