

## CROPS AND MARKETS FOR 1919.

---

HOUSE OF COMMONS, COMMITTEE ROOM 318,  
OTTAWA, THURSDAY, March 27, 1919.

The Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met at 11 a.m., Mr. Henders, Chairman, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: We desire to deal this morning with preliminary matters relating to our programme for the session. If we are going to get results, we should organize this morning a special committee who would be responsible for bringing matters before the general committee at different times. I think, on the whole, our meetings last year were productive of some good. We had a number of very interesting discussions, and a certain amount of study was carried on that I think was of value to the members of the committee and through them perhaps had wider influence on national affairs. I have been casting about a little for some matters that I thought would be of interest to the committee this session and I have put myself in touch with the Minister of Agriculture and the Deputy Minister, who have furnished us with some of the topics that they considered of vital interest affecting agriculture; matters that they were dealing with, and that they would like the committee to discuss and make pronouncement upon. These will be submitted to the committee in due time. The object of calling the committee this morning was to hear an address from the Minister of Agriculture, in which he will deal with some general questions affecting agriculture. As Minister of Agriculture he is perhaps more thoroughly than any one else prepared to discuss market conditions for the handling of our crop for 1919, and will be able to give us some information to circulate among the farmers at this time, which will be of value to them. I take it that it is important that there be some pronouncement made on this question at the earliest possible date. Looking at the conditions as they present themselves to the casual observer, but who is personally interested in the matter, the outlook for a market for our grain for 1919 is not by any means bright. The indications are that a great deal of systematic and business effort will have to be put into the handling of our 1919 crop if we are going to get anything like adequate results out of that crop. We believe the markets of the world are the markets that should regulate the price of our grain, but we know that in endeavouring to reach the markets of the world at the present time we are surrounded by serious handicaps. Canada especially is going to suffer from this handicap, unless prompt action is taken providing for the financing of our crop. It would appear from all that we can gather that the governments of the different countries, where they have produce to sell, will have to be responsible to the allied governments who want to buy, by guaranteeing to the financiers of the allied governments the necessary money for the purchase of the crop. We are aware of the fact that the United States has already taken action along that line. They have given guarantees to the allies who want to buy that they will furnish to them the necessary security for the handling of their crops. Canada will have to do the same if we are going to be in a position in which we will have fair treatment with regard to the getting of our grain into the allied countries for consumption.

There is another important matter that will have to be considered, and that is transportation. I expect that during this year we will experience serious difficulty