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The statistics of agricultural production, presented on another page of this issue, are illuminating and instructive. The increase in production for 1919, when the total was in excess of \$65,000,000, as against slightly under \$50,000,000, the previous year, is due in great part to the remarkable yield of the apple crop in the Okanagan Valley in 1919. Yet the statistics indicate a change for the better in agricultural production generally. High prices have contributed in addition to part of the increase, but there is underneath it all an expansion in the entire agricultural industry which is an excellent sign of the economical development of British Columbia. The causes which will be increasingly evident during the next few years are due to the fact that farming, when properly carried out, will carry with it large profits as compared with the years when prices were low and practically just sufficient for a farmer to get a good living.

It does not appear in the immediate future that prices of foods will take a pronounced decline. The United States is faced with a short winter wheat crop and the Canadian season is retarded by reason of a late winter, and it only remains possible for a large spring wheat crop in the United States and remarkable yields of the Canadian crop for the North American continent to get an average total yield. Other crops, it is hoped, will not be so adversely affected, but they will respond to the prices as established for wheat. In the production of all kinds of food there is every indication of a permanent and sustained demand and prices will likely remain high for this year's crops at least. There is, therefore, every inducement for farmers in British Columbia to put as much acreage under the plow as possible and to raise all kinds of food products and develop their poultry and live stock businesses.

There is also some evidence that the efforts of the Dominion and Provincial Governments for land settlement for soldiers is yielding some results. There have been a vast number of changes in ownership and several large tracts of land are being broken up into small holdings with still other sections being brought into agriculture by the Government for the benefit of soldier settlement. While it cannot be expected that all those returned soldiers engaging in this line will be successful, there will nevertheless be a modicum making it stick with resulting success.

The agricultural possibilities of British Columbia are not boundless as they are in the Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, but they are capable of a great development, and notwithstanding any future growth in population in British Columbia, the Province should certainly be able in total to feed itself adequately. This is

The services of this journal are offered through an inquiry column, which is open to subscribers and the public generally without charge, for detailed information or opinion as to financial or industrial affairs or institutions throughout the Province of British Columbia. Wherever possible the replies to these inquiries will be made through this column. Where inquiries are not of general interest, they will be handled by letter. We think that we can assure our readers that the opinions expressed will be reliable and conservative, and that all statements will be as accurate as possible.

true not only for agriculture itself but for the live stock industry as well.

It is interesting to note also that the importation of food products remain practically constant in the face of increasing prices throughout the year. This would indicate that in quantity our importations have decreased considerably and if there is anything in the present tendencies, will continue to decrease as the years go by, except for citrous fruits and early vegetables, for the growth of which the Province is not suited.

From a survey of the lumber production for the Province last year, which is presented in this issue, considerable progress has been made in the matter of shingle production and in the increase of newsprint and wood pulp. It is interesting to note here that, while the scale of lumber has remained practically stationary as compared with 1918, the value of the production has increased greatly. The increases of the year 1919 in the lumber trade continued during the first months of the year, and since that time has shown a tendency to lag with considerable cut in prices recently announced by the shingle and lumberman's associations.

As a result of these cuts in prices of lumber products, the situation becomes more mixed and involved, and the outlook is not at all clear. There can be little doubt that the sharp upturn which the winter witnessed in prices has had an adverse effect on demand, making it in the opinion of consumers, practically prohibitive for engaging in building operations of any general character, which is so much needed in the United States and Canada. With the rise in prices of lumber, logs and wages, have advanced, and with the subsequent decrease in price the profit in lumber manufacturing has been severely cut. Just what the result will be it is difficult to say. If the demand springs up with the cut in prices, then it may be possible to continue on heavy production, but some adjustment in the price of logs and in wages paid must be made. The logger complains that he cannot make a serious cut in price of logs unless he has some compensation in the way of reduced wages, and those engaged in the lumber camps are in no mood for considering any reduction in wages. In fact it is generally anticipated that considerable efforts will be made among logging employees to tie up the industry for increased wages and even more improved condition of working. The lumber industry is therefore faced with uncertainty as to prices, both for his logs and the finished product, and at the same time he is faced with labor conditions which may possibly cause a shut down of serious proportions. It is barely possible that the industry may be able to escape any severe restriction in its activities for the remainder of the year, but in order for the manufacturers to make a reasonable profit it will require careful steering and efficient operation.