

YIELD OF WHEAT SHOWS SLIGHT DECREASE.

An average yield of twelve and a half bushels per acre for spring wheat and sixteen and a half bushels for fall wheat for all Canada is given by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in its preliminary estimate of average yields per acre of the principal grain crops of Canada during 1918. Last year fall wheat averaged twenty-one and a half bushels per acre while for the ten-year period 1908-17 the average was twenty-three bushels. Spring wheat averaged fifteen and a half bushels last year and nineteen bushels for the decennial period.

For other crops the respective averages are in bushels per acre—Oats, 33 as against 33½ and 35½; barley, 25½ as against 23 and 27; flax, 5½ as against 6½ and 10½.

ONTARIO CROPS GOOD.

Canada has responded well to the Greater Production campaign. The farmer has given Famine a striking rebuff. Basic grains have been satisfactory in Ontario and there have been great crops of beans, peas, and vegetables. Wheat returns do not show as good results as anticipated. The fall wheat crop, much of which was destroyed by frost, yield, it is estimated, 6,270,706 bushels, or 7,113,501 bushels less than in 1917. Spring wheat is better, giving 8,209,689 bushels, an increase of 4,611,173 bushels over 1917. On those figures, it would appear that there is a net loss of about 3,500,000 bushels. However, this is offset by the fact that much of the fall wheat, in some sections as much as 75 per cent, was resown with barley, giving a mixed crop. It is known that 619,389 acres were sown to mixed grain, an increase of 103,796 acres over the previous year.

Barley production totals 23,416,798 bushels, 5,000,000 bushels more than in 1917, and 11,000,000 bushels more than in 1916. Oats show amazingly well. The total production is figured at 124,622,893 bushels. This is approximately 13,500,000 bushels more than in 1916. Rye will give about 1,824,616 bushels, or about 400,000 bushels less than last year.

To the total of the basic cereals, one must add the value of 2,397,263 bushels of peas, of 1,460,799 bushels of beans, of the production of 223,662 acres in buckwheat, 15,925 acres in flax, of 576,256 acres in corn, and 284,490 acres in potatoes, turnips and other vegetables.

BANK VIEW OF CROPS.

The Monthly Commercial Letter of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, in its summary of the business in Canada, thus sets out the conditions of crops and agriculture generally:—"It is difficult to arrive at a definite conclusion as to the actual volume of the crop. It is now apparent, however, that it will considerably exceed the estimates formed during the bad weather of July and the early part of August, as is shown by the demand for farm help in practically every part of the Dominion, and by the renewal of orders for general merchandise and for articles that cannot be ranked as necessities which had been cancelled owing to the anticipated failure of the crops. The keenest demand, exists in the wheat districts of the prairies. Considering the weather conditions which have prevailed, the returns are satisfactory in both quality and yield.

The rains materially improved the outlook for fodder and root crops. Manitoba, British Columbia and New Brunswick will all have a large surplus of potatoes. Fodder, corn and roots in Ontario, and pasturage in the southern districts of the western prairies, have recovered substantially from the unfavourable weather conditions during July, and the selling of unfinished stock will thus be checked. At Calgary the volume of cattle marketed at the close of August was three times greater than in the previous year, yet no serious recession in prices took place. Where feed is plentiful the number of livestock being marketed is either normal or, because of increased production, slightly greater than a year ago. When three-year-old steers fresh from the prairie pastures bring \$170 each, as they did in Lloydminster, Sask., late in August, there can be little doubt as to the future of the cattle industry on the prairies. One railway system carried 11,363 cars of cattle in 1917 as compared with 7,245 in 1916, an increase of 57 per cent while the increase in western dairy produce shipped was 15 per cent."

GRAIN MEN UNDER LICENSE.

Grain dealers throughout the Dominion must henceforth have licenses to do business which will be issued to them from the Board of Grain Supervisors. The new Order in Council extends the area to which this is applicable from Winnipeg eastward to the coast. It was already enforced from Winnipeg westward.