

THE CROP RECORD OF 1909.**Year's Harvest Away Over the Half-Billion Dollar Mark in Value—Good Crops and High Prices.**

Six months or so ago THE CHRONICLE ventured the prediction that the value of Canada's grain and general field crops for 1909 would total well over the half-billion mark. This week the Census Department at Ottawa gives an estimate of \$532,992,100, so that earlier hopes seem more than justified. And over and above this, British Columbia's products may be reckoned for good measure—that province not being included in the summary, as the Census Bureau has not yet facilities there for collecting data.

With high prices prevailing for food-stuffs the whole world over, Canada as a predominantly agricultural country has this year received fresh trade impetus from its harvest outcome. And any likelihood of materially lower grain prices when the Argentine's crop are marketed seems slight, judging by recent reports as to damage by locusts and so forth. True, Russia is showing its hidden strength and European crops generally are good, but so low were reserves a year ago, that any superabundance now seems out of the question. The United States, with a large grain crop, requires it nearly all at home—in fact its wheat exports this season promise to be but little greater than those of Canada.

Just how wheat prices are going to rule now on is problematic—as always. At the beginning of November, the granaries of the world held 30,000,000 bushels less of wheat than in 1906, but slightly more than in 1908 and 1907, according to Broomhall. The present year's estimated wheat crop for the world is 3,347,000,000 bushels, as compared with 3,063,000,000 last year. While this gives a chance of gradually filling up depleted reserves, there is certainly no likelihood of "cheap" wheat yet awhile.

Results by Provinces.

In Canada this year, an area of 30,065,556 acres of field crops has yielded a harvest, which, computed at local market prices, is estimated by the Census Bureau as having a value of \$532,992,100, as compared with \$432,534,000 from 27,505,663 acres last year.

By provinces the values of yields have been as given below—from which it will be seen that Ontario's total equals the aggregate of the three provinces of the Middle West.

	1908.	1909.
Prince Edward Island....	\$ 9,408,000	\$ 9,213,900
Nova Scotia.....	20,083,000	22,319,300
New Brunswick.....	18,042,000	18,150,900
Quebec.....	80,896,000	90,071,000
Ontario.....	155,308,000	200,598,000
Manitoba.....	66,660,000	74,420,500
Saskatchewan.....	37,614,000	97,677,500
Alberta.....	14,523,000	20,741,000
	\$432,534,000	\$532,992,100

By all grain authorities, it is now pretty well agreed that the West's grain yield this year totals over 300,000,000 bushels—practically ten times the yield of a decade ago. Of this 125,000,000 bushels are wheat. The marketable surplus of wheat

will thus amount to over 100,000,000 bushels. It is estimated that to the farmers themselves some \$85,000,000 should accrue from selling of wheat. And it is certain that very considerable quantities of oats and barley will be shipped East as well. In fact, the grain shipped out of the Western provinces from the 1909 crops will have a total value to the producer of over \$100,000,000.

Figures published by the Department of Trade and Commerce place the exportable wheat crop from Western Canada at 95,000,000 bushels. On that basis the crop will furnish eventually probably from \$90,000,000 to \$95,000,000 of exchange.

For the three months ending November 30, receipts of grain at Fort William and Port Arthur amounted to 56,470,231 bushels as against 42,515,270 bushels in the same three months of 1908. The shipments out were: by rail, 1,928,304 bushels, and by lake, 45,718,680 bushels, as against a total for the two of 33,290,042 last year. The figures as to the Duluth shipments are not available. Quite a considerable part of the Western Canadian grain goes out by that route.

Crops of various classes compare as follows in value with last year's yield for the Dominion as a whole, according to the Census Department's estimate:

	1908.	1909.
Wheat, Oats, and Barley.....	\$209,070,000	\$289,144,000
Other Grains and Flax.....	23,044,000	26,707,000
Hay and Clover.....	121,885,000	132,287,700
Root Crops etc.....	78,535,000	84,852,500
	\$432,534,000	\$532,992,100

Fall wheat, with a yield of 24.31 bushels per acre, shows a value of \$23.93 per acre, as against 24.40 bushels and \$21.10 in 1908. Spring wheat, with 21.25 bushels, shows \$17.70, against 16 bushels and \$12.84 in 1908. The averages for both crops are 21.51 bushels and \$18.23 per acre, against 17 bushels and \$13.80 per acre in 1908.

Acreage Yields.

For the other crops of the Dominion oats show averages of 38 bushels and \$13.16 per acre, as against 31.64 bushels and \$12.15; barley, 29.71 bushels, and \$13.64, against 20.70 bushels and \$12.23; rye, 18.78 bushels and \$13.73, against 17.05 bushels and \$12.57; peas, 20.71 bushels and \$18.36, against 17.09 bushels and \$14.46; buckwheat, 27.64 bushels and \$16.12, against 24.55 bushels and \$14.47; mixed grains, 33.31 bushels and \$18.75, against 32.73 bushels and \$17.43; flax, 15.98 bushels and \$19.94, against 10.76 bushels and \$10.46; beans, 23.67 bushels and \$33.61, against 27 bushels and \$33.08; corn for husking, 54.62 bushels and \$36.19, against 62.45 bushels and \$32.32; potatoes, 192.06 bushels and \$70.88, against 132 bushels and \$63.24; turnips and other roots, 434.20 bushels and \$73.36, against 373 bushels, and \$64.58; hay, 1.44 tons, and \$16.11, against 1.30 tons and \$14.84; fodder corn, 10.30 tons, and \$56.06, against 11.27 tons and \$45.35, and sugar beets, 8.60 tons and \$50, against 10.07 tons and \$53.52 per acre.

THE SHAWINIGAN POWER management announces that the subscription list for the \$500,000 new stock has been closed, and that the stock has all been taken up.