

# The Chronicle

## Insurance & Finance.

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### British Agriculture.

British imports of wheat as shown by the percentages contributed by different countries were as follows in 1904:

Cereal year, ended Aug. 31.	United States.	Canada.	Russia.	India.	Argentina.	Other Countries.
1895.....	42.3	4.3	21.5	7.1	13.2	11.6
1896.....	50.2	6.4	18.9	5.0	6.3	13.2
1897.....	55.9	6.3	16.6	0.5	1.4	19.3
1898.....	63.9	7.4	10.4	8.5	4.2	5.6
1899.....	64.5	9.9	3.3	8.8	7.4	6.1
1900.....	58.7	9.1	3.0	1.6	19.1	8.5
1901.....	64.4	7.9	3.6	1.3	11.1	11.7
1902.....	61.7	10.7	3.0	7.3	4.9	12.4
1903.....	48.6	12.6	12.3	10.7	10.6	5.2
1904.....	25.7	10.4	16.1	19.3	14.6	13.9

From above official figures we find Canada to have made a considerable advance as a provider of wheat to the United Kingdom since 1895. The United States, on the other hand, has lost ground in recent years. From 1895 to 1902, 8 years, their average imports of wheat into Great Britain were 57.7 per cent. of the total, but in 1903 and 1904 the average was only 37.1 per cent. of the total.

India is also coming more to the front as a supplier of wheat, the rise being from 7.1 per cent. in 1895 to 19.3 per cent. in 1904. The old land is gradually becoming less dependent upon foreign countries for wheat, and will be much less so when Canada's Northwest is more developed.

The hay production of Great Britain is a matter of great interest to farmers and shippers in Canada. The following gives the total production yearly from 1894 to 1904:

Year.	Hay from temporary grass.	Hay from permanent grass.	Total Hay.
	Cwt.	Cwt.	
1894.....	68,959,952	138,840,425	207,800,377
1895.....	62,330,259	91,180,335	153,510,594
1896.....	52,485,009	81,209,323	133,694,332
1897.....	66,387,421	112,708,292	179,095,713
1898.....	80,130,803	132,630,055	212,760,858
1899.....	60,873,356	99,574,892	160,448,248
1900.....	63,758,618	106,796,274	170,554,892
1901.....	60,044,573	72,321,402	132,365,975
1902.....	76,922,414	124,464,237	201,386,651
1903.....	73,429,384	121,632,062	195,061,446
Ten years' average.....	66,632,179	108,135,729	174,667,908
1904.....	69,941,268	117,513,916	187,455,184

### An Agent Insuring His Wife's Property.

The question having been put to the New York "Commercial Bulletin" whether an agent can legally insure his wife's property elicited an answer to following effect, which is based on conditions and a

legal principle that exist here and would be recognized in this Province. An insurance agent is prohibited by a rule of the common law from insuring his own property in the company for which he is agent without the knowledge and express consent of some of the higher officers of the company. An agent is always bound to act for the best interests of his principal, and if the agent himself is the other party to the contract the law recognizes the fact that he may be tempted to place his own interests above those of his employer. We are of opinion that the same rule does not apply now in the State of New York to insurance of the property of the agent's wife in the agent's own company. The property interests of husband and wife are now, in New York, made almost as distinct, by statute, as if the two were strangers. The wife may deal with her own property precisely as if she were unmarried, and husband and wife may buy and sell directly to and from each other. While we know of no statute or decision covering the precise point here raised, we can see no reason, on principle, why an agent should not be as free to write a policy on his wife's property as on that of any other near relative or kinsman.

We may add, however, that, in all matters of doubt, it is wise to be on the safe side. Were any dispute to arise over a claim arising from a fire that damaged the wife's property the husband-agent would be placed in a very disagreeable position, it might indeed jeopardize his agency.

MR. WALTER KAVANAGH, has been appointed Chief Agent in Canada, of the German American Insurance Company, of New York, with jurisdiction over the Metropolitan district.