

WHEAT ACREAGE DECREASED TEN PER CENT.

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been well sustained, owing to the excellent condition of the grass. Peel remarks that while the milk flow has been keeping up well, butter-fat tests have been responsible for several "shut-offs" during the week. Bacon hogs are being marketed at from \$19 to \$20 a cwt., but do not appear to be in such numbers as in recent years. The demand for farm labor is increasing now that grain cutting has joined with the belated harvesting of hay.

Nova Scotia Needs Rain

All correspondents in their reports to the Secretary of Agriculture of Nova Scotia, refer to the inadequate rainfall to date, and state that the crop outlook is serious if the drouth continues much longer. With a moderate rainfall during the next few weeks, however, present conditions are such as to warrant the expectation of at least a good average harvest of practically all farm crops. Hay, which looked very unpromising three weeks ago is now averaged at 85 per cent. of last year's bumper crop. Last year's hay crop, by the way, was about 25 per cent. larger than that of the previous year. There are some local areas, such as North Inverness, where rainfall has been unusually light, and the hay is consequently in a very poor condition. Even with the most favorable weather from this out, little more than two-thirds of a crop can be expected in these areas.

Oats and other cereals, potatoes and root crops are reported to be, in the main, well up to the average. With favorable weather conditions during the remainder of the season, these will yield bumper crops. The apple prospect is variously estimated in different districts from 45 to 90 per cent., with a general average of 65 per cent. as compared with 1919. It will be remembered that the apple crop of last year was about double that of any previous year for some time back. With respect to apples it may be well to point out that there is sure to be a heavy drop in yield, with smaller fruit, should there be long continued dry weather.

Pastures are reported slightly below last year's quality, averaging 90 per cent., with some districts giving a much lower estimate. Notwithstanding this, creamery managers report an increase of 40 per cent. over last year's business. While some of this gain is due to an enlarged patronage, there is also a marked increase of output from former patrons. Taking it all in all, present crop reports must be regarded as reasonably favorable, with a very great deal depending upon weather conditions during the next month.

RECENT FIRES

Chemical Fertilizer Plant at St. John, N.B., Sawmill at
Maissoneuve and Garage in Vancouver are
Large Losses this Week

MORE dry weather in some sections has again started forest fires. Some valuable timber has been burned during the past two weeks, but as yet the danger to towns and villages is not nearly as serious as during the dry spell towards the end of May. A report from St. John, N.B., dated July 18th, stated that the village of Upper Gagetown, on the St. John River, was threatened by a fire which had already burned five miles of timber, but on the 19th the danger was reported as being past.

Reports received on July 12th by the British Columbia department of lands stated that the Cariboo, Kamloops and Prince Rupert districts were the only ones really safe at that time. Nelson, Prince George, Vernon and Cranbrook were in a rather serious position. Subsequent rains relieved the anxiety, however. Over a thousand acres in the Brazeau

reserve, in northern Alberta, were burned over during the first few days of July. The area was mostly covered with small spruce of considerable value.

Coaldale, Alta.—July 14—Warehouse belonging to J. B. Shimek was destroyed. Loss is estimated at \$30,000.

Drumheller, Alta.—July 12—Barn belonging to the Premier Coal Co. was destroyed. The loss was covered by insurance.

Hull, Que.—July 15—Hull Music Store damaged. Estimated loss is \$3,000.

Kingston, Ont.—July 14—Home of George Loyst completely destroyed. Fire was caused by lightning. One fatality.

London, Ont.—July 18—Factory belonging to D. S. Perrin damaged. The loss is estimated at \$2,000, and the fire is believed to have been caused by spontaneous combustion.

Maissoneuve, Que.—July 21—Sawmill and lumber plant belonging to J. P. Abel, Fortin and Co., Ltd., damaged. Estimated loss, \$25,000, partly covered by insurance.

Manitou, Man.—Fire originating in the office of John Pollock destroyed several other shops in the town. The loss was covered by insurance.

St. John, N.B.—July 20—Chemical fertilizer plant, owned by R. D. Patterson, was destroyed. Loss is estimated at \$100,000, partly covered by insurance. Cause unknown. The plant was built in 1891 by the owner.

Vancouver, B.C.—July 9—Garage belonging to the Continental Motor Co. destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$25,000.

Winnipeg, Man.—July 15—McRae Building, at corner of James and King Streets, damaged by fire.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Alvinston, Ont.—June 13—Planing and sawmills belonging to D. J. McEachern and Son, damaged. The total loss on contents and building is \$6,000, with insurance of \$1,500, in the Gore District Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

Halifax, N.S.—June 27—Barn belonging to J. A. Leaman and Co., also two dwellings destroyed. The fire is believed to have been caused by defective wire. There was a total loss of \$9,600, with insurance of \$2,000, in which only \$900 can be collected.

New Glasgow, N.S.—July 7—Workshop of the Maritime Bridge Co. destroyed. The total loss was \$120,000, with insurance of \$65,000.

Warwick Township, Ont.—July 2—Two barns, owned by N. Herbert, were destroyed. The fire was caused by lightning. Total loss \$3,000, with insurance of \$900, in the Lambton Insurance Co.

Winnipeg, Man.—June 15—Hay belonging to the Carnes Stock Food Co., Ltd., was destroyed. The fire was caused by smoking. The total loss was \$12,000, with insurance of \$15,000, in the following companies: Aetna, \$1,000; Atlas, \$250; Essex and Suffolk, \$2,500; Fidelity-Phenix, \$500; Glens Falls, \$2,000; Guardian, \$250; Law, Union and Rock, \$600; New York Underwriters, \$600; Northern, \$600; North Empire, \$500; New Hampshire, \$1,500; Providence-Washington, \$2,000; Truro, \$600; Queensland, \$500; Springfield Fair and Marine, \$1,000; Western, \$600.

Manitoba.—The fire marshal's report for May, 1920, shows that during the month there were 254 fires, with a loss of \$96,901, on which \$1,112,379 of insurance was carried, the value of the property being \$1,343,057. The loss ratio per capita was \$.158.

An analysis of the causes of fire during May shows that fires were caused by: Rubbish, 97; stoves and furnaces, 20; matches, 16; chimneys, 14; lightning, 6. Fifty-nine dwellings, 93 rubbish and grass, 30 farm dwellings and 4 stores were destroyed. The loss in Winnipeg was \$644,639 and the loss in Brandon \$25,069.