

LAST WHEAT CROP FELL OFF HEAVILY

Lightest Since 1909 — March
31 There Were 126,000,000
Bushels Against 197,000,000
Last Year

Ottawa, April 25.—The census and statistics office has issued in summary form the results of inquiries as to (a) the stocks of wheat, oats, barley and flax in Canada on March 31; (b) the stocks of all agricultural produce remaining in farmers' hands on March 31; and (c) the proportion of the crops of 1916 that proved to be of merchantable quality.

Stocks of Grain.

The compilation of returns collected from elevators, flour mills and railway companies shows that on March 31 the quantity of wheat and wheat flour expressed as wheat, was 126 million bushels, as compared with 197 million bushels last year, and 79 million bushels on February 8, 1916. The total for 1917 includes 67½ million bushels in the elevators, flour mills and in winter storage in vessels, 45,633,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 12,862,000 bushels in transit by rail. Of oats, included in the quantity expressed as oats, the total quantity in Canada on March 31 was about 484 million bushels, comprising 37 million bushels in elevators and flour mills, 157 million bushels in farmers' hands and 30 million bushels in transit by rail. Of barley the total quantity in Canada on March 31 was about 35 million bushels, of which 2,520,000 bushels were in elevators, etc., 10½ million bushels in farmers' hands and 880,000 bushels in transit by rail.

The returns received from crop correspondents show that of the total estimated wheat crop in 1916, viz., 220,367,000 bushels, 85 p. c., or 187,867,000 bushels, proved to be of merchantable quality. This loss of 15 p. c. is greater than in any previous year on record since 1909.

MONTREAL CONFIDENT SITUATION STRONG

United States Government
to Spend \$5,000,000,000,
a Bullish Factor

(McDOUGALL & COWANS.)
Montreal, April 25.—The Canadian market opened weak this morning on increased taxes, which came as a great surprise to the market, as it seemed to be understood generally that the present taxes would remain for a period of three years.

One thing it showed is that the market has pretty well discounted all the bad news possible. After the first reaction the market came back and gave a very good account of itself, helped along considerably by the strength in Wall Street. U. S. Steel closed very strong at the high. There seems to be a better feeling in Wall Street and they expect Washington to be reasonable in the taxes.

With the tremendous earnings of stocks, like U. S. Steel and Bethlehem, and most industries, with the exception of increased freight rates for the railroads, the United States Government is to spend 5,000,000,000 dollars in the country, we do not see anything to be bearish on.

The Canadian bank statement for March will show approximately a thirty million increase in deposits. As most companies in Canada are strong financially with large surpluses, we do not know of a single company whose dividends will be affected by the new taxation.

McDOUGALL & COWANS.

AUSTRIAN YOUTHS OF 17, MEN OF 50, BATTLE WOUNDED

New York, April 25.—Dr. Joseph B. Eastman, professor of surgery in Indiana University, Indianapolis, Ind., who for ten months was in charge of Reserve Hospital No. 8, the largest military hospital in Vienna, as a representative of the American Red Cross, returned to the United States on board a small tank ship in the service of the Standard Oil Company. At his apartment, in the Park Avenue Hotel, Dr. Eastman talked to reporters of his impressions and experiences while engaged in Red Cross work in Austria.

Dr. Eastman left Vienna on February 1. It was necessary for him to remain in Copenhagen for two months before he was able to obtain passage to America.

Dr. Egan, the American Minister to Denmark, said Dr. Eastman had been arranged for him to come home. In order to get the passage it was necessary for me to become one of the crew in the capacity of ship's surgeon. It was furthermore necessary for me to receive pay. So I agreed to accept twenty cents for my services.

"It took us twenty-four days to reach New York. We skirted the Faroe Islands and took a course which brought us near Iceland and Greenland. On Palm Sunday we sighted a submarine, which fired with us for a time and then disappeared. We had to travel at night without lights."

"When I left Copenhagen there were one thousand Americans in the

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Scandinavian countries waiting to obtain passage home."

Before he began to discuss his experiences in the Central Empires Dr. Eastman said:

"I desire to state the circumstances in which I went to Vienna as a member of the American Physicians' Expedition Committee, in co-operation with the American Red Cross. Before accepting this commission I consulted with the War Department and learned that it was highly desirable that American surgeons should know something of modern surgery as it is applied to soldiers wounded in modern wars. Now that I have returned I shall offer my services to the War Department."

"When I was a medical student I studied in Germany and Austria. It was very congenial, therefore, for me to be sent to Vienna."

"I recently had a talk with Dr. Sabarsky, of the International Food Commission, of the Central Powers, and he told me that the food crisis had reached its lowest ebb and would therefore begin to improve. Dr. Sabarsky seemed sanguine over the prospect, of course, had no way of determining the exact conditions, but I am inclined to believe that the alleged food shortage in the Central Empire has been greatly exaggerated."

"The people necessarily have had to do without many luxuries. Consumption of necessities has been cut down. Food, control of conditions have fallen hardest on the sick and injured."

"The hospital of which I was in charge had 500 patients, yet we were

allowed only thirty-two eggs a day. But we had plenty of war bread. And it wasn't so bad. During the ten months I was in Vienna I lost forty pounds. But that wasn't due so much to lack of food as it was to worry about my wife and children, because I didn't hear of them for six months on a stretch."

"How about the man power situation in the Central Empires?"

Youths Wounded in Battle

"I think," replied Dr. Eastman, "that the shortage of men is only just now beginning to become a serious problem. In our hospital we treated many youths of seventeen years for wounds received on the battle line, as well as many men well in the fifties. So it seems they are using up men at both ends who had hitherto been exempt from service. I noticed that they were beginning to draft men who were formerly in the hospital service."

"Do you think that the Austrians will stand by Germany to the end?"

"I have a distinct impression," replied Dr. Eastman, "that although the Austrians are sick and tired of this war they are prepared to fight it through to the very last ditch, if necessary."

"How about the situation in Hungary?"

"The Hungarians," said Dr. Eastman, "have been fighting a separate war with the Germans, Austrians, Bulgarians and Turks as their allies. The food situation in Hungary was better than anywhere else in the territory of the Central Powers."

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