

The Canadian Harvest of 1915

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The Dominion Government having now published in the Census and Statistics Monthly of January their final estimates of the yield and value of the Canadian field crops of 1915, it is possible to analyse the results and to compare them with those of previous years. In the first place it is significant that the final returns show a substantial increase over the two earlier estimates, so that the expectations which were formed of the abundant harvest have been more than realized.

The Wheat Crop.

In the case of the principal crop, viz., wheat, the preliminary estimate for the end of August placed the yield at 308,839,800 bushels; at the end of September. This was increased to 336,258,000 bushels, and now the final return shows the splendid total of 376,303,600 bushels, which is more than double the yield of 1914, and nearly double the annual average yield for the five years 1910 to 1914. The estimates of the Dominion Government, which are made by the Census and Statistics Office of the Department of Trade and Commerce, have as their basis the acreage returns of the census of 1911, as modified by the reports of correspondents, the total production being calculated from average yields per acre also collected from correspondents. During the growing sea-

At the end of August the "Grain Growers' Guide" put forth the lowest of any of the estimates, viz., 212,294,790 bushels; but in November revised this figure to 342,000,000 bushels which comes the closest to the final official estimate of 342,948,000 bushels. In September the Manitoba Free Press gave 250,800,000 bushels as its estimate; the Northwest Grain Dealers' Association figured on 222,184,071 bushels, which in November it altered to 307,230,000 bushels. Finally the secretary of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, in September, estimated the yield at 235,000,000 bushels. These unofficial estimates are probably in most cases based largely upon visible quantities, and may not take sufficient account of stock which from various causes remain in farmers' hands. On the other hand the official estimates being based upon areas sown

is over 100,000,000 bushels more than the whole production of 1914. And, again, attention may be drawn to the fact that, for the first time, this Canadian exportable wheat surplus of 264 million bushels is more than necessary to supply the wheat deficiency of the United Kingdom. During the past ten years the British imports of wheat and flour have ranged from 202½ million bushels in the cereal year 1908-09 to 249½ million bushels in 1912-13, the annual average for the decade being a little over 215 million bushels. What Canada has done in 1915 by increase of acreage, combined with an abundant yield, can be repeated in future by further expansion of acreage combined with an average yield; consequently the British Isles, representing the heart of the Empire, may reasonably feel additionally secure in respect of food supply.

The Harvest as a Whole.

The complete story of the Canadian harvest of 1915 may be gathered from the accompanying tables, wherein the data for 1915 are compared or rather

III.—Total Yield of Field Crops in Canada, 1914 and 1915.

Field crops.	1914. bush.	1915. bush.	Difference		Average of 5 years 1910-14. bush.
			between 1914 & 1915.	P.C.	
Fall Wheat	20,837,000	35,551,600	170		22,003,000
Spring Wheat	140,443,000	340,752,000	243		174,023,000
All Wheat	161,280,000	376,303,600	233		196,026,000
Oats	313,078,000	520,103,000	166		343,612,000
Barley	36,201,000	53,331,300	147		41,436,000
Rye	2,016,800	2,394,100	118		2,156,000
Peas	3,362,500	3,478,850	103		4,140,000
Beans	797,500	723,400	91		874,000
Buckwheat	8,626,000	7,865,900	91		8,631,000
Mixed grains	16,382,500	17,523,100	107		15,652,000
Flaxseed	7,175,200	10,628,000	148		13,033,000
Corn for Husking	13,924,000	14,368,000	103		18,231,000
Potatoes	85,672,000	62,604,000	73		75,190,000
Turnips, Mangolds, etc.	69,003,000	64,281,000	93		69,181,000
tons					
Hay and Clover	10,259,000	10,953,000	107		11,706,000
Fodder Corn	3,351,480	3,429,870	105		2,856,000
Sugar Beets	108,600	141,000	121		164,000
Alfalfa	218,360	261,955	120		217,000

include quantities still unthreshed or still awaiting transportation. It is significant that all the unofficial estimates are less than the official total; hitherto the reverse has usually been the case. The fact is that the crops of 1915 proved so extraordinarily abundant that even the most optimistic estimates have failed of correct appraisal.

Revising previous calculations in the light of the latest returns the exportable wheat surplus of Canada is now placed at about 264,000,000 bushels, which

contrasted with the previous year and with the annual average of the quinquennial period 1910 to 1914. From Table I. it will be seen that for the two chief crops, wheat and oats, the increase acreage amounted to 26 and 13 per cent respectively. And this increase was not at the expense of other crops, for the total area under field crops in 1915 was 37,063,455 acres as compared with 35,102,175 acres the area sown and 33,436,675 acres the area harvested in 1914, the increase in area sown representing over 5 per cent. Table II. brings together the two opposite extremes in yields per acre of the two seasons 1914 and 1915, and shows also how much above the average of the five years 1910 to 1914 the season of 1915 proved to be. Out of the 16 crops in the table the yield of 1915 was above that of 1914 for 10 crops, the excess in the case of wheat being 85 per cent and for oats 47 per cent. Compared with the five year average the result is still more striking, for the crops of 1915 are superior in 12 out of the 16; in one case the yield is equal and in only three are the yields below average. For the principal crop, viz., spring wheat, the yield per acre of 1915 is 92 per cent above that of 1914 and 57 per cent above the quinquennial average. The total yields (Table III.), which are dependent upon the double factor of acreage and yield per acre, show an increase over 1914 for 12 out of the

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IV.—Weight Per Increased Bushel of Grain Crops in Canada, 1914 and 1915.

