



The Thanksgiving Turkey and its Allies.

## Canada's Thanksgiving

CANADA has much cause for thanksgiving on Monday next. The period of depression which began in July, 1907, had almost run its course by August of this year. Since then there has been a considerable revival in business activity. Stock market prices had returned, by August, to almost the high level of 1907, and have since gone even higher. Cobalt stocks have experienced a considerable boom, showing that this silver camp is likely to have a permanent effect upon the national prosperity during the next few years. Real estate values grew firmer. The building trades became more active. Manufacturing establishments began to take on a more active appearance and the number of unemployed was considerably reduced. Last year it was difficult to secure enough money to move the crops, but this year money was more plentiful and the grain was marketed quickly. The railways were much better prepared for the movement and the marketing of the grain proceeded at a pace heretofore unknown. Wheat vessels were plentiful and there was little, if any, congestion in this traffic. The apple crop was one of the largest in the history of the country and the cash receipts from this branch of industry were satisfactory. Cheese and butter production fell off owing to the fall drought in Ontario and Quebec, but the heavy hay crop of the earlier part of the year saved the dairy farmers from serious losses.

On the whole, therefore, Canada is in a splendid financial and commercial condition. The financial readjustment of the past twelve months has restricted business, especially in the value of imports, but has not left the general public in a crippled condition. The railway receipts and bank clearings are showing a steady increase over the corresponding periods of 1907. The wonted cheerfulness has returned and plans for progress, development and extension are being made at almost the "boom" speed.

Canada may eat its Thanksgiving dinner and attend its Thanksgiving services in a spirit of thankfulness. The hardest of the hard times has passed. The outlook is cheerful. It will be some time before

the profits of 1905 and 1906 will be duplicated, but the genuine progress of the country in all its features will be as rapid as ever. There are those who prophesy that 1909 will be a new record year in every particular.

So far as the crop is concerned Canada has considerable cause for thanksgiving. The quality of the grain is much better than in 1907, though still below the average. The prices at which products are being sold are almost equal to those of last year. These two features in themselves are of great importance, though too often overlooked in estimating prosperity. Most people are satisfied with an estimate in bushels, forgetting that the quality of the grain and the price are equally important in making up the value of a year's crop.

The August estimate of Canada's crop was better than the September estimate from official quarters. The October estimate, not yet officially given, is said to be better than the September and almost equal to the August returns. In September, the threshing returns from Saskatchewan and Manitoba caused the Dominion Department of Agriculture to lower its figures as to the wheat crop of 1908 by some nine million bushels. Nevertheless the September estimate is fairly cheerful and is used as the basis of the following tables, which are probably a little lower than the actual results.

### WHEAT PRODUCTION BY PROVINCES.

	Bushels per acre.	Total Bushels.
Prince Edward Island .....	14	387,000
Nova Scotia .....	20	412,000
New Brunswick .....	16	323,000
Quebec .....	14	1,447,000
Ontario .....	21	17,264,000
Manitoba .....	17	51,748,000
Saskatchewan .....	15	35,940,000
Alberta .....	30	8,130,000

Aver. 17.5 Total 115,651,000

### OAT PRODUCTION BY PROVINCES.

	Bushels per acre.	Total Bushels.
Prince Edward Island .....	34	6,124,000

Nova Scotia .....	35	4,727,000
New Brunswick .....	27	5,505,000
Quebec .....	24	37,020,000
Ontario .....	35	108,794,000
Manitoba .....	38	50,267,000
Saskatchewan .....	32	29,763,000
Alberta .....	49	25,451,000

Aver. 33.7 Total 267,651,000

Immigration has fallen off very considerably this year. Not that this indicates a declining faith in Canada; the decline is due to the attitude of the authorities toward immigration agencies and an avowed policy of restricted admission. In short, Canada did not desire a great influx of new citizens this year. So many came in during the five previous years, that the supply was larger than the country's power of assimilation. To place a quarter of a million immigrants each year in suitable and profitable employment is a large task for a country the size of the Dominion. To try to do this, at the time of an industrial depression, when the average citizen finds it difficult to keep up his average earnings, would have been decidedly foolish. The authorities were therefore wise in discouraging all except those who were seeking work on the soil. The result is seen in a decrease, in the six summer months, from 193,781 in 1907 to 100,486 in 1908. This decrease is entirely in the immigration from Europe, that from the United States being fairly well maintained. During this same period, the arrivals from the United States amounted to 35,183 in 1907, and to 34,233 in 1908. This is a decrease of only 1,000 people in the six months period.

That the Government is wise in discouraging European immigration and encouraging United States immigration is amply proven by the general attitude of the public. There has been much criticism of the European citizen-donations which Canada has received during the past few years, but not a word against the United States immigrant. The American farmer knows our conditions, and speedily makes himself at home. The American mechanic has a standard of living equal to that which prevails here and his competition in this market is not greatly feared by the trades unions.