

Forecast of Yield of Potatoes 1920, as compared with 1919 and the Average, 1910-19.

Province	Average yield 1910-19.	Yield per acre 1919.	Con- dition August 31, 1920.	Indi- cated yield per acre, 1920.	Area sown 1920. acres	Yield 1919. 000 bush.	Forecast 1920. 000 bush.
Prince Edward Island . . . . .	175.75	125.00	102	179.25	38,800	4,529	6,955
Nova Scotia . . . . .	183.00	161.00	103	188.50	64,000	9,992	12,064
New Brunswick . . . . .	176.25	142.75	99	174.50	78,000	10,790	13,611
Quebec . . . . .	144.75	181.50	106	153.50	319,000	57,280	48,967
Ontario . . . . .	114.75	96.30	107	122.75	154,500	15,145	18,905
Manitoba . . . . .	150.00	126.00	88	132.00	40,900	5,288	5,399
Saskatchewan . . . . .	148.21	170.00	93	137.75	62,800	11,250	8,651
Alberta . . . . .	151.50	179.75	94	142.50	43,000	8,241	6,128
British Columbia . . . . .	204.25	170.00	92	188.00	18,000	3,060	3,384
<b>Canada . . . . .</b>	<b>146.00</b>	<b>153.50</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>151.25</b>	<b>819,000</b>	<b>125,575</b>	<b>124,124</b>

Note—For condition, 100—average yield for ten years 1910-19.

#### Condition of Later Sown Crops.

Finally, we may glance at the report on the condition of the later sown crops as at August 31. Their condition expressed, according to a scale in which 100 is equal to the yield per acre of the preceding ten years, is as follows, the figures for July 31, 1920, and for August 31, 1917, 1918 and 1919, being added for comparison:

Condition of later sown. Field Crops. August 31, 1920, as compared with August 31, 1917, 1918 and 1919 and with July 31, 1920.

	1917	1918	1919	1920	1920
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
Peas . . . . .	101	106	87	102	99
Beans . . . . .	100	106	93	103	99
Buckwheat . . . . .	105	91	95	101	101
Mixed grains....	102	100	87	105	105
Corn for husking.	89	89	89	95	101

Potatoes . . . . .	94	95	91	104	102
Turnips, etc. . . . .	101	95	99	95	98
Fodder Corn . . . . .	96	96	97	98	102
Sugar Beets... . . . .	109	94	83	99	101
Pasture . . . . .	107	87	89	96	95

The statement shows a marked superiority in 1920 over 1919. In six of the crops, the condition on August 31, 1920, indicates an average yield to the extent of from one to 5 per cent, and for three crops that are under the average the amount is no more so than by 1 or 2 per cent. Only in the case of pasture is the condition lower than the average by as much as five per cent.

The yield from hay and clover has been reported as 12,853,900 tons as compared with last year's record total of 16,348,000 tons and of alfalfa (first cutting) as 388,700 tons compared with last year's final total of 494,200 tons.

## New Customs Order Means Big Tariff Reduction

Customs Duties to be Collected on Present Value of European Currencies—  
Means a Cut of 66 per cent to France and of 75 per cent  
on Imports from Italy.

By an order, dated at Ottawa, July 22, but which has just been given general publicity, Customs Collectors in Canada have been instructed to collect duties on imports on the present value of the currency of the exporting countries, instead of, as has been the practice up till now, taking the par or ante-war value of foreign countries for Customs purposes. By the same order the British sovereign is held to be worth \$4.86 2-3.

The effect of this order will be to make a sweeping reduction in the duties on all European goods imported into Canada, except from Britain. One large importer, who has had much experience with Customs regulations, points out that British goods will be barred from the benefits by paragraph 4 which maintains the sovereign at \$4.86 2-3, although at the moment it is worth in Canada less than \$4. But German, Austrian, French, Italian and other foreign countries will receive preferential tariff treatment.

Under the previous order No. 2,323-B the Customs Department collected duty on goods imported, for example, from France, at the par value of a franc, namely 19 cents instead of its real value, namely, about 6 cents. If the tariff were 30 per cent, the duty would amount to 5.7 cents instead of 1.8 cents. A duty of 5.7 cents collected on a real value of 6 cents would be equal to customs tariff of 95 per cent. Similarly on goods from other European countries, the real protection in Canada amounted to enormously more than the nominal tariff. In some cases, if there had been imports, the duty would have amounted to 1,000 per cent. or more.

