

The weather conditions in the autumn of 1911 would almost warrant us in predicting a considerably smaller acreage of wheat in 1912. Much will depend upon the weather conditions of the coming spring. Little ploughing was done during October and November owing to the unusually early freezing of the soil. In view of the improved facilities for carrying on all kinds of farm work, much can still be accomplished if we have an early spring. It may not, however, in the end be a serious drawback to the country if a late spring should result in having large areas of land put into summer fallow. Such a process undoubtedly enriches the land and experience proves that land so treated over a series of years gives the best total results. Grain, other than wheat, such as oats, barley and flax, as well as roots, can be seeded somewhat later and excellent results obtained.

While speaking on this subject it may be of interest to know that last year Canada stood fifth amongst the nations of the world engaged in the production of wheat. The figures are as follows:

	Acres.	Bushels.
United States	52,123,000	658,567,000
Russia in Europe	73,818,000	629,300,000
British India	29,670,000	370,413,000
France	15,644,000	320,142,000
Canada	10,503,000	204,634,000
Hungary	9,935,000	192,691,000

It will, doubtless not be many years before Canada will advance to a much higher position in the above list.

The winter of 1910-11 cannot be regarded as having been altogether satisfactory for the live stock industry. The early months of 1911 were very cold, with heavy snowstorms and blizzards in the districts where the animals wintered and it was feared that heavy losses would fall on the ranchers. The spring, however, opened favourably with plenty of moisture in the ground, the grasses grew rapidly and luxuriantly, and cattle which had grown thin soon showed signs of improving. As a general rule the cattle came on the market in good condition and prices for all grades have been higher than during the past 15 or 20 years. Quite a large number, however, will be carried over till the spring, as farmers and dealers will take advantage of the large quantity of low grade grain in the country and by feeding it during the winter will have their animals ready for the market early in the year. Hogs and sheep have commanded high prices throughout the year, but it is to be regretted that they are not raised in sufficient numbers to meet the demands of the local packing houses. It is a satisfaction to note, however, that at several points in Saskatchewan and Manitoba farmers have recently been purchasing small flocks of sheep. As a further matter of interest we may add that between the 1st January, 1911, and the 18th November, 1911, live stock were received at the stock yards in Winnipeg as follows:

Cattle	89,765 head
Hogs	73,494 "
Sheep	38,289 "

An agreement has now been concluded between the railways centreing at Winnipeg for the establishment of more extensive stock yards at St. Boniface, Manitoba. Such improved facilities should encourage the rancher and farmer to develop the live stock industry to a greater extent in order that the requirements of our local packing houses may be fully supplied from our own country.

During the past five years a great change in conditions has taken place in the raising of horses. Ranges which were formerly used for the purpose have been divided into farms and as a consequence the stock of range horses is rapidly diminishing and a good market has developed for farm horses imported from the eastern provinces. Prices for this class of animal vary from \$500 to \$700 per team. A good demand for horses has also been created on account of the amount of work being carried on by the railways and irrigation companies.

The logging season of 1910-11 opened quite actively and a large cut was made by most of the operators. The weather was satisfactory for the greater part of the winter, although towards the end of it the snowfall was heavy and interfered a little with getting the logs out of the woods. The big operator was able in the main not only to secure the logs of the year's cut but also to draw out the logs of the previous season, left in the woods owing to the early breaking up of the previous winter. In the spring the demand for lumber was general, satisfactory sales were made and prices continued good until June, when keen competition developed between the manufacturers of spruce

and the coast and mountain mills. A large quantity of low grade stuff was also brought in from the United States. Favourable freight arrangements were also conceded by the railways to the coast and mountain mills. This concession, coupled with the cheap article from the United States, placed the manufacturer of spruce at a disadvantage, and sales and profits alike were somewhat curtailed. Taken as a whole, however, both manufacturer and jobber have had a satisfactory year. The present season also promises to be an active one and a large cut of logs is predicted.

It is noticeable that the new settlers who entered the prairie provinces in 1911 were of a better class than in any previous year. Commenting recently upon the matter the Dominion Government officials report that from the 1st January, 1911, to the 25th November, 1911, there entered Canada as immigrants 338,986 persons. Of these 214,458 entered at ocean ports, and 124,528 came from the United States. Of those entering by ocean ports 169,429 were British, while the balance, 45,038, were from Continental Europe. Of the combined British and Europeans (214,458) it is estimated that 50 per cent. settled west of the Great Lakes, whilst the American settlers (124,528) it is estimated that 85 per cent. also settled in western Canada. It is estimated that the amount of money and other assets which each settler brings into the country is as follows:

British	\$150 to \$200
Other European	10
American	1000

The fish and fur industries do not as yet represent a large volume of business to the western provinces. They are capable, however, of very great development and the progress made during the past year has been satisfactory. The lakes of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta contain almost unlimited quantities of valuable fish and good markets at profitable prices are found for the catches in the United States and the western provinces. The Dominion Government have at last realized the importance of the fishing industry to the western provinces and a Commission has been appointed to investigate existing conditions thoroughly. A report by the Commission is now in course of preparation. The industry during the winter months affords employment to a large number of settlers and Indians in the northern parts of the provinces who are thus able to supplement their earnings derived from farming and other pursuits. The fur catch is an important industry to such places as Edmonton and Prince Albert. Owing to the severity of the winter of 1910 trapping conditions were not altogether favourable and the catch fell somewhat below normal figures. To offset this it is satisfactory to note that prices were higher and the year's business has been profitable.

The coal industry has been in a very unsatisfactory condition for nearly a year in consequence of the labour troubles existing in the coal districts of western Canada. Fortunately, in September last, a basis for settlement was reached between the owners of the mines affected and the miners. A contract has been entered into for a period of 3½ years, and it is expected that no further trouble will arise during this period of time. It is devoutly to be hoped that the results expected from the agreement will be realized. Undoubtedly a great injury was done to the industry as well as to manufacturing and commercial enterprises, and the loss of wages to the men was very large. The local Governments and the railways, however, realized the gravity of the situation and have done a great deal to relieve matters.

There has been great activity in real estate during the year throughout the west as regards farm, city and town properties. In cities and towns the great danger has been in the number of outlying subdivisions placed on the market. The cure for this unhealthy state of affairs rests in the hands of the more reliable firms, and we cannot too strongly urge upon them the importance of applying the remedy without delay. It is not our desire to point to any particular place or district as the reliable dealers are undoubtedly in a better position to know the situation than ourselves. It is to them, however, that the commercial community look for protection from a catastrophe which will inevitably come if present methods are allowed to continue. Undoubtedly desirable inside properties in our principal cities and towns have a good basis for existing values, but these must suffer materially unless something is done to stop the inflation in the values of outlying districts. Farm lands are firmly held at advancing prices justified perhaps by the results of several years of good