

tingency funds which the companies may have held, has been met almost entirely from the increased earnings of the companies over and above the amounts it has taken to maintain their dividends to policyholders on almost a pre-war scale.

Effect of Influenza.

With the closing days of the war the recent epidemic of influenza began to spread throughout the world, with more fatal consequences than any epidemic of which we have a history. Taking the experience of eight Canadian companies and, by pro-rating the amount of influenza claims they have had on the basis of business in force, the amount of these claims in Canada has been since the first of October not less than six millions of dollars. Fortunately, the epidemic has abated and we hope it will soon have run its course. Here again it will be demonstrated that the institution of life insurance will be found stable and strong to withstand this added strain. To have withstood the abnormal mortality of twenty-two millions of dollars which has been added to ordinary claims as a result of the war and influenza surely is an extraordinary test and justifies the confidence which the Canadian people have placed here per acre, as compared with 403,009,800 bushels from 13,313,400 acres in 1917, an average of 30¼ bushels per acre. Of the remaining grain crops the total yields in 1918, with the figures for 1917 in brackets, were in bushels as follows: Barley, 77,200,240 (55,057,750); rye, 8,496,700 (3,857,200); peas, 3,110,100 (3,026,340); beans, 3,568,380 (1,274,000); buckwheat, 11,428,500 (7, in the institution.

The outstanding lesson which the experience of the last five years teaches us is the importance of charging adequate rates and the maintenance of a strong contingency fund to absorb the shock of unexpected mortality or material shrinkage in the value of securities.

FIELD CROPS OF CANADA FOR 1918 AS COMPARED WITH 1917.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has issued a definite estimate of the yield, quality and value of the principal field crops of Canada for the season of 1918, as compared with 1917. For the year 1918 the agricultural statistics of Canada for all the provinces have been collected in co-operation with the Provincial Governments, and the reports of both the Dominion and Provincial Governments on the yield of crops in 1918 will, therefore, record identical results. The figures now issued are subject to slight revision upon completion of final adjustments with the Provincial Governments.

Yield of Field Crops.—The total yield of wheat for Canada in 1918 is returned as 189,301,350 bushels from 17,353,902 sown acres, an average yield per acre of 11 bushels. In 1917 the corresponding figures were 233,742,850 bushels from 14,755,850 acres, a yield per acre of 15¾ bushels. The yield of oats in 1918 was 380,273,500 bushels from 14,790,336 acres, an average of 25¼ bus-

149,400); flax, 5,972,200 (5,934,900); mixed grains, 35,730,309 (16,157,080); corn for husking, 14,214,200 (7,762,700); potatoes, 104,512,700 (79,892,000); turnips, etc., 130,989,600 (63,451,000). hay and clover, 14,681,400 tons (13,684,700); fodder, corn, 4,776,000 tons (2,690,370); sugar beets, 180,000 tons (117,600); alfalfa, 446,400 tons (262,400). The average yields per acre of these crops with last year's averages in brackets were in bushels as follows: Barley, 24½ (23); rye, 15¼ (18¼); peas, 13¼ (15¼); beans, 15½ (13¾); buckwheat, 20¾ (18); flax 5¼ (6½); mixed grains, 38¾ (32½); corn for husking, 56¾ (33); potatoes, 142¼ (121½); turnips, mangolds, etc., 381¾ (290¾); hay and clover, 1.40 ton (1.66); fodder, corn, 9½ tons (7.34); sugar beets, 10 (8.40); alfalfa, 2¼ tons (2.39).

Wheat, Oats, Barley and Flax in the Prairie Provinces—The total yields in the three Prairie Provinces in 1918 were: Wheat, 164,436,100 bushels as compared with 211,953,100 bushels in 1917; oats, 222,049,500 bushels as against 254,877,200 bushels; barley, 47,607,400 bushels as against 40,834,100 bushels, and flax 5,776,000 bushels as against 5,835,900 bushels.

Values of Field Crops—The average values per bushel of grain crops for Canada in 1918, according to the prices returned crop correspondents of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics were as follows: Fall wheat, \$2.08 as compared with the same price in 1917; spring wheat, \$2 as against \$1.93; all wheat, \$2 as compared with \$1.94 in 1917; oats, 77 cents as against 69 cents; barley, \$1 as against \$1.08; rye, \$1.50 against \$1.62; peas, \$2.54 against \$3.54; beans, \$5.42 against \$7.45; buckwheat, \$1.58 against \$1.46; flax, \$2.65 against \$3.12; mixed grains, 1.14 against \$1.16. and corn for husking, \$1.77 against \$1.84. Of potatoes the price per bushel in 1918 was 98 cents against \$1 in 1917; turnips, etc., were 42 cents against 46 cents; hay and clover, \$17 per ton against \$10.33; fodder, corn, \$6.14 per ton against \$5.14; sugar beets, \$10.25 per ton against \$6.75; and alfalfa, \$17.84 per ton against \$11.59. The total farm values for 1918 of the principal field crops are estimated as follows, with the corresponding estimates of 1917 given in brackets: Wheat, \$382,165,700 (\$453,038,600); oats, \$289,404,400 (\$277,065,300); barley, \$77,381,270 (\$59,654,400); rye, \$12,714,400 (\$6,267,200); peas, \$7,907,900 (\$10,724,100); beans, \$19,332,900 (\$9,493,400); buckwheat, \$18,090,600 (\$10,443,400); flax, \$18,641,000 (\$15,737,000); mixed grains, \$40,796,100 (\$18,801,750); corn for husking, \$25,118,800 (\$14,307,200); potatoes, \$102,290,300 (\$90,804,400); turnips, etc., \$54,904,000 (\$29,253,000); hay and clover, \$249,459,300 (\$141,376,700); fodder, corn, \$29,335,600 (\$13,834,900); sugar beets, \$1,845,000 (\$793,800); alfalfa, \$7,963,600 (\$3,041,300). The aggregate value of all field crops in 1918 amounted to \$1,337,350,870, as compared with \$1,144,636,450, the figures for 1918 being the highest on record, as were also those of 1917 up to that date.