

AGRICULTURE IN 1918.

(Concluded from Page 5.)

pound. The increase in the value of cheese was small, being only about 1c per pound. Manitoba exported during the season 175 cars of butter. This represents 70,000 packages of 56 pounds each, or a total export of 3,290,000 pounds valued at \$1,764,000. In 1917 the actual, number of cars exported from Manitoba was 96. It is not only in the increase of the cars exported that is of interest, but what is of greater interest is the satisfaction expressed from purchasers on the extremely high quality of the butter. Dairy Commissioner Gibson, in commenting on the returns pointed out that the figures only included the amount of dairy products marketed and makes no mention of the amount of dairy butter consumed by the rural population, which would mean, even at a very conservative estimate, at least another \$6,000,000. The value of the dairy products of Manitoba marketed this season showed an increase of \$1,497,903. The amount of creamery butter which was commandeered by the government out of Manitoba was a little over half a million pounds, or to be exact, 562,296 pounds.

Saskatchewan on figuring on its dairy output shows a comparative small increase in the making of creamery butter, the difference between 1918 and 1917 being just about 600,000 pounds. Saskatchewan reports an enormous make of dairy butter, to wit, 14,500,000 pounds, which is a rather interesting and rather startling item, in view of the decrease in the making of dairy butter and cheese in the other provinces. It is evident, however, that Saskatchewan includes in these figures not only the butter marketed, but also the dairy butter consumed on the farms, which makes comparison with the other provinces a little difficult. If to the figures of Manitoba was added the \$6,000,000 estimated as the value of the dairy products consumed at home, Manitoba's total returns would be \$13,393,534 as against Saskatchewan's \$13,642,213. The amount of butter commandeered out of Saskatchewan was 344,569 pounds.

In Alberta the returns from butter and cheese actually marketed are \$4,153,500, as against \$3,694,726 in 1917, but to the value of butter and cheese Alberta adds an estimated value of its other dairy products, such as dairy butter and milk consumed at home, etc., as well as the sale of milk and sweet cream, \$23,346,500, making a grand total for Alberta for dairy products of \$27,500,000, an increase for the year of \$2,500,000. The increased value of the butter and cheese sold over 1917 is \$458,774. Dairy Commissioner Marker, in referring to the conditions in Alberta, has the following to say:

"With regard to the dairy business in this province during the year that is now nearly passed, the output of milk and its products in the southern portion of the province was somewhat short of that of last year's on account of the very dry season, but the central and northern portion of the province will show, I believe, a substantial increase, in creamery butter at all events. The cheese output will be considerably less than that of last year. Evidently the former figured that he got more money for his milk through the creameries or through the city milk plants that he could get through the cheese factories. Since he is the final judge in the matter, we have to be prepared for considerable fluctuations in the cheese production of our factories. Several of the smaller ones were closed down at the end of last season and did not open this year."

ROOTS AND FODDER CROPS.

The usual Dominion government statement of root and fodder crops is not yet to hand and figures along these lines are therefore largely estimates, with the exception of potatoes. Details of the potato crops are pretty well established. Manitoba is the third highest province in Canada in the matter of average of yield and has produced about 10,000,000 bushels. Saskatchewan yield and that of Alberta also was much depreciated by the heavy July frost. Man-

itoba was especially fortunate, escaping this frost altogether.

The total acreage in potatoes in the west was just under 150,000 acres. The total value for the west is a little over \$20,000,000. No details of root crops are as yet available by provinces. Manitoba had a good root crop, but in the other provinces the yields were naturally affected by both drought and frost.

In regard to hay, while the returns from cultivated hay, except on the very small irrigation areas in Alberta, was exceptionally light there was more hay put up in the west than for many years and the resulting revenue will be large.

WOOL.

The returns from wool are a very important item in the year's business in the west. The exact extent of the clip is not known, but there has been sold through the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Ltd., 2,500,000 pounds from Alberta, 394,000 pounds from Saskatchewan and 362,000 pounds from Manitoba, making a total of 3,256,000 pounds at a value of \$2,071,000.

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT FLAX.

One of the new departures of the year 1918 was the experiment of the imperial government in having fibre flax seed grown in the prairie provinces for use in Ireland.

In all 14,500 bushels of seed, coming originally from Siberia, was distributed. Of this amount 500 bushels were distributed in Ontario and the remaining 14,000 about equally among the three western provinces. The seed was distributed free on a guarantee that the man receiving the seed would return it and that the imperial government would purchase the balance of his crop at \$4.50 per bushel.

The year was a very unfavorable one for flax in Alberta and Saskatchewan, the drought being so excessive in some districts that not even the seed was returnable. In Manitoba, however, the crop was very successful, the only drawback being a somewhat wet threshing season, which occasioned delay.