Grain crops.	1914. lb.	1915. lb.	Average 1910-14. lb.
Fall Wheat	59.61	59.71	60.26
Spring Wheat	59.16	60.31	59.47
All Wheat	59.49	60.19	59.61
Oats	35.31	36.61	35.58
Barley	47.22	48.26	47.58
Rye	55.47	56.32	55.36
Peas	60.53	60.74	59.14
Beans	60.21	59.61	59.41
Buckwheat	48.20	48.02	48.26
Mixed Grains	45.51	44.98	45.06
Flaxseed	52.49	55.28	55.28
Corn for Husking	56.62	56.32	55.20

V.—Value of Field Crops in Canada, 1914 and 1915.

Field crops.	Average price per bush.			Trade value.		
	Quinquennial average			Quinquennial average		
	1914.	1915.	1910-14.	1914.	1915.	1910-14.
Fall Wheat	\$1.05	\$0.90	\$0.81	\$21,818,000	\$32,001,500	\$19,236,000
Spring wheat	1.24	0.83	0.74	174,600,000	280,567,900	128,688,000
All Wheat	1.22	0.83	0.75	196,418,000	312,569,400	147,924,000
Oats	0.48	0.34	0.36	151,811,000	176,894,700	125,072,000
Barley	0.60	0.50	0.50	21,567,000	26,704,700	20,547,000
Rye	0.83	0.79	0.73	1,679,300	1,899,900	1,581,000
Peas	1.46	1.66	1.11	4,895,000	5,730,700	4,633,000
Beans	2.31	3.05	2.00	1,844,300	2,206,800	1,751,000
Buckwheat	0.72	0.75	0.64	6,213,000	5,913,000	5,519,000
Mixed Grains	0.66	0.57	0.58	10,759,400	10,034,700	9,177,000
Flaxseed	1.03	1.50	1.10	7,368,000	15,965,000	14,394,000
Corn for Husking	0.71	0.71	0.63	9,808,000	10,243,000	10,232,000
Potatoes	0.49	0.57	0.49	41,598,000	35,964,000	37,107,000
Turnips, Mangolds, etc.	0.27	0.26	0.25	18,934,000	16,560,000	17,453,000
Hay and Clover	14.23	14.22	11.61	145,999,000	155,807,000	135,867,000
Fodder Corn	4.91	4.96	4.84	15,949,700	16,999,100	13,831,000
Sugar Beets	5.99	5.50	5.86	651,000	775,500	962,000
Alfalfa	14.17	12.98	12.13	3,095,600	3,402,000	2,632,000

I.—Acreage of Field Crops in Canada, 1914 and 1915.

Field crops.	1914. acres.	1915. acres.	Difference		Average of 5 years 1910-14. acres.
			bet'n 1914 & 1915.	P.C.	
Fall Wheat	973,300	1,208,700	124		1,010,000
Spring Wheat	9,320,600	11,777,700	126		9,444,000
All Wheat	10,293,900	12,986,400	126		10,454,000
Oats	10,061,500	11,365,000	113		9,749,000
Barley	1,495,600	1,509,350	101		1,500,000
Rye	111,280	112,300	101		121,000
Peas	205,550	196,210	95		267,000
Beans	43,830	43,310	99		48,000
Buckwheat	354,400	343,800	97		375,000
Mixed grains	463,000	466,800	101		478,000
Flaxseed	1,084,000	806,600	74		1,224,000
Corn for husking	256,000	253,300	99		290,000
Potatoes	475,900	478,600	100		476,000
Turnips, Man- golds, etc.	175,000	172,700	99		189,000
Hay and Clover	7,997,000	7,875,000	98		8,268,000
Fodder corn	317,000	343,400	108		302,000
Sugar beets	12,100	18,000	149		17,000
Alfalfa	90,315	92,685	103		88,000

son and harvesting period a great variety of estimates of total yield, especially of the western crop, are put forth, and it may be of some interest to compare them. The official estimates of the Dominion Government for the three Northwest Provinces were: 275,772,200 bushels (August 31), 304,200,000 bushels (September 30), and 342,948,000 bushels (December 25.) In August the Canadian Pacific Railway estimated the yield at 250,000,000 bushels; the Western Canada Flour Mills placed it at 300,000,000 bushels.

II.—Average Yields Per Acre of Field Crops in Canada, 1914 and 1915.

Field crops.	1914. bush.	1915. bush.	Difference		Average 1910-14. bush.
			bet'n 1914 & 1915.	P.C.	
Fall Wheat	21.41	29.41	137		21.78
Spring Wheat	15.07	28.93	192		18.42
All Wheat	15.67	28.98	185		18.75
Oats	31.12	45.75	147		35.25
Barley	24.21	35.33	145		27.62
Rye	18.12	21.32	117		17.90
Peas	17.64	17.73	100		15.51
Beans	18.20	16.70	92		18.20
Buckwheat	24.34	22.88	94		23.02
Mixed grains	35.36	37.54	104		32.74
Flaxseed	6.62	13.18	199		10.65
Corn for Husking	54.39	56.72	104		55.97
Potatoes	180.02	130.81	73		157.96
Turnips, Man- golds, etc.	394.30	372.21	94		366.04
Hay and Clover	1.28	1.39	107		1.42
Fodder corn	10.25	10.00	97		9.46
Sugar beets	8.98	7.83	87		9.65
Alfalfa	2.42	2.83	117		2.46