

Conditions in the West

By E. CORA HIND.

The following is the substance of the fifteenth annual crop estimate issued by the writer for the Manitoba Free Press, and as intimated last week, it is rather a more cheerful document than was looked for a month ago:

The figures for the three provinces are:

Wheat	149,844,000
Oats	183,045,000
Barley	41,957,000
Rye	1,724,000
Flax	5,056,300

Divided as to provinces the returns show:

MANITOBA.

	Acres seeded.	Average yield.	Total.
Wheat	2,616,000	18	47,124,000
Oats	1,500,000	40	60,000,000
Barley	715,000	35	25,025,000
Rye	50,000	15	750,000
Flax	16,300	7	114,000

The average of 18 bushels for wheat is regarded as safely conservative in view of the enormous areas in the north that have up to the present writing escaped all damage from frost, and where the average yield is likely to be 30 bushels. The yield would have been still higher had it not been for some damage occasioned by black rust in the south and southwest. The plague came late and has done comparatively little damage, but it has done some. Manitoba has a wonderful barley crop and the estimate of 35 bushels is probably too low, and certainly the government figures of acreage are too small. The difference is due to large areas of barley that were seeded on land that had been partially prepared for summerfallow after the original estimate of acreage had been made. The acreage of flax is also absurdly small. There were over 6,000 acres seeded to fibre flax alone to say nothing of the ordinary milling flax, but as they are government figures they have been used as the nearest guide obtainable.

VALUE.

A rough estimate of the value of the crop is:

Wheat at	\$2.05	\$96,604,200
Oats (will be mainly for seed)	1.00	60,000,000
Barley at	1.00	25,025,000
Rye at	1.68	1,260,000
Flax at	4.00	456,000

Or a total for the five cereal crops, \$183,345,600

This takes no account of the 10,000,000 bushels of potatoes, the wonderful hay crops, the roots, the sales of livestock and the tremendous returns from dairying, that will equal another hundred million at least. It looks as if Manitoba would be able to indulge liberally in victory bonds next month.

There have been many disappointments; the crop has been expensive to produce, the harvest weather has been the coldest and wettest since 1899, but in spite of all these drawbacks, Manitoba has a good paying crop and fully 80 per cent of it is to-day beyond damage from frost, though not from continued wet weather.

SASKATCHEWAN.

Saskatchewan has been hard in many districts, first by drought and last by frost in July, but in view of the present prices, Saskatchewan has, as a whole, a paying crop.

	Acres seeded.	Average yield.	Total.
Wheat	3,222,000	10	32,220,000
Oats	4,602,000	25	115,050,000
Barley	663,500	22	14,597,000
Rye	70,000	12	840,000
Flax	753,700	6	4,522,200

VALUE.

The value of this crop based on present prices is roughly:

Wheat at	\$2.00	\$184,440,000
Oats at	.80	92,040,000
Barley at	1.00	14,597,000
Rye at	1.68	1,411,200
Flax	4.00	18,088,800

Or a total for cereals, \$310,577,000

In common with Manitoba, Saskatchewan has heavy returns from livestock and dairying though not from hay.

ALBERTA.

The freak season has hit sunny Alberta harder than either of her sisters. Extreme drought in the south and heavy July frost in the north have taken

desperate toll of the crops, but even here there is not a total failure.

Wonderful recovery has been made in some of the districts of the south, since the rains came and the returns from the irrigation belts will be very large, and to some extent offset the lack on the dry lands.

The frosted districts in the north have made considerable recovery and it now seems pretty well assured that Alberta will have: Wheat, 10,500,000 bushels; oats, 10,600,000; barley, 2,335,000; rye, 134,000, and flax, 420,000 or a cash value at present prices of \$33,768,120.

Very inadequate returns for the areas seeded and the outlay for the same, but a very long way better than nothing.

I do not claim for these estimates that they are likely to be as accurate as usual, the season has been so extraordinary and the crop is so spotted that the threshing machine and the inspectors offices will be the only absolute source of knowledge, but the feeling is strong that the estimates if anything err on the side of caution.

The past few days and nights have been very cold and there is much late crop, but the degrees of frost reported from many districts where crop is late are not sufficient to materially lessen the yield though undoubtedly some toll will be taken of the grade. The province in most danger is Saskatchewan and the crop that will be likely to suffer as to yield will be the late oats of which there are many fields. The chief matter of regret in the present crop is the small amount that will be available for overseas. At

least 25,000,000 bushels must be retained for seed, but if Canadians were patriotic enough to deny themselves and reduce their bread ration to 4 bushels per capita, as might easily be done, there would be over 90,000,000 for export.

Since the publication of this estimate, the Alberta government has got out a much more optimistic one on the crop, placing their wheat at 5 bushels to the acre, and their barley at 12 bushels, and it is to be sincerely hoped that this latter estimate is correct. I find it difficult to realize that it can be so, however, the crops of the whole country this year are so spotted that it is almost impossible to estimate correctly, and the officials of the Department of Agriculture have possibly covered more territory than anybody else, as they have been actively engaged in securing supplies of feed and moving cattle to and fro.

