

March, 1912, will be between \$130,000,000 and \$140,000,000, as compared with \$117,780,000 in 1911 and with \$36,000,000 in 1896, only 15 years ago. Thus far the new capital expenditure estimated at about \$46,000,000 for the year, has been met out of revenue.

The clearing house returns of twenty cities for 1911 were \$7,336,866,000, against \$6,153,701,000 for seventeen cities in 1910, a gain of 19 per cent.; the gain between 1909 and 1910 being 18 per cent.

The building permits of the chief cities again illustrate the rate of growth in Canada.

	1910.	1911.
Montreal.....	\$15,713,000	\$14,580,000
Toronto.....	21,127,000	24,374,000
Winnipeg.....	15,106,000	17,550,000
Vancouver.....	13,150,000	17,652,000

Proposals for municipal expenditures are on a scale never attempted before.

MARITIME PROVINCES.

The year has been one of general progress and prosperity in the Maritime Provinces. While in some respects the results from agriculture in the three provinces have not been quite as good as for the previous year, mainly because of drought, the very unusual apple crop and other favourable features have helped out the money total. Drought affected hay and all dairy products, in some parts seriously. Fruit was so plentiful that the apple crop will yield over three times as much money as in 1910. The trade in horses, cattle, hogs and poultry was satisfactory and it is pleasant to learn that in some parts the live stock on the land is now increasing in numbers. There is a large increase in attendance at the Agricultural College, a marked advance in apple culture and in the methods of handling and disposing of the crop, more attention given to live stock and dairying, and evidence generally that the Maritime Provinces are sharing in the awakening to the much greater possibilities of profit in all varieties of farm life. Some settlers are coming in from abroad and as the real facts regarding the productivity of this part of Canada become known settlement should increase.

From the fisheries the money results were probably higher than ever before, because of good prices, but the quantity caught, larger in some places and in some varieties, smaller in others, was an average. The price offered at the moment for dried cod-fish is the highest ever known, but sales have been so active that the stocks on hand are very small as compared with those of a few years ago. The market steadily broadens; more vessels are being added to the fleet and new areas are being sought for supplies of fish, but men are so scarce as to make it difficult to meet the demand for crews. The results in other kinds of fishing were satisfactory as a whole. The value of the fisheries in the three provinces was about \$16,000,000. What is made abundantly clear, year after year, is that we have in our Atlantic fisheries a source of continuous wealth if, as a nation, we possess reasonable instincts of conservation. We should take active measures regarding the destructive dog-fish; we know that our wonderful lobster fisheries need the most persistent and jealous care, and yet they are frequently menaced by permanent injury owing to lack of vigilant inspection; and the recent report of the Conservation Commission regarding the shocking history of our oyster beds, and the positive need of quick action now and of sane regulations hereafter, should surely arouse enough indignation to enforce action of some kind.

The breeding of black foxes at various points in Prince Edward Island is growing in volume and has become a regular and very profitable industry.

The year began favourably for lumbering operations and the cut of logs was large, but owing to the drought a great portion of this did not reach the mills. There was a fair demand for deals at about last year's prices, but the Coronation, strikes in Great Britain and other causes interfered with trade. The markets in the United States and elsewhere were fair. High freights and scarcity of tonnage at the close of the season made it difficult to ship at a profit and large stocks will be carried over. For these reasons the cut of the ensuing season will be smaller.

The collieries of Nova Scotia have had a record year, the quantity mined being in excess of 6,000,000 tons, as compared with 5,477,146 tons in 1910. Prices were practically unchanged and the demand was excellent. Very important work has been done in opening new shafts and collieries.

The noticeable fact in steel-making in Nova Scotia is that while some of the large improvements looking to an increased output are completed, others are not and as a whole the works have not yet reached the stage of larger production. This may, however, be expected very soon. The output for 1911 was somewhat larger than for 1910 and the present demand is excellent, but the dull condition of the steel trade in the United States with consequent lower prices, naturally affects the profits of Canadian producers.

Manufacturers in the Maritime Provinces, especially in view of the prosperous conditions in other parts of Canada, have had a successful year. Extensions to plants and increased building permits have been general in the manufacturing and other large towns and cities.

ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

The farmers in Ontario and Quebec have made progress during the past year, but while in many parts the year would be described as an average, in others it was hardly so and in few respects was it better than the average. Hay and grain crops, except fall wheat in some parts, after an early spring and a good start, suffered in varying degrees but often badly, by the prolonged drought so general in Eastern Canada and in Europe. The acreage of Indian corn is increasing and the ownership of plenty of cattle with proper silo accommodation has made the result quite satisfactory to farmers who otherwise would have suffered from drought. For this reason there are some districts where dairying results have been as good as usual and farming profits quite satisfactory. The revival in fruit farming accompanied by care in the treatment of orchards is producing a most marked effect in many parts of Ontario and doubtless fruit growing will be extended to several areas hitherto devoted solely to agriculture and pasture. Horses and hogs have done well for the farmer, but those who bought cattle in the autumn to feed through the winter found the spring prices little higher. Cattle to be fed this winter were bought on a lower basis and as roots, fodder, corn and alfalfa crops were satisfactory, the outlook for the cattle feeder who grew these crops is good. While we cannot follow the increased consumption at home or the shipments to the United States, the shipments of cattle from Montreal to some extent show the conditions of the trade. The number shipped was the smallest in 29 years, being only 45,966, against 72,555 last year and 99,830 in 1908, and of this small total about 15,000 head were from the United States. The falling off is, however, due somewhat to the fact that United States exporters who had contracted for ocean space were obliged to draw their supplies largely from Canada. We evidently cannot learn much from our export figures at the moment. The very high prices in 1910 certainly caused a great increase in the raising of live stock in Canada and the United States. This is at present more evident in the case of hogs, sheep and lambs than in cattle as the former come to maturity and to marketing condition so much more quickly. The home demand, both in Canada and the United States, has been greater than ever before and prices therefore often better on this side than in Europe. Notwithstanding that large quantities of western cattle have been brought east and slaughtered, there has not been the usual quantity for export. On the other hand hogs are not raised in any important way yet in the west and the bacon curers of Ontario and Quebec are sending large quantities of cured meats there instead of abroad. Apart from the growing requirements of the meat trade more cattle are being kept for dairy purposes, but the number of cattle on the land has been too small for several years.

In view of the drought much smaller figures for dairy exports might have been expected, but the impulse given by high prices has prevented this. Cheese exports from Montreal amounted to 1,810,000 boxes, slightly less than for 1909 and 1910, while the exports of butter were five fold those of 1910 and were higher than for five years past. Prices of both articles were at the highest point, and the results for 1911 in money were \$22,705,000, against \$17,872,000 in 1910. The total is the largest since 1906.

That there has been much planting of new fruit trees and spraying and pruning of old ones neglected hitherto, and a great revival in fruit farming generally, there can be no doubt. The year in Ontario and Quebec was not very favourable, however, and the home market being large, the exports of apples from Montreal were only 274,887 barrels, much better than the low year of 1910, but