

The Crop Situation in Canada

As Deduced From the Government Report, With Statistical Record of Former Years

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A hopeful feature of the crop situation in Canada, as reported on by the Dominion Government, is that, in general, the favourable condition of the field crops at the end of June has been well maintained during July.

Condition on July 31st Compared with June 30th.

The figures expressing the average condition of these crops for the whole of Canada on July 31st are practically identical with those of June 30th, when, although they did not reach the exceptional standard of last year, they were well above 85 per cent. of the normal, a standard of 100 representing a "full crop." In really poor seasons, such as were those of 1910 and 1914, the determination in the condition of the spring sown grain crops owing July was most marked, as will be seen from the following statement, which includes also the two years 1915 and 1916 by way of contrast:

CROPS.	Condition in per cent of standard of 100.							
	June 30		July 31		June 30		July 31	
	1910.	1910.	1914.	1914.	1915.	1915.	1916.	1916.
Fall wheat	85	85	78	71	93	94	80	82
Spring wheat	82	77	86	77	93	93	89	89
All wheat	85	81	84	76	93	93	87	87
Rye	88	85	84	78	94	92	91	87
Barley	87	79	86	77	92	92	88	83
Oats	86	79	87	78	92	93	86	83
Peas	87	81	87	80	93	91	82	75

The figures in the table are for the whole of Canada; but in 1910 the figures for spring wheat in the prairie provinces dropped from 90 on June 30th to 56 (Manitoba and Alberta) and 68 (Saskatchewan) on July 31st, whilst in 1914 figures for the same crop that were between 80 and 90 on June 30th were only 66 to 75 on July 31st.

Effect of Rust in Manitoba.

Cloudiness and extreme heat in the province of Manitoba during July brought on a severe attack of rust in wheat, which reduced the condition of this crop below that of the other two prairie provinces. Correspondents stated, however, that a change of weather would do much to ameliorate conditions, and in any case they were not able to estimate at the end of July the extent of the damage inflicted. Reports are current that the yield of spring wheat in Manitoba will be less than half what it was last year, when the average per acre was nearly 29 bushels; and some even place the yield as low as 11 bushels per acre. Continuous estimates of the average yield of wheat per acre in Manitoba have been recorded by the Dominion Government since 1908, and the average for the five years 1910-14 was 17.82 bushels; the lowest yields of the series were in 1910, 12.35 bushels and 1914, 14.75 bushels. Of the yields per acre for wheat recorded by the Manitoba Provincial Government, whose series goes back to 1883, there is only one below 10 bushels, viz., 8.5 bushels in 1900, the next lowest being 12.4 bushels in 1889. In the opinion of the writer, the reports at the end of July hardly warrants the pessimism that has characterized certain statements already made respecting the damage from rust in Manitoba. Another consideration should help to keep this matter in due perspective the area under wheat in Manitoba is officially estimated this year to be 2,962,400 acres. This is not much more than a quarter of the total area under wheat in Canada, and not one-half of the area under wheat in Saskatchewan where up to the present conditions have on the whole remained favourable, and where rust is not now likely to affect materially the yield. A diminution of, say, five bushels in the average yield for Manitoba would not therefore represent more than about 15 million bushels out of a total of, say, 216 million bushels, assuring the yield per acre for all Canada to be equal to the average. It was noticeable that an increase in the price of wheat followed immediately upon alarming reports of the damage from rust in Manitoba; but the fact probably is that the coincidence was accidental and was not in the nature of cause and effect. Crop reports from all the principal wheat growing countries show a substantial reduction in the area sown to wheat, as compared with the previous year. It is probably this circumstance that is chiefly influencing a rise of price, though doubtless adverse reports of conditions in Canada may be a contributory cause.

Yield of Wheat.

The figures of the Census and Statistics office expressing condition at the end of July point to a yield per acre of wheat about five per cent. in excess of the average of the past eight years, which was 1914 and with 23.26 bushels, the average of the six respect of early frosts, had still to be passed before harvest; it will be safer to avoid estimates of a purely speculative character and await the usual preliminary estimate of the total yield which will be made early in September by the Census office as the result of estimates made by crop correspondents on August 31st.

The Fall Wheat Crop.

We are on somewhat safer ground respecting the fall wheat crop, which has now been harvested. Ac-

ording to the preliminary estimate published by the Census office on August 12th, the average yield of fall wheat per acre this year is 25.76 bushels, as compared with 29.41 bushels, the excellent yield of last year, with 21.41 bushels in the poor season of 1914 and with 23.26 bushels, the average of the six years 1910-1915. Upon an estimated harvested area of 1,042,200 acres for the five fall wheat provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, this represents a total yield of 26,850,000 bushels as compared with 35,551,600 bushels in 1915, 20,837,000 bushels in 1914 and 24,261,000 bushels, the annual average of the six years 1910-1915. So far as the yield of fall wheat may be taken as a rough criterion of the total wheat yield, we may at present assume a result this year rather above the average, but considerably below the bumper crop of 1915, when the acreage under wheat was nearly 1½ million acres more than this year, and the yield acre was the unprecedentedly high one of close on 29 bushels. The reports on the condition of the spring wheat crops on July 31st point to a similar conclusion.

Other Field Crops.

