

JULY CROP CONDITIONS THROUGHOUT CANADA.

Principal Grain Crops Promise Large Increases Over Last Year—Explanation of Methods Used in Preparing Government Estimates—Total Crop Values in 1908.

A week ago a bulletin on the condition of crops and live stock in Canada at date of 1st July was issued by the Dominion Census and Statistics Office, based on the reports of a large staff of correspondents. It indicates that for all parts of Canada the per cent. condition of principal crops at 1st July, compared with the condition at the same date last year was as follows: For fall wheat, 77.2 per cent. of "standard condition", as against 80 per cent. in 1908; 86.77 as against 80 for spring wheat; 93.81 as against 90 for oats; 85.60 as against 83 for barley; 81.47 as against 82 for rye; 84.40 as against 82 for peas; 86.58 as against 84 for mixed grains; 76 as against 87 for hay and clover, and 82.74 as against 99 for pasture. In the case of all the grains except fall wheat the per cent. condition is higher this year than it was last year; hay and clover and pasture are lower. In the three Northwest provinces the average condition of spring wheat at the first of July was 95.53 and of oats 96.56.

How the Census and Statistics Office Makes its Estimates.

Previously to 1908 no official crop estimates applicable to the whole Dominion were available. But the growing importance of the country's agricultural product in the markets of the world had given rise to numerous attempts to forecast the results of the harvest on the part of those commercially interested. In order, therefore, to remove the matter as far as possible from the region of guesswork, the Department of Agriculture commenced just a year ago to issue reports on the condition of crops and live stock throughout Canada—such reports being based upon data collected by the Census and Statistics Office from practical agricultural correspondents in all parts of the Dominion.

As pointed out in The Canada Year Book, it was necessary to choose a method of reporting capable of conveying a clear idea of current condition and of lending itself to purposes of comparison. The method of expression adopted as fairly fulfilling these requirements is an adaptation of that employed by the United States government, viz. a numerical percentage of a standard condition represented by 100. The term "standard condition" may be defined as denoting a full crop of good quality. Correspondents are accordingly instructed to report four grades of condition, viz: "good," represented by any figure from 75 to 100 or over; "average," from 50 to 74; "fair," from 25 to 49; and "poor," below 25.

Weather Conditions up to July 1st—and Since.

This year temperature and cold rains prevailed over the whole of Canada in May and the early part of June, which delayed seeding and checked vegetation. Then followed a period of drouth throughout the Northern and Eastern parts of Ontario, the Western and Southern sections of Quebec and nearly the whole of the Maritime Provinces. Grain, hay and root crops were consequently in poor condition in all those regions. On both sides of the St. Lawrence in the lower parts of Quebec and in the South-western counties of Ontario there were copious showers in June and all crops were looking well at

the end of the month. A marked feature of the season however has been a series of showers over local areas, and the conditions of crops are irregular. But there is a note of hope in the reports of many correspondents, encouraged by the widely extended rains of 28th and 29th June; and in the Maritime provinces where the drouth was most severely felt there were heavy rains on 7th July. British Columbia has had a like experience of dry weather in June, with rains at the end of the month, and fall wheat is the only good crop there. In the North-west provinces fine growing weather followed the seeding of spring wheat, oats and barley, and correspondents throughout Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are jubilant at the prospects. Rainfall was ample to the end of June, except in a few localities, and although seeding operations were delayed cereals and grasses are nearly as well advanced as in any previous year. "Ideal" is the favourite word of many correspondents. In Alberta fall wheat was badly winter-killed, and much of the land has been re-sown with spring wheat, oats and barley. Spring wheat was heading out at the end of June in the Southern parts of Alberta.

Since the issue of the government report, general rains have occurred—following, in some sections of Ontario especially, a dry spell that seriously threatened farmers' prospects. Ontario crops as a whole are reported as likely to be rather below the average, though high prices will largely compensate the farmer himself, if not business interests in general.

Total Crop Values Last Year.

The report published by the Census and Statistics Office at the close of November, 1908, showed that an area of 27,505,663 acres of field crops yielded in 1908 a harvest which computed at average local market prices, had a value of \$432,534,000. The details of area, yield, weight per measured bushel and values for each kind of crop are shown in the following table for the whole of Canada, with the exception of British Columbia, where data upon which to base estimates were not available.

Crops	Area	Yield per Acre	Total Yield	Weight per measured bushel.	Average price per bushel	Total value
	ac.	bu.	bu.	lb.	\$	\$
Fall Wheat	770,400	24.40	18,798,000	50 30 0 860		16,257,000
Spring "	5,839,900	16.63	93,636,000	58 51 0 800		74,975,000
Oats	7,941,100	31.64	250,377,000	35 47 0 390		96,489,000
Barley	1,745,700	26.79	46,762,000	42 82 0 460		21,753,000
Rye	100,350	17.05	1,711,000	55 58 0 740		1,262,000
Peas	412,900	17.09	7,060,000	57 25 0 850		5,970,000
Buckwheat	291,300	24.55	7,153,000	47 49 0 500		4,215,000
Mixed grains	581,900	32.73	19,049,000	45 25 0 5 0		16,140,000
Flax	139,300	10.76	1,499,000	54 23 0 970		1,457,000
Beans	60,100	27.00	1,245,000	59 18 1 590		1,988,100
Corn for husking	366,200	62.45	22,872,000	53 59 0 52		11,837,000
Potatoes	503,600	132.00	73,790,000	—	0.470	34,819,000
Turnips and other roots	271,443	373.00	101,248,000	—	0.170	17,532,000
Hay and Clover	8,210,900	1.39	11,450,000	—	per ton 9.360	121,884,000
Fodder						
Corn	259,770	11 27	2,928,000	—	4.030	11,782,000
Sugarbeets	10 800	10.07	109,000	—	5.710	678,000

THE POPULATION OF CALGARY, according to the Henderson Directory estimate is now over 31,192.