

FIELD CROPS AT END OF AUGUST.

OTTAWA, September 4.

The Census and Statistics Office issued to-day the following special report on the condition of field crops throughout Canada, as compared from telegrams despatched at the end of August.

Atlantic Provinces.—In Prince Edward Island the hay crop was heavier than anticipated. Pests have reduced wheat 20 per cent below average. Other grains are full crop. Potatoes, except for a few blighted areas, should yield above average. Full crop of roots, vegetables and corn. In Nova Scotia all crops made excellent growth. Labour scarce, haying slow, but hay being stored in good condition. Flax ripening nicely, hemp fair growth, considerable rust. In New Brunswick August weather too wet and warm for best crop yields. Wheat and oats below average; potatoes going down with late blight, reducing crop prospects to about 60 per cent. of average yields. Roots promise well. Very heavy hay crop. Pastures good.

Quebec.—Rimouski: Abundant yield of hay; grain and potatoes have fine appearance; plums good; apples small and a month late. Lennoxville: Considerable hay not cut and much grain ripe but in bad shape through excessive rainfall. Cap Rouge: Hay crop heaviest in years, but not yet all in and quality not good owing to frequent rains. All grain much below normal from same cause. Silage corn and potatoes poor; apples only half a crop.

Ontario.—Ottawa: Harvesting is almost completed, and grain crops are giving a very fair yield; potatoes, roots and corn are doing well; pastures are short. Peterborough: Wheat, barley and oats yielding high; grain extra good sample; mangolds, turnips and potatoes doing well; corn, large acreage, and heavy crop; pastures good; apple crop light. Oshawa: Yield of wheat and oats above average. Lodged oats decrease crop and double labor, otherwise a record crop. Barley average crop; root crops good, corn fair. Hyde Park: Wheat yielding 25 bushels per acre; oats in stock, grain light; barley grain small, corn late and may not mature; potatoes and roots good. Large acreage of fall wheat will be sown if possible. Petrolia: Ideal harvest weather; all grain crops harvested except 10 per cent. of oats. Best season for years. Increased acreage being sown to fall wheat.

Manitoba.—Brandon: Dry weather has continued throughout August. Cutting completed, threshing begun. Yield better than was feared, and quality excellent. Franklin: Conditions much improved during month. Wheat will yield very fair, good sample. Oats and barley a little light. No damage by frost. Harrowby: Wheat harvest well along. 15 bushels per acre. Oats and barley 40 per cent. cut for feed, will thresh 25 bushels; potatoes 30 per cent. of average.

Saskatchewan.—Rosthern: Most wheat will grade 1 and 2. Yield 20 to 30 bushels. Scott: Wheat will probably average 16 bushels, barley 30, oats 30 to 45. Sufficient labourers for immediate requirements at \$4 per day. More help wanted for threshing.

Alberta.—The Alberta Department of Agriculture reports that crops have greatly improved on account of general rains, frequent showers and favourable weather conditions. It is now estimated that the yields will be a good average, if not a little better, although the previous dry weather permanently reduced average over a considerable area. With the exception of a number of destructive hailstorms, there has been no damage to crops by frost or otherwise. Harvest operations are now general; in the lighter districts 50 to 75 per cent. of grain has been cut. Threshing will be general latter part of next week. No frost yet; all cereals will grade higher than usual; roots and live stock in excellent condition. Lethbridge: Harvest well advanced in southern Alberta. Yields generally are somewhat lighter than anticipated. Oats and barley rather poor. Serious hailstorms at Hyde Park. No frost recorded. Lacombe: Harvesting in central Alberta further advanced than for any previous season for ten years. Yield of grain below average, but superior in quality.

British Columbia.—Agassiz: August hot and dry. Grain medium crop, no damage from rain in stock; root crops and pastures badly need moisture. Summerland: Apples 10 per cent. more than last year, and of best quality. Grain not well filled. Serious water shortage. Invermere: Good second cuts of alfalfa and clover under irrigation; roots and corn have made good growth. Sidney: All grain harvested in excellent weather. Yield not heavy, forage crops, roots and potatoes will be light; apples and other orchard fruit below average, pastures very short and rain much needed.

GREEN FRUIT TRADE.

The Department of Agriculture at Ottawa has issued the following on transportation:

As the fruit shipping season approaches and with it perhaps unusual difficulties owing to the scarcity of cars and other marketing conditions, you are requested to advise the undersigned of any matters which in your opinion should be undertaken to improve transportation service in your particular locality. Because of the urgent need of marketing all the crop and preventing all possible waste, we are particularly anxious to assist in obtaining the most perfect service possible from the carriers. Therefore, any complaints of unreasonable delay in obtaining cars, delays in transit, etc., which may be referred to the branch will have our prompt attention.