The condition of oats at the end of July was the satisfactory one of 83 per cent. of the standard, this figure being only three points less than it was at the end of June. Compared with the average condition of the crop on July 31st the condition this year indicates a yield per acre, as in the case of wheat, of five per cent. above average. For the six years ended 1915, the average yield per acre of oats was 37.23 bushels, and the average annual total yield was 373 million bushels. As frequently happens, the conditions which make for a good wheat crop do not quite suit corn, and on July 31st this year the condition of the corn crop, both for husking and for fodder, was down respectively to 74 and 79. But against this has to be set the general excellence throughout Canada of the hay and clover crops. The yield per acre, 1.88 ton, and the total yield of 14,941,000 tons are the highest on record for Canada, and, as a rule, the crops were saved in fine condition. Alfalfa produced about 166,000 tons. These yields, combined with a fine growth of pasture, should enable farmers to keep more stock during the next winter, and there will also probably be a fair surplus of hay sold for export at good prices.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY.

An analysis of the annual report of Ford Motor Company for the fiscal year ending July 31, 1916, made public last week shows that the total business done was \$206,867,347.46. The profit for the year was \$59,994,118.01. The total number employed in all plants was 49,870. The total employees getting \$5 a day or more was 36,626, all employees on the eight-hour basis.

AUGUST BANK CLEARINGS.

Total clearings of Canadian banks for August were considerably lower than during recent months, although considerably over the corresponding month last year. The following table gives the clearings of the various cities compared with August last year:

	August 1916.	August 1915.
Montreal	\$298,013,018	\$224,452,501
Winnipeg	194,133,827	66,444,845
Toronto	187,511,224	140,624,050
Vancouver	28,550,714	24,264,715
Ottawa	19,890,475	14,657,981
Calgary	18,713,089	10,433,985
Quebec	16,769,606	13,949,741
Hamilton	15,864,278	13,095,120
Edmonton	10,616,144	7,950,764
Regina	10,509,885	5,775,215
Halifax	9,975,966	8,725,491
St. John	8,463,056	6,638,508
London	8,003,529	7,358,661
Victoria	7,629,000	5,973,244
Saskatoon	5,728,997	3,104,728
Moose Jaw	4,223,031	2,560,706
Lethbridge	2,907,966	1,454,382
Brandon	2,611,038	1,764,198
Fort William	2,547,350	1,512,064
Brantford	2,403,806	1,917,414
Peterboro	2,343,781	1,629,567
Sherbrooke	2,332,347
Berlin	1,991,086
Medicine Hat	1,676,966	727,910
New Westminster	1,392,489	1,029,261
Totals	\$885,571,272	\$538,828,895

CANADIAN BANK CLEARINGS.

The total clearings of Canadian banks for the week ended August 31st amounted to \$174,828,874, an increase over the corresponding week last year of \$47,017,955. The clearings, however, were smaller than for the week previous. The following comparative returns are presented:—

	1916.	1915.	P.C.
Montreal	\$ 54,554,604	\$ 49,393,867	X 10.4
Toronto	43,438,468	32,525,308	X 53.5
Winnipeg	40,132,678	15,944,597	X 151.7
Vancouver	6,815,502	5,564,529	X 17.7
Calgary	4,070,172	2,441,230	X 66.7
Ottawa	3,982,030	3,279,278	X 21.4
Quebec	3,331,991	3,259,340	X 2.2
Hamilton	3,236,516	2,641,214	X 15.1
Regina	2,042,862	1,226,715	X 66.5
Victoria	1,848,070	1,123,925	X 54.3
Halifax	1,754,498	1,646,272	X 6.6
Edmonton	1,690,226	1,779,653	— 5.0
St. John	1,535,385	1,463,886	X 4.8
London	1,452,059	1,660,176	— 12.5
Saskatoon	1,091,820	662,067	X 64.9
Moose Jaw	874,024	706,395	X 23.7
Fort William	643,357	302,861	X 112.7
Lethbridge	569,745	328,548	X 73.4
Brantford	523,193	225,420	X 23.6
Sherbrooke	484,775
Brandon	469,152	383,053	X 8.3
Peterboro	444,559	362,662	X 22.6
Berlin	341,326
Medicine Hat	321,594	150,139	X 114.1
N. Westminster	271,870	248,463	X 9.4
Totals	\$174,828,874	\$127,811,219	X 36.9

(X)—Increase. (—)—Decrease.

NEW INCORPORATIONS.

The following companies obtained Federal incorporation last week: W. J. McAuley, Limited, \$50,000, grain dealers; the National Hay & Grain Company, Limited, \$100,000; William Lee, Ltd., \$200,000 musical instruments, all of Montreal. The Rapid Tool & Machine Co., Ltd., \$40,000, Lachine; Les Allumettes de Drummondville, Limitee, \$100,000, Drummondville, Que; Port Hope Sanitary Manufacturing Co., Limited, \$1,200,000, involving the sale of the Standard Ideal Co., by the Montreal Trust Company; the British Dominion Land Corporation, Ltd., \$1,000,000; the Central Canada Stone Co., Ltd., \$100,000; the Veterinary Specialty Company, Ltd., \$40,000; the Barcale Mfg. Co., Ltd., \$10,000; and the Sterns Tire & Tube Company of Canada, Ltd., \$1,000,000, all of Toronto; the Midland Grain Company, Limited, \$50,000, Winnipeg.

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