

WHEAT ACREAGE GREATER

Government Estimates the Increase at 14 Per Cent.—
Largest Area Ever Sown Here

Wheat is estimated to occupy this year a total area of 12,896,000 acres, which is more by 1,662,500 acres, or 14.8 per cent., than the area sown for 1914, and more by 2,602,100 acres, or 25 per cent., than the area harvested in 1914, the area sown for last year having been reduced by 939,600 acres, the estimated aggregate of total failures through the winter-killing of fall wheat 211,500 acres, and through drought affecting spring wheat 728,100 acres, according to figures gathered by the census and statistics office. Not only is the wheat area this year, under the double stimulus of patriotic impulse and high prices, 25 per cent. in excess of last year's harvested area, but it is also the largest area ever sown to wheat in Canada. As previously reported the area to be harvested of fall sown wheat is 1,208,700 acres, the balance of 11,687,300 acres having been sown this spring.

Half in Saskatchewan.

Whilst every province shows an increase in the wheat area it is the three northwest provinces which preponderate in the national effort to produce more wheat. The total area sown to wheat in these provinces is 11,659,700 acres, an increase over last year's harvested area of 2,324,300 acres, or 25 per cent. In Manitoba the area is 3,166,900 acres, an increase of 21 per cent.; in Saskatchewan it is 6,642,100 acres, an increase of 24 per cent., and in Alberta it is 1,850,700 acres, an increase of 35 per cent. Rather more than half of the total wheat area of Canada is in the single province of Saskatchewan.

Oats are estimated to occupy a total area in Canada of 11,427,000 acres, an increase over last year's harvested area of 1,365,500 acres, or 13 per cent.; barley 1,518,400 acres, as compared with 1,495,600 acres last year; rye 106,440 acres, against 111,280 acres; peas 189,470 acres, compared with 205,950 acres; mixed grains 453,000 acres, against 463,300 acres; hay and clover 7,788,400 acres, against 7,997,000 acres, and alfalfa 94,480 acres, against 90,385 acres.

Measuring by Indices.

Measured in percentage of a standard of 100 representing a full crop, all the grain crops were reported as showing a high average, the points being as follows: Fall wheat 94, spring wheat 96, oats and barley 92, rye 91, peas 93 and mixed grains 91. Hay and clover with 86, pastures and alfalfa with 87 are not so good, these crops having suffered from cold and frosty nights during May. Converting the points of standard condition for the principal grain crops into a scale of 100, representing the average of the past five years 1910-1914, the result, assuming conditions between now and harvest to be equal to the average, is an anticipated increase in the yield per acre of 15.6 per cent. for fall wheat, 2.6 per cent. for spring wheat, and 2.5 per cent. for rye. For oats and barley the indications are for yields slightly below the average, or to the extent of 1.5 per cent. for oats and 0.7 per cent. for barley.

UTILIZING CANADA'S PAVING MATERIAL

Canada has millions of acres of the finest timber, and the men and the mills to handle it. Many of our woods are not used for certain purposes because they have not been tested for those uses. Sometimes we have actually imported woods when we had better kinds at home but did not know it. To make the best use of our native woods the Dominion Department of the Interior has established in connection with the Forestry Branch a forest products laboratory. This institution is constantly at work testing woods for paper-making, building, furniture, etc. An investigation of the use of wood for block paving has just been completed and the results issued in a pamphlet, entitled "Treated Wood-Block Paving." This gives the latest facts and figures in regard to wood paving in Europe and America and removes many misconceptions. It shows the points to be guarded to secure the best results. All citizens interested in wood block paving may have a copy of this pamphlet sent free to them by writing to the Director of Forestry, Ottawa.

CANNING COMPANIES TO COMBINE?

It is understood that the Dominion Cannery, Limited, the British Canadian Cannery, Limited, and a number of independent companies propose to organize a holding company which will handle the output of all these concerns. The companies will hold shares in the new organization, which will probably have a capitalization of \$1,000,000. The individual companies will also share in profits over and above a stated amount. It is hoped in this way to solve the problem of over-production and under-consumption. Such a holding company will also, it is assumed, regulate to some extent the prices paid to growers.

LOOKING TO THE HARVEST

"A bountiful harvest, such as is now in prospect, will place us on our feet, financially and every other way, and re-awaken agricultural immigration, which will solve our economic problems," was the greeting given to *The Monetary Times* by Mr. F. MacLure Sclanders, Saskatoon's busy commissioner, who, in reply to a query, said: "The Canadian Northern Railway Company receive freight at their Saskatoon sheds up till 5 p.m. Only drays arriving before then will be unloaded. At ten minutes past five just a few days ago there were twenty-two drays awaiting unloading. These were piled up with general merchandise—groceries, fencing wire, woven fencing, implement repairs, implements in astonishing number, paint, etc. The scene recalled the busier aspects of 1912. It was encouraging. It indicated crop confidence on the part of the commercial community; a thawing out of credit because of such crop confidence, and, as it were, a distinct trend toward a more normal condition of things. And the meaning of it all is moisture—ample moisture. In this country drought is the dread. Its visitations are probably fewer and further between than in most countries. Last year's drought was the first actual example of that peril for no fewer than thirty-two years. However, there are many people in this country whose pessimism is continually on the hair-trigger. Their theory is that misfortunes never come singly but in cycles involving several consecutive disasters. Therefore, it cannot be wondered that business people generally restrained their activities until an ample precipitation of moisture should have placed the whole west entirely beyond the only real menace that could threaten our harvest. Now there is stirring and movement in commercial and financial circles which has been a stranger for some time, and which could not possibly be more encouraging."

"The night of June 5th there was quite a frost, which affected the growing crops in certain sections, but the damage is slight. I say this after over three hundred miles of close personal investigation. Two days of sunshine, and one will never know that there has been any frost since last winter."

"It is the wise practice of gardeners to nip back young plants with the object of strengthening the root system, and in addition for the purpose of making the plant bush out. At the worst, this is just what that frost did for our wheat. Probably the cutting time may be put back a day or two; but we are so far ahead that we can more than spare such extra days if we have to do so. Warm weather is now due, and, with all this moisture in the land, in addition to what was sealed in by frost immediately after it fell last fall, the progress of all plant life is likely to be very gratifying from now on. Never have prospects been more favorable at this time than they now are."

The British board of trade report for May shows that imports into the British Isles were £71,604,400 (\$358,022,000), against £59,990,000 (\$299,950,000). Exports were £39,618,000, compared with £42,051,000 last year. The value of exports was the greatest of any month since the war began. The increase in the value of imports was due largely to gains in food, drink and tobacco, amounting to £8,116,000; cotton, £2,737,000. Manufactured iron and steel decreased £279,000. Other metals and their manufactures increased £1,629,000. The largest decreases in exports were £2,220,000 in manufactured cotton, £1,556,000 in machinery, £898,000 in coal and coke, and £842,000 in iron, steel and the manufactures thereof.