Rail and Water Rates.—Increased Class and Commodity Rail and Water freight rates between Eastern and Western Canada are now effective under General Order No. 197 of the Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada, dated July 10, 1917. Only one exception is mentioned, viz., the rates on sugar to Port Arthur, Fort William and Westport for furtherance. The new tariffs, however, make no change in the rate on apple shipments.

Fifteen Per Cent Case.—The application of the railway companies for an increase of 15 per cent in freight rates is still pending. There has been no order of the board granting a general increase. You will be advised as soon as any decision is given by the board.

Increased Rail Rates.—Advance tariffs covering local apple shipments from Nova Scotia points to coast and Montreal and Quebec; also commodity rates to Western Canada points are now effective. The Montreal and Quebec increase amounts to 4 cents per 100 pounds from nearly all points, and an increase of about the same proportion to points west of Westport. Up to the present there has been no increase in the class rates to Ontario points, which, however, would be effective under any order the Board of Railway Commissioners may issue in connection with the pending application of the Canadian railways for a fifteen per cent increase. A schedule of rates from the principal shipping points in Nova Scotia to the larger market centres will be given in a later circular.

Arrivals at Montreal since last report:—California Bartlett's 1, California mixed fruits 6, Delaware apples (hampers) 1, Ontario barreled apples 1, Ontario mixed basket fruits 3, Duchess apples No. 1, \$4.50 to \$5; No. 2, \$4 to \$4.50; No. 3, \$2.50 to \$3 per barrel. No. 1 Table apples, 50c to 60c per 11-quart basket. No. 1 cooking apples, 35c to 45c per 11-quart basket. Peaches, 11-quart flat, 50c to 60c; Yellow St. Johns, 11-quart flat, 75c to \$1; Leno, \$1 to \$1.25; 6-quart Leno, 70c to 80c. Plums, 6-quart flat, 35c to 45c; imported peaches, \$1 to \$1.25 per box; pears, \$2.50 to \$4; plums, 4-basket crates, \$1.25 to \$1.75; blueberries, New Brunswick, 14c to 15c, and Quebec, 12c to 13c per quart. Lawton berries, 18c to 20c per box; tomatoes, 40c per 11-quart basket. Imported apples, bushel hampers, \$1.50 to \$1.75. Potatoes, Quebec, \$2 to \$2.25 per 80-pound bag; imported, \$4.75 to \$5 per barrel. Onions, Spanish, \$2.50 per large crate.

BRITISH IMPORTS STILL GROWING.

July's greatest gain was in grain and flour.

A large increase in the value of imports of articles of food is the feature of the Board of Trade returns for July. Mainly as a result of this advance, the total imports last month marked a rise of £13,449,987, the value being £90,182,430, compared with £76,732,443 in the corresponding month of last year.

There was also an increase in the value of last month's exports, the total being £49,833,635, against £46,323,057 in July of last year, an advance of £3,510,578.

An important alteration has, however, been made in compiling the returns, which makes a comparison with previous months misleading. The last month's returns for the first time include articles imported and exported in public as well as in private ownership, except exports for the use of our forces abroad. The figures for all previous months, on the other hand, excluded goods, other than foodstuffs, which were the property of the Government or the governments of the Allies.

NEW COMPILATION METHOD.

As the returns no longer give the quantities it is not possible to say exactly to what extent the larger import values indicate actually increased supplies of foodstuffs. The imports of grain and flour last month were valued at £24,462,431, compared with

£9,628,376 in July of last year, an increase of £14,834,055; those of meat, including animals for food, rose from £6,885,370 to £9,385,321, and those of other food and drink from £14,057,762 to £14,731,985. A decline of £1,004,464 was shown under the heading of raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured, and one of £2,946,800 under that of articles wholly or mainly manufactured.

With regard to exports, there was an advance of £4,777,428 in articles wholly or mainly manufactured, the largest increase being one of £3,000,405 in cotton.

The imports for the seven months ending July were £500,403,281, an increase over the corresponding period of 1916 of £39,720,074, and an increase over the corresponding period of 1915 of £85,958,149. The exports for the seven months ending July were £300,981,179, an increase over the corresponding period of 1916 of £12,850,241, and an increase over the corresponding period of 1915 of £82,636,780.

Broomhall cabled: "World's shipments keep fair for this period. Of the total quantity the United Kingdom received a good proportion. Movement in the United States is disappointing, and, therefore, shipments are as large as can be expected. Arrivals are satisfactory and consumption is considerably reduced owing to the substitution of vegetables. Flour exports continue heavy, with the major quantity to the United Kingdom. Oats shipments are light as compared with the previous week."

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