ONTARIO FARM CONDITIONS

The following is a summary of recent reports made by Agricultural Representatives to the Ontario Department of Agriculture:—

Seeding has been largely prevented by the frequent rains of the past week or two, and the cool weather has been delaying growth. However, early sown spring wheat and oats are reported to be above ground in some of the Lake Erie counties. Fall wheat so far is practically uninjured, except on badly drained land, and it promises to be a record crop. Clover has not done so well, having suffered more or less from heaving in some localities, although many fine fields are also reported. Alfalfa looks to be in fair condition. All these crops have been much helped by the rains which have recently prevailed.

Orchards have suffered very little from winter injury. Some fruit growers have already started their first spraying for the season, and several representatives predict that orchards will receive more care than usual this year. Prince Edward speaks of an increased acreage of nearly all canning crops, especially of peas, which will also be grown for seed.

Well finished cattle are scarce, and bad roads have also hindered marketing. Prices for good beef animals have ranged from 14 cents to 15 cents a pound. Dairy cattle continue at a premium. Welland states that "Any sort of a cow will bring $100 while good ones are ranging from $200 to $250." Northumberland reports that several choice young cows have gone into the hands of new breeders at $500 each. In Halton a herd of pure-bred but untested Holstein cows sold at a recent sale, brought an average of $320, while calves and yearlings averaged $111.

Milk is in fair quantity for the time of year, and is in good demand. Oxford has been paying $2.90 a hundredweight for milk during April. Butter fat has commanded from 60 cents to 65 cents a pound in some creameries. Two new milk condenseries are being started in Prince Edward county. Horse raisers are now getting better prices for their animals. Dufferin and Victoria reporting some sales as high as $300. Prices for hogs, according to representatives, range from $20.25 to $21 a hundredweight.. Two more live stock shipping clubs have been organized in Wellington, and all are declared to be operating satisfactorily.

Farm labor is reported to be scarce in almost every section of the province. Welland reports prices as running from $30 to $50 with board, for single men, and from $50 to $60 a month for suitable married men. The further return from overseas of farmers' sons is expected to help out the situation.

COBALT ORE SHIPMENTS

The following is a statement of the shipments of ore, in pounds, from Cobalt for the week ended April 18th, 1919:—

Buffalo Mine, 93,365; Cobalt Reduction, 88,000; McKinley-Darragh, 83,950. Total, 265,315.

The total since January 1st is 5,968,607 pounds, or 2,984.3 tons.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY

As was indicated by the chairman at the annual meeting of the British Columbia Electric Railway Co., which was held on April 4th, in London, England, the company had a difficult period during the year ended June 30th, 1918. A full report of the meeting is given elsewhere in this issue. The chairman dealt at some length with the labor difficulties of the year, and also the action of the provincial government in the establishing of a public utilities commission. The company is an English limited company, which was incorporated in 1897, and represents large British investments here. It is, in fact, the largest electric railway system in Canada.

WEEKLY BANK CLEARINGS

The following are the bank clearings for the week ended April 17th compared with the corresponding period last year:—

	Week ended April 17, '19.	Week ended April 18, '18.		Changes.
Montreal	$125,279,524	$ 89,295,123	+	$35,984,401
Toronto	74,910,709	66,580,728	+	8,329,981
Winnipeg	36,791,056	47,947,794	—	11,156,738
Vancouver	11,285,756	9,392,358	+	1,893,398
Ottawa	7,218,039	6,339,462	+	878,577
Calgary	5,589,665	7,013,989	—	1,424,324
Hamilton	5,630,163	5,501,924	+	128,239
Quebec	5,233,325	4,330,335	+	902,990
Edmonton	4,173,184	3,517,745	+	655,439
Halifax	3,783,443	4,903,512	—	1,120,069
London	2,884,728	2,481,765	+	402,963
Regina	3,559,534	3,362,658	+	196,876
St. John	2,769,738	2,075,157	+	694,581
Victoria	2,929,638	1,890,320	+	1,039,318
Saskatoon	1,898,775	1,697,521	+	201,254
Moose Jaw	1,897,965	1,261,124	+	636,841
Brandon	640,758	625,912	+	14,846
Brantford	1,009,626	994,457	+	15,169
Fort William	586,164	553,652	+	32,512
Lethbridge	753,366	825,289	—	71,923
Medicine Hat	388,694	584,219	—	195,525
New Westminster.	523,456	393,669	+	129,787
Peterboro'	777,296	765,765	+	11,531
Sherbrooke	989,304	925,134	+	64,170
Kitchener	790,409	683,373	+	107,036
Windsor	1,289,349	1,276,749	+	12,600
Prince Albert	393,301	242,036	+	151,265
Totals	$303,976,965	$265,461,770	+	$38,515,195

MANITOBA FARM LANDS SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATION

Organization of the Manitoba Farm Lands Settlement Association has been completed. William Pearson, president of the Wm. Pearson Co., was elected chairman and A. Lobb vice-chairman. The following were elected to the executive committee: D. A. Downey, Michael Scott, C. W. Simpson, Walter Johnson, N. T. MacMillan, L. M. Wililamson, Robert Tate, Mathew Rogers, C. H. Webb, A. H. Oakes, H. L. Emert and John Flanders. Chas. H. Webster agreed to act temporarily as secretary-treasurer until the executive committee is in a position to make a permanent appointment. About twenty-five membership applications were filled, and it is hoped to increase the membership rapidly, as all land owners and land dealers are eligible.

MASSEY-HARRIS INDUSTRIAL PLAN

On April 18th the Massey-Harris Co., Ltd., announced three important changes in the relationship between the company and its employees. The first is the establishment of a pension fund, which will be entirely maintained by the company and not by payments on the part of employees. The second is the arrangement whereby employees may purchase shares in the company on favorable terms. This subject was discussed at the annual meeting, held on April 15th, when the directors were authorized to make arrangements whereby employees who have been with them for two years or more and who earn not more than $2,000 per annum may purchase shares.

The third change is the most interesting in view of present economic conditions. A works council is to be established, one-half of the members of which are to be elected by secret ballot by the employees; the others are to be appointed by the company. Foremen are not to be eligible for election. Details will be worked out immediately.