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FIELD CROPS ACREAGE.

The Census and Statistics Office at Ottawa gives the following details of acreage sown to field crops:— For wheat the acreage sown is now placed at 13,549,650 acres, as compared with 14,897,090 acres, the area sown and with 12,900,590 acres, the area harvested in 1916. Thus the area sown to wheat, whilst 9 per cent. less than the area sown for 1916, is 5 per cent. more than the area harvested for 1916. Of the total area under wheat 809,250 acres were sown last fall and 12,740,400 acres were sown this spring. In the three prairie provinces the total area sown to wheat is 12,604,550 acres, comprising 2,448,850 acres in Manitoba, 7,689,700 acres in Saskatchewan and 2,466,000 acres in Alberta. The acreages for all Canada now estimated as sown to other early grain crops, as compared with the harvested areas of 1916, are as follows: Oats 11,806,000 against 9,875,346; barley 1,819,900 against 1,681,180; rye 153,900 against 147,170; peas 151,830 against 150,280 and mixed grains 409,100 against 397,770. Hay and clover are estimated to occupy 7,824,000 acres as compared with 7,892,932 acres, and alfalfa 86,500 acres as compared with 89,472 acres. For later sown cereals and hoed crops the estimated areas, as compared with the areas harvested last year, are as follows: Buckwheat 336,400 acres as against 341,500 acres; flax 695,750 acres against 605,700 acres; corn for husking 173,600 acres against 173,000 acres; beans 43,000 acres against 32,500 acres; turnips, etc., 152,100 acres against 156,200; sugar beets 14,000 acres against 15,000 acres and corn for fodder 310,465 acres against 297,100 acres. Every province shows an increase in the area planted to potatoes, and the total area under this crop is estimated at 502,400 acres as compared with 448,800 acres, the area harvested in 1916, an increase of nearly 12 per cent. The acreage under potatoes for 1917 is larger than in any previous year, and is 18,400 acres larger than the previous record of 484,000 acres in 1912.

CONDITION OF CROPS.

Reporting on the mid-July conditions of the Western crops, the Manitoba Free Press says:—"It is not likely that any condition of weather which prevails from now on can make a bumper crop for us, this year, for the reason that so much wheat was seeded on stubble land, and is not as well stooled nor as heavy a crop as that of 1915. The chief difficulty of the present year is that while there have been many good rains in localities, the

country as a whole has never once been thoroughly soaked down. A general rain of this calibre within the next week would doubtless put a very different appearance on the situation."

THE DOMINION'S REVENUE.

The revenue of the Dominion for the three months of the current fiscal year to June 30th totalled \$63,322,590, compared with \$50,772,904 in the corresponding three months of the preceding fiscal year. June's revenue was \$21,828,580 against \$17,600,149 in June, 1916. Ten millions of this year's growth for the quarter is accounted for by the further increase in customs' duties, which for the three months are reported as \$43,969,439 against \$33,562,743 in the three corresponding months of 1916. Expenditure on current account for the three months was \$10,335,962 against \$10,528,045, a reduction of nearly \$200,000. Expenditure on capital account during the period totalled \$22,729,291, of which \$20,650,487 was war expenditure, against \$26,527,244, of which \$22,173,031 was war expenditure, in the three months of 1916.

THE DOMINION'S DEBT.

The returns of the public debt as at June 30th last show the Dominion's total net debt at that date as \$840,973,168, a growth of practically \$250,000,000 in the last twelve months, the total at June 30th, 1916, having been \$593,910,638. These figures do not show the complete debt, as the Canadian Government is running a current account with the British Government for supplies to the Canadian troops, which account, by mutual agreement, will not be settled till the close of the war. Details of this account have not been announced publicly, but necessarily it is mounting very rapidly and at this time probably aggregates several scores of millions. The loans being made by the Canadian Government for account of the Imperial Munitions Board will eventually, of course, serve in part as an offset to this.

CAPITAL AND LABOUR.

Mr. Elias Rogers, vice-president of the Imperial Bank, spoke very wisely recently in regard to the absolute necessity of good relations between capital and labour after the war—a point that is too frequently overlooked. Mr. Rogers said:—"One common factor will enter into any adjustment after peace has been concluded, and that is the relation of the supply of capital to its demand, and the supply of labor working in harmony with capital. Capital and labor are dependent on each other. The tendency in modern times, unfortunately, has been for capital to use labor too much as a machine. In my opinion it would be in the interests of all concerned for capital, which is essential to the development of all enterprises, to take labor, which is equally essential, into its full confidence, each receiving a fair return for that which it gives."

Mr. H. B. F. Bingham, who for several years acted as superintendent of the Phoenix of London's life department in Canada, and a few months ago was recalled to a post at head office, has been appointed assistant manager of the life department at the Fleet Street (London) branch of the Phoenix.