

Expansion in Provincial Agricultural Production

1919 Was Most Successful Year Experienced in Agricultural Industry—Total Production Was \$65,384,556 as Against \$49,444,308 in 1918—Small Increase in Value of Importations.

We are indebted to the Honourable E. D. Barrow, Minister of Agriculture, province of British Columbia, for the agricultural statistics of the province for 1919, which show a very notable expansion in home products and a practically stationery value of food importations. When it is taken into consideration the rise in prices of 1919 over 1918 which helps to account for the expansion in the value of the agricultural production of the province, at the same time it shows an actual decrease in volume of agricultural imports. This is notable and is a long step in the right direction, but it will not be entirely satisfactory until British Columbia raises all the food products native to its soil and climate for its own consumption and perhaps some for exportation, if only fruits.

The statistics which are available as bulletin number 84 are more comprehensive than any predecessor, and farmers and fruit growers in the province are now more closely co-operating with both the Dominion and Provincial departments of agriculture for the collation of statistics. As an instance of the small number of people engaging in agricultural pursuits the figures of farmers on separate farms, not including farmers' sons, for the year was 15,418 in a total population exceeding 400,000.

As far as the agricultural industry in the province of British Columbia is concerned, the year 1919 was the most successful year on record. The total agricultural production was \$65,384,556 as against \$49,444,308 for the year 1918, representing an increase in the total value of 32.23% over the previous year and 717.30% over the year 1909, when statistics were first collected in British Columbia.

This large increase may to some extent be attributed to the prevailing high prices, yet, a general increase may be noted in practically all branches of agriculture, more particularly as it relates to meats, poultry, fruits, fodders and grains.

Although a total imports of food products into British Columbia shows an increase of 3.78% in 1919, this increase is due to the increased prices, as the actual quantity imported shows considerable reduction over the previous year.

While figures are not available showing exports, the total value is estimated to have been \$7,000,000 as against \$5,000,000 in 1918, or an increase for the year of 40%. The exports consisted chiefly of fruits and vegetables.

The fruit crop was the largest on record. Apples and other fruits produced well, while returns were most satisfactory. The production of apples alone was 94.37% greater than in 1918, while the increases in other tree fruits was 5.23% greater. The greatest increases are to be noted in cherries, apricots, plums and prunes. The peach crop shows considerable reduction, through loss occasioned by early frost.

Small fruits showed a gain of 34.45% for the year. The outstanding increases occurred in strawberries, raspberries and blackberries. The total production of all fruits exceeded the production in 1918 by 67.81%.

The acreage of potatoes increased 19.89% over the year 1918. The yield, however, was 11.86% less, caused chiefly through drought during the summer. A further loss was occasioned by frosts after the crop was harvested.

A marked decrease occurred in the yield of tomatoes, especially in the Okanagan Valley; this loss was due to early frosts. Greenhouse tomatoes, however, showed a large increase in production, which together with the high prices received increased the value of production from \$52.11 per ton in 1918 to \$113.76 per ton in 1919. The area in root crops shows an increase of 10.92% over 1918.

The area of grain for threshing in 1919 increased 27.92% over the year 1918, whilst the total yield increased 38.58%. Owing to unfavourable weather during the summer a larger percentage than usual was cut green or turned into hay, thus reducing the quantity of grain for threshing considerably. The area of fall wheat and oats shows a large increase over 1918. The prices for all grains averaged much higher than in 1919, resulting in an increase of 48.63% in total value.

The area sown to fodders increased 24.61% over 1918. Unfavorable weather again accounted for a marked decrease in the yield of clover and timothy. The area of grain-hay increased 14.40% over 1918; this was due largely to so much grain being cut green or turned into hay, to relieve the shortage resulting from the failure of the clover and timothy crops. Fodder corn while still comprising a small percentage of the total acreage of fodders, also showed considerable increase both in acreage and yield. Clover and timothy averaged \$35.25 as against \$33.25 in 1918.

Horses decreased in numbers 414, due chiefly to the increased use of motors in the Province. Beef and dairy cattle showed but a slight increase over the year 1918. Owing to the large number of sheep markets during the year, the numbers decreased slightly below the year 1918. Swine increased in numbers 12.95% during the year. Poultry and eggs show a most satisfactory increase, both as regards quantity and value. The numbers of poultry increased 17.88%. The quantity of eggs produced shows an increase of 26.44% over 1918.

The total quantity of all meats marketed during the year increased 8.99%. The total value shows an increase of 18.45% over 1918. Pork and pork products showed the greatest gain, while mutton also showed a considerable increase.

The total quantity of butter manufactured increased 2.56% for the year. The total quantity of cheese manufactured in the Province shows a steady increase. The total quantity manufactured during 1919 was 304,502 pounds, as against 250,674 pounds in 1918, an increase of 21.47%. The total increase in the value of all dairy products for the year was 23.31%.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND IMPORTS YEARS 1918-1919 (VALUES ONLY)

Description.	Year	Production	Imports		Total Imports
			From Canadian Provinces	From Other Foreign Points	
Live stock	1918	\$ 9,698,879	\$ 2,486,802	\$ 27,309	\$ 2,514,111
Live stock	1919	12,437,510	3,418,966	52,784	3,471,750
Meats	1918	3,150,000	3,837,609	938,778	4,776,387
Meats	1919	3,730,800	2,290,527	1,180,655	3,471,182
Poultry Production....	1918	2,643,963	1,064,211	178,617	1,242,828
Poultry Production....	1919	3,840,795	834,297	424,337	1,262,685
Dairy Products	1918	5,518,042	3,853,798	283,424	4,137,222
Dairy Products	1919	6,804,364	3,328,728	446,590	3,775,318
Fruits	1918	4,415,160	100,313	519,315	619,628
Fruits	1919	7,772,474	43,675	701,767	745,442
Vegetables	1918	6,575,853	154,200	513,706	667,906
Vegetables	1919	7,411,195	81,495	500,123	581,618
Fodders	1918	11,463,674	742,282	168,150	910,432
Fodders	1919	15,012,233	737,248	326,977	1,064,225
Grains	1918	4,096,686	6,167,589	819,550	6,987,138
Grains	1919	6,088,913	7,676,876	597,593	8,274,469
Miscellaneous	1918	382,051	3,031	46,762	49,793
Miscellaneous	1919	636,272	8,024	79,437	87,461
Indian Products	1918	1,500,000
Indian Products	1919	1,650,000
Totals	1918	\$49,444,308	\$18,409,835	\$3,495,611	\$31,905,446
Totals	1919	65,384,556	18,419,837	4,314,313	22,734,150

BRITISH COLUMBIA AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND IMPORTS YEARS 1909-1919 (VALUES ONLY)

Year	Home Production	Imports	Year	Home Production	Imports
1909	\$ 8,000,000	\$11,110,237	1915	\$31,127,801	\$16,434,970
1910	14,398,990	15,187,227	1916	32,182,915	17,199,662
1911	21,641,928	14,699,854	1917	37,661,850	19,786,206
1912	22,269,768	15,252,022	1918	49,444,308	21,905,446
1913	26,222,033	20,070,757	1919	65,384,556	22,734,150
1914	30,184,100	25,199,125			