

Provincial Agricultural Production in 1918

While Volume of Production Only Slightly Exceeds 1917 Value Shows an Increase of 31 per cent.—Gradually Decreasing Ratio of Imports to Provincial Production.

Mr. A. B. Tweddle, statistician of the Department of Agriculture, British Columbia, has presented his report of the agricultural production in the Province for 1918 to the Hon. E. D. Barrow, Minister of Agriculture, which has recently come from the hands of the King's printer. Summarizing production, Mr. Tweddle says:

Owing to the spring of 1918 being later than average and the scarcity of labour, the volume of agricultural production only slightly exceeded that of the previous year, yet prices realized were such as to result in an increase in the total value of 31.28 per cent. over 1917. The outstanding increases occurred in meats, fruits, and fodders.

Total imports of food products during 1918 show an increase of 10.7 per cent. over the previous year, due to high prices.

Whilst figures are not available showing exports, the total value is estimated to have been \$5,000,000, consisting chiefly of fruits and vegetables.

The total production of all fruits in 1918 shows an increase of only 0.7 per cent. over 1917, yet the greatly increased prices realized throughout resulted in a total value 52.99 per cent. greater than 1917, and 331.9 per cent. since 1913. The quantity in the same period shows an increase of 188.5 per cent.

Although the area of potatoes in 1918 was slightly less than the previous year, the total yield was 34.6 per cent. greater, whilst owing to increased prices the total value was 89.2 per cent. greater.

The total area of root-crops was 25.4 per cent., and the total yield 40.2 per cent. greater than in 1917.

A marked increase in the total yield of tomatoes occurred, especially in the Okanagan Valley, and where the average price was \$20 per ton for cannery purposes.

The total area sown to grains as shown by the June census was 11.3 per cent. greater than in 1917. Owing to unfavorable weather, a larger percentage than usual was cut as hay or green feed, thus reducing the area of threshing grains to slightly below 1917. The total yield of all grains was 33.8 per cent. below 1917, yet the high price realized resulted in the total value being only 14.3 per cent. less.

The total area of all fodders was 2.2 per cent. lower than 1917. Unfavorable growing conditions also reduced the average yield of clover and timothy, so that the total yield of all fodders was 4.1 per cent. lower than 1917.

Prices were exceedingly high; clover and timothy averaging \$33 and wild hay \$20 as against \$17.50 and \$15 in 1917. The total value of fodders in 1918 was 69.9 per cent. greater than 1917.

Horses show a decrease in numbers of 19.9 per cent. since 1917, due to large numbers being exported and the increased use of motors in the Province.

Cattle show an increase in total number of 2.5 per cent. over the previous year. Dairy cattle still continue to show an increase in numbers, there being recorded in 1918 4 per cent. more dairy cows than in 1917.

Sheep increased in numbers over 20 per cent. over 1917. Not only were many imported for breeding purposes, but breeders have, as during the previous two or three years, reserved the ewes from the market.

Swine increased in numbers 5.6 per cent. over 1917.

Poultry, owing to the continued high prices of feed-stuffs, show a falling-off in numbers of 26.7 per cent. Notwithstanding, the total value of poultry and eggs during the year shows an increase of 10.8 per cent., due to the high prices prevailing.

The total quantity of meats marketed during the year increased 29.8 per cent., whilst the total value was 77.6 per cent. greater. The chief increase was in beef. The total value of meats imported during the year was 30.9 per cent. greater than in 1917.

The cold, backward spring and subsequent drought in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island sections of the Province had the effect of materially reducing the milk flow amongst dairy herds. There was a marked increase in the quantity of butter manufactured by creameries.

It is interesting to note the increase in the quantity of cheese manufactured during the year, this being 250,674 lb. as against 43,400 lb. in 1917 and 18,000 lb. in 1916. The total value of all dairy products in 1918 increased 13.1 per cent. over 1917.

Total imports of dairy products during the year increased in value 10.8 per cent. over 1917.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, BRITISH COLUMBIA YEARS 1917-18.

	1917.		1918.	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Horses, No.		\$ 2,142,100		\$ 1,651,069
Beef cattle, No.		3,208,652		
Dairy cattle, No.		2,315,173		
				6,532,540
Sheep, No.		438,580		679,365
Swine, No.		527,632		835,905
Total live stock		\$ 8,632,137		\$ 9,698,879
Beef and veal, lb.....	12,870,000	\$ 1,584,000	16,250,000	\$ 2,625,000
Pork and				
Pork prod'ts, lb.	944,000	152,000	1,680,000	450,000
Mutton, lb.	193,800	38,000	255,000	75,000
Total meats.....	14,007,800	\$ 1,774,000	18,185,000	\$ 3,150,000
Poultry, lb.....	3,020,400	\$ 755,100	3,036,772	\$ 971,447
Eggs, doz.....	4,077,540	1,631,016	3,155,691	1,672,516
T'l Poultry pdts		\$ 2,386,116		\$ 2,643,963
Rabbits				\$ 76,051
Butter, lb.....	1,859,474	\$ 812,763	2,260,386	1,114,997
Cheese, lb.....	43,400	13,020	250,674	67,682
Milk (fresh) gals	11,329,420	4,054,210	10,516,354	4,335,363
T'l dairy pdts		\$ 4,879,993		\$ 5,594,093
Apples, lb.....	64,624,000	\$ 1,887,514	57,775,490	\$ 2,415,887
Other tree-fru lb.	16,110,000	551,684	21,407,967	1,172,411
Small fruits, lb.....	3,692,000	445,756	5,846,064	826,862
Total fruits.....	84,426,000	\$ 2,884,954	85,029,521	\$ 4,415,160
Potatoes, tons.....	76,320	\$ 1,755,360	102,690	\$ 3,320,300
Other veget'ls tns	76,810	2,120,192	103,732	3,255,553
T'l vegetables..	153,130	\$ 3,875,552	206,422	\$ 6,575,853
Hay (clover and timothy), tons	361,265	\$ 6,224,447	217,400	\$ 7,228,600
Other fodders, tns	51,873	524,695	178,684	4,235,074
Total fodders....	413,138	\$ 6,749,142	396,084	\$11,463,674
Grains, bu.	4,198,014	\$ 4,783,030	2,778,904	\$ 4,096,686
Honey, lb.....	370,000	74,000	450,000	126,000
Nursery stock.....			300,000	180,000
Wool, lb.....				
Hops, lb.....	269,686	134,842		
Total miscell's		\$ 208,842		\$ 306,000
Indian products....		\$ 1,438,084		\$ 1,500,000
Grand totals.....		\$37,661,850		\$49,444,308