

## RAISING TWELVE BILLIONS OF REVENUE

### Farmers' Committee of United States Suggests that Government's Proposal Might Be Exceeded by 50 Per Cent.

A brief was recently submitted to the Ways and Means Committee of Congress by the Farmers' National Committee on War Finance. The following is an abstract:—

The three principles which should control in drafting the new revenue bill are: To secure adequate revenue equitably; to increase production; to prevent waste, i.e., equality of financial sacrifice.

The war profits of corporations will unquestionably be somewhat less this year than in 1917. Last year the net profits are estimated at about ten and a half billions; this year at nine billion, six hundred million. The war profits last year were about five billion, two hundred million; this year they will be about four billion three hundred million.

The total yield of the excess profits tax last year was about \$1,691,000,000, while a tax of 80 per cent. on war profits would have yielded about \$4,163,000,000. We lost about \$2,472,000,000 by failure to tax war profits heavily enough. This was a great loss, for if the war continues through 1920, the total money cost to the United States will be about one hundred billion dollars. The average tax on war profits was only 32.6 per cent.

The tax of 50 per cent. on watches and jewelry suggested by the treasury department is unwise; because watches are needed and should not be made more expensive, but jewelry is not needed. The heavy income tax, war profits tax, and tax on the value of unused and inadequately used land which we suggest will prevent any foolish buying. Taxes on clothing, etc., will encourage buying a poor quality, and therefore waste. Farmers oppose a tax on automobiles used for business purposes to save feed, and a tax on gasoline because they increase the cost of production.

Twelve and a half billion can be raised by taxation this year, as follows:—

War profits tax .....	\$3,875,000,000
Corporation tax .....	555,000,000
Miscellaneous .....	1,321,215,000
Income Tax .....	6,000,000,000
Customs .....	230,000,000
Tax on the value of unused and inadequately used land .....	500,000,000
Total .....	\$12,481,215,000

Profits subject to the war profits tax will be this year about \$4,305,000,000. A 90 per cent. tax on this will yield about \$3,875,000,000.

The personal income for 1917 of those making returns was about twelve billion dollars, of which about four and a half billions was subject to the normal tax, and two and a half billions was not subject to taxation. This year the personal income of those liable to the income tax will be about fourteen billions, of which probably three and a half billions is not subject to the personal income tax because dividends.

By taking all net incomes over \$50,000 and taxing heavily and progressively all incomes over \$3,000,—\$4,880,000,000 can be secured from that group of about 3,700,000 families and individuals. The other 19,000 families of the country can easily pay \$1,120,000,000, an average of only about \$58.

We have used the estimates of the secretary of the treasury from the receipts from corporations and miscellaneous taxes and other sources and from customs. The value of unused and inadequately used land is about \$25,000,000,000. A tax of 2 per cent. thereon will yield about \$500,000,000.

The enlargement of Guelph's water reservoir to accommodate 5,000,000 gallons, and the installation of an additional pump at the waterworks capable of pumping 6,000,000 gallons a day, are the chief items referred to in the report submitted to the city of Guelph by the Provincial Fire Underwriters of Ontario. They were in the form of a report from the inspectors, one of whom visited the city in June of this year, and made a series of tests.

## CROP OUTLOOK THROUGHOUT CANADA

### Ontario Fall Wheat Has Suffered Most, But Nearly All Grain Crops are Below Average

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issued recently the usual crop report compiled from the returns of crop correspondents made on July 31st, 1918.

The preliminary estimate of the yield per acre of fall wheat for Canada is 15½ bushels as against 21½ bushels in 1917 and in 1916; and 23 bushels, the decennial average for 1908-1917. Upon the harvested area of 340,700 acres, this gives a total yield of 5,275,700 bushels as compared with 15,363,450 bushels in 1917, and 17,590,000 bushels in 1916. In Ontario, where the bulk of the fall wheat crop is grown, the estimated total yield for 1918 is 4,435,200 bushels from 277,200 acres, a yield per acre of 16 bushels, as compared with last year's estimate of 14,114,800 bushels from 656,500 acres, a rate per acre of 21½ bushels. The total yield of hay and clover for Canada is placed at 10,064,100 tons from 8,015,250 acres, representing a yield per acre of 1¼ tons. The corresponding figures of 1917 were 13,684,700 tons from 8,225,034 acres, or 1.66 ton per acre.

#### Condition of Spring-Sown Grains.

In the prairie provinces the drought remained unbroken until towards the end of July, and serious damage to wheat in the blossom stage was caused by heavy frosts which occurred from the 23rd to the 25th of the month. Conditions were improved by rains that fell during the last week of the month. For the whole of Canada the condition of crops on July 31st was worse than at the end of June. Spring wheat, measured against 100 as representing the average decennial yield, is 77, compared with 85 on June 30th, and 93 on July 31st, 1917; oats are 85 against 91 and 90; barley is 86 against 93 last month, and 93 on July 31st, 1917, and rye is 83 against 89 and 95. Peas and mixed grains are 101, or one above average. Beans are 95, buckwheat is 93, flax is 71, corn for husking is 86, potatoes are 95, turnips and mangolds are 96, corn for fodder is 85, sugar beets are 92, and pasture is 92. In the prairie provinces, spring wheat is in Manitoba 85 per cent. of the average, oats are 86, barley is 89, and rye is 84. In Saskatchewan the figures are spring wheat 75, oats 75, barley 78, and rye 79. In Alberta spring wheat is 69, oats are 68, and barley 70 per cent. of the decennial average. Potatoes are for Canada 95 per cent., or 5 per cent. below average, as against 98 per cent. on July 31st, 1917. In the maritime provinces and in Quebec spring wheat is 101 in Prince Edward Island, 104 in Nova Scotia, 105 in New Brunswick, and 106 in Quebec, conditions generally having improved during July. Other grain crops in these provinces are equally satisfactory. In Ontario, spring wheat sown to 158,000 acres is marked 118 per cent., as against 101 a month ago, and 111 on July 31st, 1917. The figures expressing condition for the whole of Canada indicate a total yield in 1918 for wheat of nearly 232 million bushels as compared with 233,742,850 bushels in 1917, and for oats a total yield of about 416 million bushels as compared with 403 million bushels in 1917. For the three prairie provinces the yield indicated by condition is for wheat 216,488,000 bushels, and for oats 254,930,000 bushels.

#### Conditions in Alberta.

A telegram from the Alberta Department of Agriculture dated August 10th, states that recent rains throughout the southern country have made a material improvement in crop conditions. In certain districts of the south where the prospect was poor two weeks ago heavy rains have fallen and the grain is now filling nicely. On account of this moisture the feed situation in many localities is greatly relieved, and conditions are much more encouraging than they have been for some time. After the frost it was apparent that the greater portion of the wheat and barley crop was destroyed, but as the season advances some improvement is noticeable.

The Royal Labor Commission, which was recently engaged for ten days in investigating the labor difficulties in the shipbuilding plants at Quebec, completed their work on the 19th instant. They then left for Montreal, where they will begin a similar investigation. When asked regarding the announcement of the decision, the chairman, Hon. Judge McLennon, said the commission would continue the other investigations and issue a report when all were concluded.