

Second Crop Report for 1917

(Concluded from page 5).

state that while it would be welcome, crops not suffering.

Wheat on hand—The amount of wheat in farmers' hands in Manitoba is very small. 30 points report none, while the largest amount reported at any point is 20,000 bushels. The comment was frequently added, "prices have been too good for wheat to be kept."

SASKATCHEWAN.

Conditions in Saskatchewan are slightly better than in Manitoba in point of moisture, but worse in regard to frost damage. 107 points queried and 84 heard from.

Height—The height of wheat seems to be very irregular and a number of correspondents report that late sown is very little above ground and nearly all say that original height has been cut down by frost. Like Manitoba, the stooling seems to have been good, 40 points reporting it "well stoolled"; 14 say "fair," while a number say "not yet" started to stool. This applies to later crops seeded on stubble.

Oats—The increases in oats acreage are general and run from 4 to 33% and would indicate a gain of 15%. This on the census acreage would be 529,414, or a total acreage of 4,058,846.

Barley—Barley percentages are very erratic, 26 points report no change; 42 points report increases running from 1 to 200%, and a few points report decreases running from 10 to 60%. There is undoubtedly an increase of at least 15%, possibly 20%. The latter figure would give a total barley acreage of 428,878.

Flax—The flax acreage is not as much increased as was expected. From 27 points increases of 5 to 200% are given. The big increases of percentage are points where the acreages were small before. A number of points reporting increased acreages add the rider that it has been frozen and some will have to be reseeded. It is difficult to figure out, but there must be at least a 10% increase, possibly more. This would give an acreage of 571,739 on the basis of last year's census figures. There is still flax to be seeded on breaking, but which is being held back on account of the dryness.

Frost—19 points report "considerable" damage; 20 report "slight" damage, and 10 report frost damage but do not say how bad; while 14 report no damage. These reports generally add that the main damage is the delay, though there is considerable reseeding of oats, barley and flax.

Rain—Saskatchewan wants rain, 35 points want rain "very badly," 9 points want it "badly," 22 points say, "wanted," and only 3 points state that no rain needed.

Wheat on hand—There is a great deal more wheat in Saskatchewan than in Manitoba, but unfortunately a number of the correspondents give percentage of crops still on hand without any estimate of what the crop was; 20 points give amount from 3,000 to 500,000 bushels.

ALBERTA.

There were 22 points heard from in Alberta and conditions there are decidedly ahead of both the other provinces. Wheat is up an average of 4 to 5 inches. It is generally well stoolled. Only two points reported rain badly needed, 12 points do not want rain and the others could do with some but need is not pressing.

Oats—The reports indicate a 20% increase in acreage, which based on last census figures would give a total of 2,436,612. There seems to be little or no increase in barley acreage. The acreage last year was 321,482. Flax acreages very small and apparently no increase. It was 94,333 last year.

Wheat on hand—Nine points report 600,000 bushels and only one point reports none to come forward. General conditions in Alberta seem very fair, but heat is urgently needed to make progress. There is no doubt that 24 hours' soaking rain, followed by a week of warm weather would put an entirely different complexion on the reports, but at present they have to be given as they come.

It is well to lay to heart the statement of one of the most experienced farmers in the west who said yesterday, "I have farmed for 35 years and I never knew a crop irreparably damaged by the 4th of June."

CROP CONDITIONS IN EASTERN STATES IMPROVED.

Reviewing conditions throughout the United States during the past week the Weather Bureau, in a report issued June 6th, said:

In the Atlantic States vegetation made good advancement and in most of the cotton region except where drouth prevented growth in the most southern portions; although in much of the Far West conditions were fairly favorable. North of the Ohio River and in Central and most Northern districts between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains the cool and wet weather was unfavorable for crop advancement.

Close to the northern border in some parts of the spring wheat region it was cool and far too dry.

In the larger part of the corn belt and in the southern part of the spring wheat region the wet and cool weather hampered farm work, stopped cutting alfalfa where that had begun, and hindered planting where that work is not finished. In the Atlantic Coast States and the Gulf States, and as far north as the Ohio River conditions were mostly favorable for farm work, but the transplanting of sweet potatoes was retarded in a few sections by dryness. In the Far West little progress was made in Montana, and farm work was somewhat hampered in Wyoming and Idaho, but in other Western States conditions were generally favorable.

Reports indicate an improvement in the condition of cotton over most of the cotton region and in Georgia and Arkansas the condition is now rather good, but still the crop is backward and making but slow growth in most sections. Complaints of poor and irregular stand were received from the Carolinas and Louisiana and of small plants from South Carolina and Mississippi. Rain is needed on stiff soil of North Carolina for germination, but an improved condition is indicated on the sandy loam soil of that State. Cotton was injured by drouth in Louisiana and warm weather is needed in Tennessee. Replanting was progressing in South Carolina and Texas. Some is in bloom in Florida, while boll weevil was reported active in several counties of that State. Lice have injured cotton to some extent in Texas. Chopping is under way in Arkansas, Oklahoma and the Gulf States.

WHEAT DOING WELL.