LIVESTOCK.

The livestock situation, so far as cattle and sheep are concerned, is fairly satisfactory. The movement of young female cattle back to the land has been very large, over 2,500 head have been sent back from the Winnipeg yards alone, and very large numbers from both Edmonton and Calgary. The northern parts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba especially, are taking a very largely increased number of both breeding and feeding stock. All of the provinces are holding sheep and swine sales next month, and the indications are that the demand for sheep will be excellent. There is some apprehension at the present time with regard to the supply of coarse grains for finishing hogs, and also as to what the market will be for the largely increased number of hogs that has been produced, and inquiries are beginning to be made as to what provision the Dominion Government is making to facilitate the marketing.

Mentioned in Despatches

MR. GEORGE CAHOON, Jr., who presided at the annual meeting of the Laurentide Co. a few days ago, is one of the best known paper men in the Dominion. Mr. Cahoon is an American by birth, and comes by his knowledge of the paper business naturally, his father being a prominent paper maker south of the Line. Mr. Cahoon has been identified with the Laurentide Co. for more than a score of years, and has seen it grow from a somewhat small corporation, to its present proportions. Much of the success attained by the company is due to his untiring efforts.

GENERAL RAWLINSON.—The latest fighting in which the British have been taking part recalls names that were on everyone's tongue two years ago, when the first battle of the Somme took place. Men like Rawlinson and Byng in command of two of the British armies at the present time are well known warriors. General Rawlinson was in command of the British army on the Somme in 1916, and made a big name for himself. To-day he is in command of the Fourth Army, which is fighting over the old ground. He is a tried old warrior, having seen service in India, Burma, the Sudan and South Africa. He went out to France with the first expeditionary force and commanded the Fourth Army in the retreat from Mons. General Rawlinson is one of the best commanders the British have.

LORD SOUTHBOROUGH has been elected a director of the Grand Trunk Railway Company, succeeding the late Col. Frederick Firebrace. Lord Southborough has been a prominent figure in public life for many years, is an acknowledged authority on railroad problems and is widely known in Canada and the United States. The new director, who was recently elevated to the peerage in recognition of his services to the Empire, is better known as Sir Francis Hopwood. He began his public career in the Board of Trade, was Secretary to the Railway Department, and became permanent Secretary to the Board of Trade, relinquishing that post to become Under Secretary for State for Colonies. He was employed on several occasions by the Imperial Government on missions to Canada, Newfoundland and the United States, and founded the Hospital and Medical Service for the Canadian and Newfoundland fishermen. He was chosen as the British delegate to the International Railway Congresses in London and in Paris, and was a member of the Royal Commissions on London Traffic, on Shipping Rings, on Canals and on Electoral Reform, and a member of the Commission to South Africa to advise on the constitution for the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies.

SIR HERBERT PLUMER, another British general in command of the Second Army, holds the Ypres salient. Plumer, who is a grim old fighter of the old school, saw service in the Sudan and in South Africa. He has had a difficult part of the country to fight over, but has held on in spite of overwhelming odds.

MR. MATTHEW WILSON, of Chatham, Ont., a former President of the Canadian Bar Association, was a prominent figure at the annual convention held here a few days ago. Mr. Wilson is not only prominent in legal matters, but is a director of a large number of corporations, and at the same time takes a keen interest in the religious work of the Church of England.

SIR JULIEN BYNG, in command of another British army, is well known to Canadians, through having commanded the Canadian corp in the early days of the war. He is generally regarded as a Kitchener man, being a protegee of that famous fighter. Byng saw service in Egypt and South Africa, and has been in the thick of the fighting during the present war, serving first in France and Flanders and then going to Gallipoli, when things went badly out there. Byng was in command of the British forces that made the surprise advance with the tanks at Cambrai, a year ago.

SIR JAMES AIKINS, familiarly known as "Jam" Aikins, presided at the annual convention of the Canadian Bar Association, held in Montreal last week. Sir James is a prominent figure in the political and judicial life of Manitoba. He was born in Ontario in 1855, and educated at the University of Toronto. After graduation he went to Winnipeg, where he took up the practice of law. He represented Winnipeg in the Federal House, and later was made Lieut.-Governor of the Province. He is also keenly interested in prohibition, and is a generous contributor to religious and philanthropic movements.

MAJOR NEIL McDONALD, better known as "Foghorn" McDonald, who was arrested a few days ago for wearing the uniform of an officer while not on duty, and without permission, is one of the most famous Canadians in the expeditionary force. "Foghorn" is known from end to end of the continent as a mining engineer and was engaged in mining operations in the far north when war broke out. He enlisted as a private, but won promotion, returned from the front on leave, and later was discharged. "Foghorn" has hosts of friends, who trust that the present little misunderstanding with the Government will be satisfactorily cleared up.