

# The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, November 10th, 1915

## ACTUAL CROP FIGURES

During the present grain season The Guide has published three reports compiled entirely from data supplied from the secretaries of the local Associations thruout the three provinces. The secretaries in every case were urged to be as accurate as possible and when estimating the crop yield to be conservative rather than otherwise. On August 14 the local secretaries sent in the data from which an estimate of the crop yield was prepared and published in The Guide on August 25, giving the figures at the time as follows:

Wheat	212,294,790 bushels
Oats	256,751,760 bushels
Barley	51,964,440 bushels
Flax	6,545,370 bushels

It must be remembered that on August 14, when these reports were made out by the local secretaries, it was purely an estimate as in a great many cases cutting had not even commenced and harvesting was not general anywhere. As soon as threshing began and actual yields were known it became evident that the crop was very much larger than had even been suspected by the farmers themselves. Various estimates have been made running up to 306,000,000 bushels, which was the latest estimate of the Dominion government. On the Winnipeg Grain Exchange it is the common expectation of the members that the total yield will be close on 350,000,000 bushels and despite these expectations the prices have maintained a high level. In order to get as near the fact as possible the local secretaries were asked to send in to The Guide on October 30 an estimate of the average yield per acre in their district as shown by the actual threshing returns. Four hundred reports have been received from local secretaries in all three provinces being generally well distributed over the chief grain producing areas. These figures have been tabulated very carefully and the result is astounding. There is no reason to believe that any of the secretaries would over estimate the average yield in their district knowing that the report would be published. We are giving herewith the estimate of the yield of the different grains by provinces. The acreage figures are taken from the reports of the various provincial departments of agriculture and the average yields are taken from the reports submitted by the four hundred Secretaries. The results are as follows:

Wheat	341,589,635 bushels
Oats	330,157,002 bushels
Barley	62,714,095 bushels
Flax	7,703,023 bushels

These figures of the wheat crop are more than 50 per cent. greater than our previous figures prepared on August 14 and there is a considerable increase in all the other grains. An analysis of our figures supplied by the four hundred secretaries is shown herewith:

WHEAT			
	Acreage	Average per acre	Estimated yield
Alberta	1,245,000	31½	39,217,500
Manitoba	3,664,281	28½	104,432,008
Saskatchewan	6,884,874	28¾	197,940,127
Total	11,794,155		341,589,635
OATS			
Alberta	1,450,000	55	79,750,000
Manitoba	2,121,845	49¾	104,500,866
Saskatchewan	2,846,949	51¾	145,903,136
Total	6,418,794		330,157,002
BARLEY			
Alberta	420,000	38½	16,170,000
Manitoba	1,039,849	35 1-3	36,741,331
Saskatchewan	272,299	36	9,802,764
Total	1,732,148		62,714,095

## FLAX

Alberta	50,000	13½	675,000
Manitoba	64,863	8½	551,335
Saskatchewan	539,674	12	6,476,088
Total	654,537		7,702,423

## WHEAT, OATS, BARLEY AND FLAX

Alberta	3,165,000	135,812,500
Manitoba	6,890,838	226,226,140
Saskatchewan	10,543,796	360,125,115
Grand Total	20,599,634	722,163,755

The Grain Growers' Guide has never been accused of boosting the crop yield, but in putting out our crop reports and estimates it has been our aim to be as accurate as possible. We have explained how these figures are arrived at and that the data has been supplied by the local secretaries and for that reason we consider that they should be fairly accurate. It is quite evident that this year's crop surpasses anything in the history of the country and that the financial returns to the country will be greater per acre than in any previous year. It is probable, however, that there will be considerable wheat not threshed this winter which will reduce the available supply.

A recent cable from George Broomhall, of Liverpool, editor of the Corn Trade News, who is regarded as the world's leading crop authority, says that the wheat crop of the Balkan States and of Russia is now considered hopeless on account of the war situation and the fact that the Dardanelles will not be opened at any time in the near future. Mr. Broomhall estimates that this will reduce the world's available surplus by 240,000,000 bushels and that the chief supply for the next few months must come from the United States and Canada. This should make the demand fairly keen and maintain prices at a good level.

