

The Washington administration will probably address a severe note to Berlin, forbidding in the name of international law such incidents as the "Lusitania" murder. Germany in reply will send a smug note and laugh up his sleeve. Germany can tell the United States, without the loss of prestige or anything else, to mind its own business. President Wilson is helpless. He can only talk. But, like others who may not punch with a smashing fist blow, he may speak out like a man regarding Germany's crimes. He may forget the German-American vote, even if the German-American vote sees to it later that he loses his job. He would at least go down in history as the president who knew how to be legitimately neutral and how to speak his mind, and that of real Americans, when crime shows in high places. The Bryce report on German atrocities has probably been heard of at the White House.

### LOOKING TO THE CROPS

Upon good crops this year, depend largely the strength of the Canadian business situation next fall and in the year to come. There has been a heavy increase in the area cultivated. If sunshine and rain play no more than their allotted parts, and smut, hail, rust, frost and the others of the tribe make themselves scarce, a great harvest will be gathered.

According to the advices of the census and statistics office, Ottawa, to *The Monetary Times*, it is as yet too soon to report on the maritime provinces, but excellent progress in the seeding of spring grains is reported from all the other six provinces. The spring is early, and as a general rule the conditions for seeding have been most favorable. About double the amount of seeding was accomplished this year on April 30 than was completed on May 6 in 1914. Of spring wheat, 55 per cent. of the total was finished in Quebec as against 5 per cent. last year; in Ontario, 73 per cent. against 24 per cent.; in the three western provinces, 93 per cent. was completed in Manitoba, 94 per cent. in Saskatchewan and 91 per cent. in Alberta, these proportions being higher than in any year since 1910. In British Columbia the percentage is 89. For all six provinces the proportion of seeding reported as effected on April 30 was 84 per cent. for wheat, 45 per cent. for oats, 38 per cent. for barley and 63 per cent. for all crops. These statistics look good. Sir Edmund Walker told *The Monetary Times* last week that, given a good crop and the anticipated high prices this year, Western Canada will be in the best position of its history. What helps the West, helps the rest.

### LIVE STOCK

Last week the president of the Imperial board of trade announced in the house of commons that the British government had requisitioned the entire supplies of meat from Australia and New Zealand. The supplies that were not needed for the army, Mr. Runciman added, would be marketed for the benefit of the civil population in order to prevent such increase in price as would arise from a shortage of supplies.

This announcement again recalls the fact that Great Britain, the European continent generally, and the United States are becoming more dependent upon outside sources of supply for meats. That is the case when conditions are normal and is much more so in these abnormal times.

Canada's position as a source of supply is interesting although far from satisfactory.

The value of live stock in Canada, according to the census statistics issued in 1901 and 1911, shows an increase, as the following figures indicate:—

	1901.	1911.	Increase.
Horses .....	\$118,279,419	\$381,915,505	\$263,636,086
Milch cows ....	69,237,970	109,575,526	40,337,556
Other horned cattle .....	54,197,341	86,278,490	32,081,149
Sheep .....	10,490,594	10,701,691	211,097
Swine .....	16,445,702	26,986,621	10,540,919

Last year values of farm live stock in Canada were well maintained so far as comparison with the three years ended 1910 is concerned. But during 1914 there was a substantial reduction in the value both of horses and of swine. It is a cause of general complaint that the demand for horses other than for military purposes has fallen off, and that prices are less by from 25 to 40 or 50 per cent. than they were in 1913.

Owing to the high price of grain the keeping of swine in the west is said to be no longer a paying proposition. Hogs have been sold for what they will fetch—frequently for as little as 3½ cents per pound—and many have been marketed in an unfinished condition. On the other hand, the prices of cattle have been well maintained and the average values for dairy cows and for other horned cattle were in 1914 considerably above those of 1910. The averages per head for all Canada come to \$127 for horses, \$57 for milch cows, \$42 for other cattle, \$7 for sheep and \$12 for swine.

The following is believed by the census office to be a rough approximation of the total value of Canadian farm live stock in 1914: Horses, \$371,430,000; cattle, \$297,131,000; sheep, \$14,551,000, and swine, \$42,418,000, or an aggregate of \$725,530,000 for all descriptions.

Taking the latest statistics of cattle we have the following figures:—

	Cattle	
	1914.	1913.
Great Britain .....	12,184,505	11,936,600
United States .....	56,592,000	56,527,000
Canada .....	6,036,817	6,831,800
Australia .....	11,497,943	11,671,707
New Zealand (1911) .....	2,020,171	
Argentina .....	29,220,000	28,766,168
	Sheep	
	1914.	1913.
Great Britain .....	27,963,977	27,629,206
United States .....	49,717,000	51,482,000
Canada .....	2,058,045	2,141,000
Australia .....	85,049,697	83,231,315
New Zealand .....	24,798,763	24,191,810
Argentina .....	80,000,000	80,401,486

The decrease in Canada was 12 per cent. and partly due to the United States demand under the free tariff. In both the United States and the Argentine, there was a decrease in sheep. Canada is tempted by the tariff and prevailing market conditions, to send her cattle supplies to the United States. Mr. C. C. James, Dominion agricultural commissioner, does not favor this policy. He thinks that higher prices will be obtained later for Canadian cattle sold in Canada. He has also some interesting figures as to the enormous demand of the armies at the front for canned meat. And the Wall Street Journal is a neighbor who tells us plainly that we cannot continue to send our cattle supplies to the United States because of our own need for conservation of cattle resources.