

CROP CONDITIONS.

AUSTRALIA.

Broomhall says: "Cable advices from Australia confirm a decrease in wheat sowings in New South Wales, the government reckoning a reduction of 16½ per cent, but our correspondents think it will be nearer 25 per cent. The latter reduction would mean a loss for that state of 900,000 acres, but on the other hand, the recent crop reports for the other states have been favorable. With such large quantities of wheat remaining on hand a reduction of even 25 per cent. for New South Wales would not be very serious. The coming crop of the whole commonwealth is estimated at 100,000,000 bushels, which would give some 70,000,000 bushels for export. Figuring there were about 196,000,000 bushels of wheat available for export at the start of the season and deducting 30,000,000 bushels for exports to date, leaves 166,000,000 bushels, to which will be added the surplus from the coming crop."

INDIA.

Drouthy portions in India still without rain, and no rain can be expected until mid-water, when cold weather rains are due. Broomhall's correspondent at Kurrache appears to take an unfavorable view of the situation, and says that no further exports are likely except from port stocks. On the other hand, a recent report from Lahore published in Calcutta says rains which had fallen have dissipated the fear of a famine. Crops on irrigated lands looking somewhat refreshed, and those on unirrigated soils have revived. Crops here referred to would be native food grains. The sowing of wheat and oilseed is now taking place.

ARGENTINE.

Weather in Argentine has now turned fine, and cutting operations are being resumed. Recent rainfall was beneficial to crops in the centre and south portion. General agricultural outlook remains excellent. Wheat prices continue to sag, with demand from foreign interests rather light. Offerings have increased moderately. Corn is being depressed by liberal offerings from farmers, although foreign absorption has been of fair proportions. Still, this demand has not been sufficient to sustain prices, and values have declined steadily. Demand for oats shows signs of slackening, but good amounts have been

CANADIAN MEAT TRADE.

After their two days' conference the Canadian live stock men and meat packers submitted certain definite proposals to Sir Thomas White, acting Prime Minister, with a view to strengthening the position of the Canadian industry after the war.

The propositions are embodied in the following five items:

"1.—That a policy of rural credit, sanctioned and supported by Federal Governments, be provided for the farmers of Canada to assist in equalizing markets, improving and increasing herds and flocks, and in the better finishing of meat animals.

"2.—That in view of the demand for agricultural products that exists in France, Belgium and Italy, the Government take steps to establish credits in France for these countries.

"3.—That with the view of establishing commercial connection in Europe, the Government appoint a representative, preferably H. B. Thomson, in the continuation of his present capacity, to obtain the fullest possible recognition for Canadian interests in supplying such products.

"4.—That the Government provide the necessary marketing facilities for the development of a permanent and extensive export trade in chilled beef and other meat and animal products, and that immediate steps be taken to provide adequate controlled temperature space in railway cars at the terminal harbor fronts and on ocean-going vessels.

"5.—That the Government give authority and the necessary financial support to the Department of Agriculture in launching a propoganda, throughout Canada, first, for the maintenance and immediate increase of production in live stock and, second, for a campaign of education for the improvement of the breeds of live stock."

Sir Thomas White, in his reply to the packers, expressed approval of the movement to increase production of every kind, and asked that the plans for the necessary educational propoganda be submitted to the Minister of Agriculture.

purchased at prevailing prices. Liberal quantities are still available at these prices. Wheat in Buenos Ayres closed easy and 1½c. lower; corn weak, 2c. lower, and oats ½c. lower, as compared with previous official closing prices.

MANUFACTURES OF FOOD PRODUCTS IN CANADA.

How marked has been the expansion of Canadian farm production under the stimulus of the war is well known. That the same, or relatively even greater expansion has taken place in the output of manufactured food products has not until recently been appreciated, in the absence of the necessary statistics.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics, however, has just completed its compilation of a complete Census of Industry taken for 1917, and the figures are available for comparison with those of 1915, the last year for which similar data are available.

In 1915, the value of manufactured food products in Canada was \$388,815,362; in 1917, this had risen to \$755,245,185. A list of the more important branches included in the latter total is as follows:

Baking Powder and Flavouring Extracts	\$ 2,193,846
Bread, Biscuits and Confectionery	77,103,656
Butter and Cheese	75,397,751
Chewing Gum	2,092,605
Cocoa and Chocolate	5,270,316
Coffee and Spices	9,840,159
Condensed Milk	8,097,217
Confectioners' Supplies	240,731
Dairy Products	10,327,268
Evaporated Fruits and Vegetables	2,470,344
Fish, preserved	26,826,114
Flour and Grist Mill Products	226,062,410
Foods for stock	873,934
Fruit and Vegetable Canning	16,385,964
Jams and Jellies	2,997,782
Macaroni and Vermicelli	1,006,750
Slaughtering and Meatpacking	153,563,318
Slaughtering (not combined with meatpacking)	53,441,466
Sugar, refined	73,329,260
Tallow, refined	69,550
Vinegar and Pickles	2,947,549
Miscellaneous	4,707,195
Total	\$755,245,185

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