## GREECE AND THE WAR

The eyes of the world during the last few weeks have been turned upon the Balkan States. When Bulgaria entered the war as an ally of Germany and attacked Serbia it was expected that Greece, both for its own protection and because of treaty obligations, would come to the rescue of the Serbians. Its failure to do so left Serbia at the mercy of superior forces, Germany and Austria fighting them in the north and west and Bulgaria on the east, and the British and French troops were quickly rushed to their defence, it is still doubtful if the Serbians, with all their magnificent courage, will be able to keep their country out of the hands of the enemy. Greece has permitted the landing of British and French troops at her port of Saloniki and their transportation thru her territory to Serbia, and it is evident that the Greek people are anxious to fight on the side of the Allies. King Constantine and the military leaders, however, are pro-German. The Queen of Greece is a sister of the Kaiser, and most of the Greek officers are graduates of German military academies. Whether or not a king and his court can in these days impose their will upon a nation remains to be seen. M. Venizelos, the biggest man in Greece, and in the judgment of A. G. Gardiner, "the greatest statesman in Europe today," is the leader of a large majority of the people in a demand that Greece enter the war on the side of the Allies. From Mr. Gardiner's book, "The War Lords," we learn that Venizelos is a Cretan of Athenian origin. He was a leader of his people in the liberation of Crete from Turkish rule and became President of the new Cretan National Assembly. When Prince George, brother of the present King of Greece, went to Crete as High Commissioner and attempted to rule the island despotically, Venizelos resigned office, put on

his military uniform and headed an insurrection which drove the Prince out of the island. This was in 1905 and four years later when Greece was in trouble the democracy of Greece appealed to the man who had saved Crete to come and be its saviour also. He was Premier of Greece until last spring when the King assisted his enemies to overthrow him. An election replaced him in power and a few weeks ago King Constantine dismissed him from office because he would have fulfilled the treaty obligations of his country by going to the assistance of Serbia against Bulgaria. Last week Venizelos and his supporters defeated in parliament the ministers chosen by the King and at the time of writing the political battle is still in progress. The Greek army has been mobilized since the commencement of the war. If it is thrown into the scale on the side of the Allies the war will be shortened and victory will be more sure. Will Mr. Gardiner's estimate of Venizelos' greatness stand the test of this supreme crisis?

## ROGERS FOR FREE WHEAT

Information is at hand that the customs authorities in Washington would consider a Canadian order in council placing wheat and wheat products on the free list as a complete and satisfactory acceptance of the United States standing offer of free trade in wheat and wheat products. In the current issue of the Northwestern Miller, the foremost grain and milling authority on the continent, the Washington correspondent, Arthur J. Dodge, analyses the free wheat situation from the standpoint of the United States government. Mr. Dodge is regarded as exceptionally well informed in governmental circles in Washington and his opinion is that if Canada places wheat and wheat products on the free list by any method whatever the United States market would be immediately opened to wheat and wheat products from Canada free of duty. It is now well known that the Dominion government has full power under the Customs Act to place wheat and wheat products on the free list and also has the same power under special legislation passed for war purposes. Our government also knows that such action would open the southern market. Therefore there is no reason why the United States market should not be opened immediately to Canadian wheat and give our farmers the full benefit of the better prices that are being paid in that market. Information from Ottawa is to the effect that Hon. Robert Rogers is urging upon his colleagues that the United States offer of free wheat should be accepted immediately for the benefit of the Western farmers. Mr. Rogers came West last week for a tour thruout the country. No doubt his chief purpose is to discover how strong is the sentiment for free wheat. If Mr. Rogers can have wheat and wheat products put on the free list by order in council, and thus open the United States market immediately, he will have a mighty strong claim on the gratitude of the Western farmers. It is reported that the strongest opponent of free wheat in the Ottawa cabinet is Hon. W. T. White, minister of finance, who is regarded as the chief representative of the privileged interests of the East. It is also stated that the railway interests are secretly opposing free wheat to the very utmost of their ability. The publication of the huge profits of the big milling companies has rather upset the arguments of Mr. White and those of his colleagues who have been preaching the need of protection for these interests. In fact it is now stated that the milling interests, or at least some of them, are sorry they exposed the enormous profits on the past year's operations. Another very important consideration is the