Winter wheat has made excellent growth throughout the principal wheat growing area. It is heading as far north as Central Indiana and Illinois and is blooming in southern Missouri. Harvesting continues in the Gulf States and has begun in Southern Oklahoma and Central South Carolina. Winter wheat made good growth in Oregon and was improved in Washington, but is needing more sunshine in that section.

Spring wheat continues to make further favorable growth as a rule, except in North Dakota, where it has suffered from dry weather. Some wheat land in that State has been plowed up for flax.

The weather of the week was on the whole not favorable for good progress of the corn crop. The temperature was below normal in most of the corn area and heavy rain fell over large parts, especially where the preceding weeks have been rainy. Replanting was necessary in some sections and in the western part of the Lake region germination was poor, some seed rotting in the ground. In Iowa and South Dakota damage by cut worms is reported and in Illinois the fields are becoming weedy. In the Southern part of the country the corn crop is growing well in most sections, but needs rain in a few; some corn is now tasseling in Texas and Louisiana. Planting is nearing completion in the Northern part of the country, though the work was somewhat hindered by wet weather. In spite of the rather unfavorable conditions in the chief corn producing States, resulting in slow growth, the crop as a whole is in good shape to make fine growth under more favorable conditions.

Spring oats have made good growth in practically all of the Northern half of the country, except that germination was poor in North Dakota due to dry weather. Harvesting of winter oats is active in the Gulf States and eastward to South Carolina, but with poor yield in the main.

Bostonian (to farmer): "Is it correct to say a hen 'sits' or 'sets'?"

Farmer: "I don't care whether she 'sets' or 'sits.' What I want to know is when she cackles does she 'lay' or does she 'lie'?"

BRITAIN'S 1916 CROP ESTIMATES.

From the official British agricultural statistics for 1916, containing the returns of produce of crops in England and Wales, it appears that the total production of wheat in 1916 was 6,835,408 quarters, or 1,630,000 quarters less than in 1915 but only 100,000 less than the average of the ten years preceding the war. The reduction in the total crop, as compared with the previous year, was due mainly to the smaller area, but the yield per acre was also less.

The total production of barley was 5,180,926 quarters, or 650,000 quarters more than the very low production of 1915. The yield per acre, although greater than in 1915, was under the average.

There was little change as compared with 1915 in the production of oats, the total crop being 10,410,393 quarters, as compared with 10,386,907 in the previous year. The total production was also slightly larger than the average of the last ten years before the war. The yield per acre was slightly more than in 1915 but was below the average.

BEANS UNDER AVERAGE.

Beans were the only corn crop which gave over an average yield in 1916, but the total production, owing to a reduced area under the crop was only 362,377 quarters or 180,000 quarters less than the average.

The total production of peas, 260,105 quarters, was the smallest recorded since 1884 and was little more than half the average of the ten years preceding the war. The yield per acre was also under the average.

The amount of wheat straw produced is estimated at 2,206,000 tons, as compared with 2,491,000 tons in 1915; barley straw amounted to 1,147,000 tons, against 961,000 tons; and oat straw to 2,088,000 tons, compared with 1,969,000 tons in 1915.

The total production of potatoes was 2,504,516 tons, 350,000 tons less than in 1915; but only 170,000 tons below the average of the ten years before the war.

The yield per acre of turnips and swedes, 13.98 tons, was 1 1-5 tons heavier than in 1915, and four-fifths of a ton above the average of the ten years preceding the war. The total production was 12,985,388 tons, or 1,180,000 tons more than last year.

The total production of mangolds was 7,337,678 tons, 500,000 tons less than last year, owing to a reduced area under the crop. The yield per acre was one-fifth of a ton above the average of the last ten years, and a half a ton heavier than in 1915.

The spring of 1916 was favorable for the growth of grass and good yields of hay were obtained. The total crop was 8,837,590 tons, 2,250,000 tons greater than in 1915 and 822,000 tons above the average of the ten years before the war. The total production of hay from clover, sainfoin and grass under rotation was 2,898,804 tons, or 610,000 tons more than in 1915, and the heaviest crop since 1907. The yield per acre, 22.89 cwt., was the highest recorded since 1895, and was over 3 cwt. per acre heavier than in 1915 and nearly 4 cwt. per acre above the average. The yield per acre of meadow hay was relatively not so heavy as that from clover and rotation grasses. The total production, 5,938,786 tons, was 1,640,000 tons greater than in 1915, while the yield per acre, 24.61 cwt., was more than 6 cwt. heavier than the previous year and one and two-thirds cwt. above the average.

NO ACCIDENTS.

"This seems to be a very dangerous precipice," remarked the tourist. "I wonder that they have not put up a warning-board!" "Yes," answered the guide, as quoted by Harper's, "it is dangerous. They kept a warning-board up for two years, but no one fell over, so it was taken down."

TO UTILIZE WASTE.

The United States Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, is trying by many experiments to find ways to cut the price of paper, and thus give material aid to publishers. The increasing cost of pulpwood has focalized attention upon the possibility of utilizing sawmill waste for the manufacture of chips suitable for pulp. An exhaustive study has been completed showing the extent to which mill waste is now used in making pulp as well as methods of barking, chipping, screening, drying, and baling chips.