
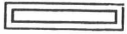


CONDITIONS IN ONTARIO IN 1916



ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION OF PROVINCE REPRESENTS ABOUT \$360,000,000 IN MONEY.
STOCK RAISING HAS PROSPERED. VAST TERRITORY AVAILABLE FOR
SETTLEMENT IN THE NORTH.



By **HON. W. H. HEARST**, Premier of Ontario.



The latest crop reports indicate that the farmers of Ontario have had about an average return this year. In view of the fact that the annual agricultural production of Ontario represents about \$360,000,000 in money, it will be seen that this means a great deal to the farmer as well as to the Province as a whole in a business way. Had it not been for the diversity of production adverse weather conditions this year would have made this satisfactory result impossible. Operations were delayed in the spring by excessive rains, while later on crops were injured by an unusual lack of moisture. Ontario, however, has harvested an exceptional large hay crop and has an abundance of winter food for live stock, although oats, wheat, roots, and corn are much below the average.

Stock raising in all its branches has prospered both as regards production and prices. Every industry including, of course, agriculture, has been more or less hampered by the shortage of labour, arising from the fact that Ontario has enlisted 150,000 men for service abroad and has also contributed considerable labour for munition plants. Manufacturing industries have been restricted only in their operations by the difficulty of obtaining the necessary help. There has been a marked increase in mining and a noticeable revival in lumbering. Generally speaking, therefore, the commercial outlook is good, with a healthy activity in practically every branch of trade.

The credit of the Province stands high, so that it has been possible in spite of the closing of European money markets to dispose advantageously of the securities of the Province in the United States. As the debt of the Province has been invested mainly in revenue producing assets, it is not a burden on the public nor an encroachment on the Provincial credit.

Altogether it may well be said that the people of Ontario regard the future with absolute confidence. They have cheerfully borne every burden and made every sacrifice required to defend the Empire, and will continue to do so. They are prepared also to grapple effectually with the new problems that will inevitably arise after the struggle is over. They have every reason to believe that in the near future the vast territory available for settlement in the North will enable them to repeat the achievements that have made Ontario the great and prosperous Banner Province of the Dominion.

August 16th, 1916.

