

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF CANADIAN CROP

Yield of 28¼ Bushels Fall Wheat Per Acre—Outside of Western Canada, Reports are Fair or Good

THE Dominion Bureau of Statistics issued on August 14th the following report as compiled from the returns of crop correspondents at the end of July. This is, therefore, more recent than the summary appearing on page 26 of this issue:—

The preliminary estimate of the yield per acre of fall wheat for Canada is 28¼ bushels, as compared with 19 bushels last year, and with 22½ bushels, the decennial average for the years 1909-1918. The yield per acre for 1919 is, therefore, the highest average on record, the previous record being 28½ bushels in 1915. Upon the harvested area of 797,750 acres the total yield is 22,875,800 bushels, as compared with 7,942,800 bushels last year and with 29,320,600 bushels, the record fall wheat yield of 1915. In Ontario, where the bulk of the fall wheat crop is produced, the total yield for 1919 is 21,762,000 bushels from 744,000 acres, an average yield per acre of 29¼ bushels. Last year the Ontario yield was only 7,054,800 bushels from 362,616 acres, an average per acre of 19½ bushels. The total yield of hay and clover in Canada is estimated at 17,408,800 tons from 10,662,870 acres, an average per acre of 1.63 ton. The total yield is the highest on record, and compares with last year's record yield of 14,772,300 tons. Of alfalfa, the total yield is 290,300 tons as against 446,400 tons last year.

Field Crops Other Than Wheat

In consequence of continued drought the condition of grain crops in Saskatchewan and Alberta at the end of July was worse by from 8 to 10 points than at the end of June. Thus the condition of wheat in Saskatchewan on July 31st was 73 per cent. of the decennial average as against 91 per cent. on June 30th. In Alberta the July percentage for wheat was 70 as compared with 80 in June. In Manitoba spring wheat, owing to a general outbreak of rust, has deteriorated by 8 points; so that the condition is expressed by 92 per cent., or 8 below average as compared with 100, or the promise of an average yield, a month ago. In the maritime provinces conditions continue favorable, the percentage for wheat being 103 in Prince Edward Island, 101 in Nova Scotia, and 96 in New Brunswick. In Quebec the condition of a month ago has been maintained or even improved wheat being 98 for both months, and oats being 102 for July as against 99 for June. In Ontario spring wheat is 85 in July as against 87 in June, and oats are 80 as against 85. For the whole of Canada the condition of the principal field crops on July 31st, in percentage of the decennial average is as follows, the corresponding percentage for July 31st, 1918, being given within brackets:—Spring wheat, 77 (77); oats, 81 (85); barley, 85 (86); rye, 88 (83); peas, 92 (101); beans, 95 (95); buckwheat, 94 (93); mixed grains, 89 (101); flax, 74 (71); corn for husking, 89 (86); potatoes, 88 (95); turnips, etc., 88 (96); fodder corn, 93 (85); sugar beets, 84 (92); pasture, 93 (92). The figures, including the preliminary estimate of fall wheat, expressing condition, indicate a total yield for Canada of 248½ million bushels of wheat, 405,819,000 bushels of oats, 67,656,000 bushels of barley, and 8,172,000 bushels of flax. For the three prairie provinces the yield indicated by condition is for wheat, 213,260,700 bushels; for oats, 258,354,500 bushels, for barley, 47,815,500 bushels, and for flax, 7,882,100 bushels.

Latest Reports from the West

A communication received from the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, dated August 7th, states that the harvest began this year almost unprecedentedly early. There has been no frost, and the damage from hail is slight; but rust is very prevalent in all grains, and this, together with the heat, has reduced the yield very greatly. The rough estimates of correspondents as to the wheat yield average about 15½ bushels per acre. Almost everywhere there is enough straw, with a very generous supply on the average. The Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture telegraphs (August 11th): "Seventy-five per cent. of wheat and 25 per cent.

early sown oats cut. Thrashing will start next week. Good rains reported in some parts of the province, which will benefit the late-sown oats and flax, and also relieve the feed situation." The report of the Alberta Department of Agriculture at the end of July indicated satisfactory conditions in the Peace River district, a failure of the grain crop over a considerable portion of southern Alberta, and a marked improvement in Central Alberta, due to a general rain, which broke the drought immediately after the middle of July.

UNION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES' CONVENTION

(Continued from page 8.)

Election of Officers

The officers elected for the year 1919-20 are: H. Fisher, mayor, Ottawa, Ont., president; A. Roberts, K.C., Bridgewater, N.S., 1st vice-president; C. H. Grant, alderman, Edmonton, Alta.; 2nd vice-president, H. W. Newman, mayor, Kingston, Ont., 3rd vice-president. W. D. Lightall, K.C., was re-elected honorary secretary-treasurer, and G. S. Wilson, assistant secretary.

The following members of the executive were elected as representatives of the provinces, some of which were not sufficiently represented at the convention to make such election possible:—

Ontario.—C. W. McCrea, treasurer, Sault Ste. Marie; J. M. Elson, mayor, St. Catharines; and a representative to be appointed from Toronto.

British Columbia.—Mayor Gale, Vancouver; Reeve T. W. Fletcher, Port Grey; and Mayor S. A. Shatford, Vernon.

Nova Scotia.—Hiram Goodey, Yarmouth; Warden W. G. Clarke, Annapolis; Mayor A. C. McCormick, Sydney Mines.

Quebec.—Mayor Thurber, Longueuil; Alderman C. Rondeau, Westmount; Alderman P. H. Bedard, Quebec.

Alberta.—Fred Freeman, Lethbridge; Alderman W. F. Adams, Calgary; Alderman H. M. Martin, Edmonton.

The following delegates were appointed to represent the Union of Canadian Municipalities at the Industrial Congress to be held in Ottawa in September: E. D. Bouchard, mayor of St. Hyacinthe, Que.; C. H. Grant, alderman, Edmonton, Alta.; A. Roberts, K.C., secretary of Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, Bridgewater, N.S.

The selection of the meeting place for next year rests with the executive.

WANT TO INVEST RAILWAY MONEY

Permission to invest \$139,360.92 in five-year Dominion government bonds was temporarily withheld from a number of Ontario municipalities by the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board this week. Mayor Wigle, of Goderich, appeared before the board, supporting a resolution passed by these municipalities to invest money in government bonds which had been derived from the sale of the defunct Ontario West Shore Railway. Mr. Gilday, of Proudfoot, Grant, Duncan and Gilday, appeared on behalf of the trustee, Mr. Thomas Stothers, requesting that the money be left with the Toronto General Trusts Corporation to invest, and promising that there would be no brokerage fees in connection therewith. An interest rate of 5½ per cent. was promised.

Chairman D. M. McIntyre believed that the municipalities had not reckoned on the brokerage charges, and withheld consent until such costs would be laid before a joint meeting of the municipalities interested.

At a meeting of the executive of the maritime branch of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, held in Moncton, N.B., on July 30th, with President Angus McLean, of Bathurst, in the chair, H. R. Thompson, secretary, was appointed to attend the big trade conference in Calgary next month. It was decided to take up with the provincial governments the question of having next year a maritime trade conference and tour similar to that being held in Calgary.