Up to December 31 some 30,000 bushels of this flax had been inspected and practically all of that amount is on its way overseas; about 5,000 in transit, uninspected; 5,000 more in farmers' hands ready to ship, and about 15,000 bushels in stacks, unthreshed, or in all, 95,000. Of the 70,000 bushels inspected 51,000 graded No. 1; 9,000 graded No. 2; 6,000 graded No. 3 and the balance Nos. 1 and 2 tough.

The heaviest individual yield came from the Lowe Farm, Manitoba, where Roy Wilkins averaged 22 bushels to the acre. He undoubtedly found it a very profitable crop to produce. This flax was grown on summerfallowed land.

The imperial government had been keen to have the flax grown, so far as possible, on new land, and this was what occasioned the failure in many cases, as spring breaking in 1918 was almost universally too dry.

PERSONNEL OF NEW BRITISH CABINET

Lloyd George Chooses Colleagues.

The British Cabinet as officially announced on the tenth is composed as follows:

Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury—David Lloyd George.

Lord Privy Seal and leader in the House of Commons—Andrew Bonar Law.

President of the Council and leader in the House of Lords—Earl Curzon of Kedleston.

Chancellor of the Exchequer—Austen Chamberlain.

Ministers with portfolio—George Nicoll Barnes and Sir Eric Geddes.

Lord Chancellor—Sir F. E. Smith.

Home Secretary—Edward Shortt.

Under-Secretary—Sir Hamar Greenwood.

Foreign Secretary—Arthur J. Balfour.

Under-Secretary—Cecil Bishopp Harmsworth.

Secretary for the Colonies—Viscount Milner.

Secretary for War and the War Ministry (which have been combined)—Winston Spencer Churchill.

Under-Secretary—Viscount Peel.

Financial Secretary to the War Office—Henry W. Forster.

Secretary for India—Edwin S. Montagu.

Under-Secretary—Sir S. P. Sinha.

First Lord of the Admiralty—Walter Hume Long.

Parliamentary Secretary—Thomas J. McNamara.

President of the Board of Trade—Sir Albert Stanley.

Under-Secretary—W. E. Bridgeman.

Department of Overseas Trade Development and Intelligence—Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland.

President of the Local Government Board—Dr. Christopher Addison.

Parliamentary Secretary—Stephen Walsh Laborite.

Secretary of Agriculture—R. E. Prothero.

Minister of Education—H. A. L. Fisher.

Secretary of the Ministry of Munitions, which is to become eventually the Ministry of Supply—Andrew Weir.

Food Controller—George H. Roberts.

Minister of Shipping—Sir J. P. Maclay.

Minister of Labor—Sir Robert Stevenson.

Home Minister for Pensions—Sir Laming Worthington-Evans.

Minister for National Service and Reconstruction—Sir Auckland Geddes.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster—The Earl of Crawford.

First Commissioner of Works—Sir Alfred Mond.

Attorney-General—Sir Gordon Hewart.

Solicitor-General—Sir Ernest Pollock.

Postmaster-General—Albert Holden Illingworth.

Paymaster-General—Sir Joseph Compton-Rickett.

Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland—General Viscount French.

Chief Secretary for Ireland—Sir James Ian Macpherson.

Secretary for Scotland—Robert Munro.

The majority of the members of the Cabinet in high places are Conservatives, notably Andrew Bonar Law, Earl Curzon, Arthur J. Balfour, and Viscount Milner.

The Ministers without portfolios, George Nicoll Barnes and Sir Eric Geddes, have important duties for which there are no Cabinet places. Mr. Barnes will represent Labor at the Paris Peace Congress, while Sir Eric has undertaken the management of demobilization.

One innovation is the selection for the first time of an Indian as a member of the Government, Sir Satyendra Prassano Sinha having the place of Under-Secretary for India. Another surprise is the appointment of Cecil Bishopp Harmsworth, brother of Lord Northcliffe, to succeed Lord Robert Cecil, as Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Both Mr. Brotho and Andrew Weir were given peerages on accepting their new offices.

It is announced that until there has been more time to make permanent peace arrangements, the existing War Cabinet will be continued.

The Government intends to submit to Parliament proposals for the establishment of a Ministry of Ways and Communications. If these are adopted, Sir Eric Geddes will be invited to head the new department.

Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, in addition to being placed at the head of the Department of Overseas Trade Development and Intelligence, is also appointed an additional Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs and an additional Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade.

CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE CO.

Notwithstanding the war claim and the heavy losses due to influenza there is an increase in the surplus assets and income of the company according to the annual report received by the shareholders last week. The assurance in force have largely increase, and the new business issued is greater than ever before. The assurances issued and received during the year amount to \$25,772,748, while new policies paid for, exclusive of bonus additions, totalled \$22,891,668, an increase over 1917 of \$2,522,725. The assurances now in force total \$195,980,550. The total income for the year was \$11,048,342, a gain of \$1,477,350 over the previous year.