

AVERAGE CONDITION OF FIELD CROPS.

Official Bulletin Shows Position at End of August—
Estimates of Production.

A bulletin on the field crops of Canada gives their average condition at the end of August, together with estimates of the production of spring wheat, oats and barley at that time. The per cent. condition of wheat is given as 86.80, of oats 84.44 and of barley 84.73, which is about five to seven per cent. higher than last year and nearly the same as two years ago. The other crops range in condition from 80 to 86 per cent. and are generally somewhat lower than in 1909 and 1910. The rains of August hindered the ripening of grain and some injury was caused by hail storms, low temperature and rust. Towards the end of the month frost prevailed in many sections of the Northwest provinces, the full extent of which could not be determined at the date of the reports, but in the case of wheat, oats and barley production was lowered by probably 12 per cent., which has been followed in the table. In the older provinces the grains ripened earlier and little damage was sustained excepting from drouth in some localities, and the reported condition was 75 or over.

Yield of Spring Wheat.

The average yield of spring wheat is estimated at 19.14 bushels per acre for the Dominion, which is seven bushels more than last year, and the total yield at 186,928,000 bushels. The fall wheat was reported last month at 17,706,000 bushels, being grown almost wholly in Ontario and Alberta. The total wheat yield of the country is therefore estimated to be 204,634,000 bushels or 81,849,000 bushels more than last year at the same date. The average per acre is 19.50 bushels, or 6.30 bushels per acre more than last year.

For the Dominion the yield of oats is given as 568,153,000 bushels, which is 84,906,000 bushels more than last year's estimate at the same date, and the average at 35.81 bushels per acre, being more than last year by 7.10 bushels. The average for barley is also higher than last year by 7.31 bushels, and the total yield is estimated at 51,559,000 bushels as against 39,388,000 bushels for last year.

In the Western Provinces.

The estimated yield of spring wheat for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta this year is 181,535,000 bushels, of fall wheat 3,193,000 bushels, of oats 204,758,000 bushels, and of barley 30,205,000 bushels, as compared with 98,808,000 bushels spring wheat, 1,082,000 bushels fall wheat, 92,201,000 bushels oats and 14,723,000 bushels barley in the previous year.

In Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick the estimated yield of spring wheat is 1,453,000 bushels, of oats 16,699,000 bushels, and of barley 437,000 bushels; in Quebec 1,777,000 bushels spring wheat, 44,619,000 bushels oats and 2,389,000 bushels barley; and in Ontario 2,163,000 bushels spring wheat, 14,513,000 bushels fall wheat, 102,077,000 bushels oats and 18,528,000 bushels barley.

Final Estimates Last Year.

The final estimates of last year printed in the December Census Monthly gave the production for the whole country as 16,610,000 bushels fall wheat, 133,379,600 bushels spring wheat, 323,449,000 bushels oats and 45,147,600 bushels barley.

The October number of the Census Monthly will give the statistics of the areas of field crops of the Dominion this year as taken by the census of June 1st.

SOVEREIGN BANK DIRECTORS.

On the application of Mr. D. L. McCarthy, K.C., at Os-
goode Hall, Toronto, this week the directors of the Sovereign Bank, who were found liable for \$178,000 by the Court of Appeal, were granted a stay of any proceedings against them till September 30. The directors who agreed to be bound by the decision of the Court of Appeal are W. K. McNaught, C. B. McNaught, the estate of Randolph Macdonald, George B. Shaw, Thomas Baker, A. E. Dymont, and Simon Dymont. These directors will hold a meeting to decide whether an appeal will be made to a higher court.

The Home Bank of Canada has opened a branch in Weyburn, Sask., with Mr. J. K. Hislop as manager.

The Ontario Railway and Municipal Board has issued orders validating debentures of the town of North Toronto for \$265,500 for sewage purposes.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Vancouver Stock Exchange. Makes Progress—Zinc Industry in Slocan District—System of Reforestation Should be Adopted.

(Staff Correspondence.)

Vancouver,

September 16th.

It was with satisfaction that Mr. J. S. Rankin, speaking at the annual banquet of the Vancouver Stock Exchange, told of its progress since 1907. From June, 1909 to June, 1910, shares changing hands on the Exchange amounted to 1,829,716, valued at \$673,842.64. Last year the number was 9,631,303, the value being \$2,568,704.38. For the first two months of the new financial year the sales have already reached 1,879,929, with a value of \$212,525, which is a big increase compared with the same period of last year. The Exchange has grown in membership, the number being 35 at present, compared with 13 at starting. A further indication of progress and success was the purchase of two lots on which the Exchange will erect its own building, something to be desired now that more room is required. Mr. Rankin did not forget a good word for his predecessors who had done so well, namely, Messrs. C. D. Rand, J. Waghorn, and H. J. Thorne.

Other speakers included Messrs. Ewing Buchan, manager of the Bank of Hamilton; Thos. McCaffrey, manager of the Union Bank; J. H. Campbell, manager of the Molsons Bank; H. D. Burns, manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia, who proposed the health of the Vancouver Stock Exchange; and Messrs. Lambert Bond, F. C. Wade, K.C., G. I. Gwynn, C. D. Rand, and A. E. Austin.

Zinc Industry in Slocan District.

For some years the zinc industry in the Slocan district of British Columbia has travelled through precarious times. The large low grade ore bodies in that district all carry zinc values, and frequently suggestions are made which it is hoped will materialize into something that will enable the owners of mines to profitably work them. A few weeks ago the possibility of a smelter at Medicine Hat was mentioned, men interested in the Lucky Jim mine being connected with the proposition. That something will be ultimately done is indicated by the visit here of a prominent and wealthy manufacturer from Great Britain, who is making enquiries for a zinc property. Evidently he sees the time when there may be a smelter on this side of the line, and if not then the tariff into the United States may be so reduced to permit the shipment of zinc ores to points across the border where they may be profitably treated.

Despite the argument that reciprocity in natural products will lead to annexation of Canada by the United States, the export of one natural product is increasing from British Columbia. Some time ago, the British Columbia Electric Railway Company made arrangements to supply the town of Sumas with electricity, and now it is proposed to export 10,000 electric horse-power to Blaine, Wash. There will be plenty of demand on the lower mainland for electric power, although the water-powers of the Vancouver Power Company and the Western Canada Power Company may be developed to capacity.

Particular attention was paid by the visiting newspapermen from Great Britain, who arrived here a few days ago, to the agricultural industry. The visitors were impressed with what they saw and one remarked that in a few years, once it became generally known what possibilities were in Western Canada, would be found here the best stock of the old land, the best workers who were willing to abandon the fuller life of Great Britain for the freer life of the wide west. Another stated if a system of reforestation was not adopted the lumbering industry might decline, which would lessen the demand for labor in winter, bringing about acute conditions in the cities. He said it would not be improbable that when such a problem presented itself some suitable solution would be forthcoming. The party was welcomed at the Hotel Vancouver by a deputation from the Board of Trade consisting of Messrs. A. G. McCandles, president, William Skene, secretary; W. H. Malkin, John Hendry, E. H. Heaps, C. H. Macaulay, and C. S. Douglas. The visitors were given a motor trip about the city, and were guests at a Canadian Club luncheon.

The pulp mill of the Swanson Bay Forests, Wood, Pulp and Lumber Mills, Limited, at Swanson Bay, has resumed operations after being closed a year. During that time considerable improvements have been made. Much British capital is invested in this plant. The actual cash layout is about a million dollars. American capital is behind the large pulp manufacturing enterprises at Powell River and Ocean Falls, both of which will be in operation shortly.