

and in 1913 160 million dollars, or in 1918 365 million dollars. In 1883 the value of farm buildings was 163 million, and in 1913 345 million, or 370 million in 1917. In 1883 the value of live stock was 99 million dollars and in 1913 237 million and in 1917 290 million dollars. These figures deal with values. It is equally true that whether comparison be made on the basis of acres cultivated, yields, improvements, live stock or values the progress shown is remarkable.

Take more recent figures. In 1918 the total area under crop in the Province slightly exceeded 10 million acres, which was the largest acreage ever cropped in the history of the Province, and this in spite of the shortage of labor due to war conditions which were especially acute. Not only was this the case, but record yields were shown in spring wheat, barley and oats, proving the fertility of the soil as well as a favorable climate.

Further, during the four years under war conditions a total of 564,000 more acres were cropped than during the four years previous.

Men who ignore these facts and picture the decadence of the Province are belittling the achievements of the farmers as well as being unfair to their own country.

Take still another point. Just a few years ago before abnormal conditions or account of the war set in Dr. C. A. Zavitz of the Ontario Agricultural College made the following calculations:—

“If we divide the last thirty-two years into two periods of sixteen years each, we find that for the latter as compared with the former period there has been an actual increase in yield of grain per acre of some of our principal farm crops as follows:—Barley, 20 per cent.; fall wheat, 10 per cent., and oats, 9 per cent. These averages in increase in yield per acre if applied to the average value of the crops of Ontario for the past ten years would mean an annual increase for the Province about as follows:—Oats, \$3,267,836; barley, \$2,174,147. and fall wheat, \$1,414,244; making a total of \$6,856,227. This represents simply the annual market value of the increases of the three principal grain crops per acre when we compare the last sixteen years with the sixteen years previous.”

While therefore rural population in response to world-wide conditions has declined, rural progress and production has gone forward. It is to be noted that those who are so ready to blame the