#### Startling Rates of Duty.

One Toronto firm which purchased linen scarves in Portugal at 29 cents for the escudo, was obliged to pay duty on the former valuation of the escudo, namely, \$1.08, which made the actual duty 183 per cent. By maintaining these European currencies at ante-war values for duty purposes the Customs Department practically prohibited the importation of goods from most of them.

But the new regulation changes all that except in the cases of British goods. On German goods to the value of 100 marks, for example, a duty of 30 per cent. would amount to 46 cents on the exchange basis of 12½ cents a mark, instead of \$7.14 on an assumed basis of 23 cents a mark. On Italian goods to the value of 100 lire a duty of 30 per cent. would amount to \$1.24 on the exchange basis of 4 cents a lira, instead of \$5.70 on an assumed basis of 19 cents. On French goods to the value of 100 francs a duty of 30 per cent. would amount to \$2 on the exchange basis of 6 cents a franc, instead of \$5.17 on an assumed basis of 19 cents. In reality, however, the effect is about 10 per cent. greater all round, for these calculations are based on New York exchange where Canadian funds are at a discount of about 10 per cent.

A student of exchange who points out that the new ruling involves a very large reduction in the revenues hitherto obtained from continental European goods imported into Canada says that, generally speaking, the new regulation will result in a lowering of the tariff on goods imported from France of about two-thirds, and of between

three-quarters and four-fifths on imports from Italy. The department still refuses to collect duties on the exchange value of foreign currency, he says, as measured against the value of the Canadian dollar. What it does is to recognize the very real and in some cases extraordinary difference in value between paper and gold currency in countries where specie is no longer in circulation.

#### Text of the Order.

The order reads as follows:—

MEMO.—NO. 2,410-B.

DEPT. OF CUSTOMS, CANADA.

Ottawa, July 22, 1920.

To Collectors of Customs.

(Superseding Memo. No. 2332-B., dated August 25, 1919.)

#### VALUE OF CURRENCY OF INVOICE.

(Vide Sec. 59 of the Customs Act.)

(1) When the value of any currency has been proclaimed by the Governor-in-Council subject to the provisions of Paragraph 2 hereof collectors of customs are to compute the value for duty according to the rate so ordered and proclaimed from time to time. The fair market value of the goods when sold for home consumption in the principal markets of the country of export, as of the date of export, should always be shown in terms of the standard coins of the currency of the country of export, whether this standard be gold or silver, and regardless of whether transactions in specie actually take place or not. If payments of business of the country have been suspended and the business of the country of export is carried on in a paper currency, the home market value of the goods exported may be shown in terms of the paper currency in relation to the standard coins be also shown. The governing value of the goods for duty purposes is the home market value in the terms of the standard currency of the country of export.

(2) Whenever (a) the value of the currency has not been proclaimed or whenever, (b) though proclaimed, there is no fixed standard value (and it is to be noted that where a currency is based on silver or on any other standard than gold there can be no fixed value in relation to the currency of Canada), there shall be attached to the invoice of the goods imported the certificate of some Consul resident in such place or country showing the true value of the currency in which such invoice is made out at the time when and in the place or country where such certificate is given as compared with the standard dollar of Canada.

(3) Whenever from any cause the value of any such currency, referred to in paragraph 2 above, headings (a) or (b), has become depreciated, there shall be attached to the invoice of the goods imported the certificate of some Consul resident in such place or country, showing the extent of such depreciation, and in such cases wherever the value of the depreciated currency is dependent upon the rate of exchange on London, it shall be optional with the importer, with the consent of the collector, to compute the value for duty at the rate of exchange certified by the bank through which the same is drawn, as current at the time and place when and whence the goods were exported to Canada.

(4) By Section 9 of the Currency Act, 1910, it is provided that the British sovereign shall pass current and be legal tender in Canada for four dollars eight-six and two-thirds of a cent of the currency of Canada.

R. R. Farrow,

Commissioner of Customs.

There is a big demand in Italy for Canadian agricultural machinery, according to the Canadian Trade Commissioner for Italy. A recent estimate of Italian requirements made by the ministry of agriculture includes 30,000 ploughs, 20,000 seeders, 9,000 mowers, and 1,500 threshers.