

The Harvest Results of 1917

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The Dominion Government have now published their final report on the harvest results of last year, including estimates of yield, quality and value. These are based primarily upon the returns of areas sown, as collected immediately after completion of the seeding season in early summer, and next upon records of average yields per acre, average weights per measured bushel in the case of grain and upon average prices received by farmers per bushel or per ton. A special feature of the agricultural returns of 1917 has been the institution of a statistical reform by which in four of the provinces (Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia) the areas sown to field crops were compiled from returns filled up by individual farmers, which were used as the basis for the estimation of totals. The work was carried out by co-operation between the Dominion and Provincial Governments for the provinces named, and the averages applied for the computation of total yields and values were agreed to by both authorities; so that the results published by both are identical, as well as obtained by improved methods. The same principle of co-operation has, for 1918, been accepted by all the provinces, and therefore the undoubtedly difficult problem of securing trustworthy annual agricultural statistics has a fair prospect of solution.

SEASON OF 1917.

The sowing season of 1917 was late and therefore of short duration; so that it proved impossible to sow as much wheat as would have been put in under more favorable conditions. For this reason, the average under oats and other later crops was expanded. In the West, prolonged drought had almost as serious effects as the rust outbreak of 1916; but the situation was saved to some extent by rains which fell shortly before harvest. The total yield of the grain crops in the West was comparatively small; on the other hand the grading quality was uniformly excellent, and the prices obtained were the highest on record. Quebec suffered from adverse conditions throughout the growing season; excessive rains spoil the grain crops, and the potato yield was one of the worst experienced. Ontario, for all crops except corn, buckwheat and one or two others, enjoyed a bumper harvest, the season as a whole being one of the best on record. In the Atlantic provinces seeding was late, and considerable damage to grain crops was caused by early frosts in September.

AREA AND YIELD OF FIELD CROPS.

The general results of the harvest, as regards acreage and yield, are set out in Table I. Wheat, it will be seen, yielded 233,742,852 bushels in 1917 as compared with 262,781,000 bushels in 1916. The acreage sown to this crop was 14 1/4 millions, as compared with over 15 1-3 million acres in 1916. The average yield per acre was 15 3/4 bushels, as compared with about 17 bushels in 1916. The acreage under oats was considerably larger in 1917 than in 1916, the figures being over 13 millions as against under 11 millions; but owing to the drought in the West the total yield, 403 million bushels, was seven million bushels less than in 1916. The average yield per acre was only 30 1/4 bushels in 1917 as against 37.30 bushels in 1916. The total yield of barley was 55 million bushels as compared with nearly 43 million bushels in 1916, the acreage being larger, but the average yield per acre less. The yield from potatoes reached nearly 80 million bushels, a quantity quite sufficient for food requirements; but this result was due to an expansion of the acreage from 472,992 in 1916 to 656,958 in 1917, and not to the rate of yield, 121 1/2 bushels, which with one exception, viz., 119 1/4 bushels in 1910, was the lowest on record. The estimated yield of turnips, mangolds, etc., was 63,451,000 bushels from 218,233 acres. The total yield of hay and clover was the satisfactory one of 13,684,700 tons, as compared with the record crop of 1916, viz., 14,527,000 tons, by which alone it has been exceeded.

GRAIN YIELDS OF PRAIRIE PROVINCES.

Table II, shows the acreage and yields of wheat, oats, barley and flax in the three prairie provinces. The yields of wheat for the three provinces is 211,953,100 bushels as compared with 242,314,000 bushels in 1916. For oats the total is 254,877,200 bushels as against 313,916,000 bushels; for barley it is 40,384,100 bushels against 33,419,000 bushels and for flax 5,335,900 bushels as against 8,212,500. For 1917 the Western wheat yield is about 91 per cent of the total; and about half of the total was grown in Saskatchewan.

The Western oat yield is about 63 per cent of the total.

VALUES OF FIELD CROPS.

Although the season in the West during the last two years was below average, the crops of 1916 being affected by the outbreak of rust and those of 1917

by prolonged drought, the continued rise in the prices of all agricultural products, and also the excellent grading quality of last year's grain are compensating features. Records collected from correspondents show that the average prices received by farmers, per bushel, were for wheat \$1.94, for oats 69 cents and for barley \$1.08, these being the highest on record since 1908. The total and unit values for all crops are set out in Table III, and it will be noticed that the total value of the field crops of Canada for 1917 amounts to \$1,144,638,450, as compared with \$886,494,900 in

(Continued on next page.)

I.—AREAS AND YIELDS OF FIELD CROPS, 1916 AND 1917.

Crops.	1916		1917	
	Acres.	Bushels.	Acres.	Bushels.
Fall Wheat	818,264	725,300	17,590,000	15,523,450
Spring wheat	14,551,445	14,030,550	245,191,000	218,209,400
All wheat	15,369,709	14,755,850	262,781,000	233,742,850
Oats	10,996,487	13,313,400	410,211,000	403,009,800
Barley	1,802,996	2,392,200	42,770,000	55,057,750
Rye	148,404	211,880	2,876,400	3,857,200
Peas	151,790	198,881	2,218,100	3,026,340
Beans	32,500	92,457	412,600	1,274,000
Buckwheat	341,500	395,977	5,976,000	7,149,400
Mixed grains	412,670	497,236	10,584,800	16,157,080
Flax	657,781	919,500	8,259,800	5,934,900
Corn for husking	173,000	234,339	6,282,000	7,762,700
Potatoes	472,992	656,958	63,297,000	79,892,000
Turnips, mangolds, etc.	141,839	218,233	36,921,100	63,451,000
			Tons.	Tons.
Hay and clover	7,821,257	8,225,034	14,527,000	13,684,700
Fodder corn	293,058	336,518	1,907,800	2,690,370
Sugar beets	15,000	14,000	71,000	117,600
Alfalfa	99,350	109,825	286,750	262,400

II.—AREAS AND YIELDS OF WHEAT, OATS BARLEY AND FLAX IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES, 1916 AND 1917.

Province and Crop.	1916		1917	
	Acres.	Bushels.	Acres.	Bushels.
Manitoba—				
Wheat	2,725,725	29,667,000	2,448,860	41,039,700
Oats	1,443,599	45,439,000	1,500,000	45,375,000
Barley	687,503	708,000	13,729,000	15,930,000
Flax	15,684	210,000	16,300	146,700
Saskatchewan—				
Wheat	9,032,109	147,559,000	8,273,250	117,921,300
Oats	3,791,807	163,278,000	4,521,600	123,213,600
Barley	367,207	9,916,000	669,900	14,067,900
Flax	542,034	6,692,000	753,700	4,710,600
Alberta—				
Wheat	2,604,975	65,088,000	2,897,300	52,992,100
Oats	2,124,081	102,199,000	2,537,900	86,288,600
Barley	336,586	9,774,000	472,100	10,386,200
Flax	95,063	1,310,500	139,800	978,600
Totals—				
Wheat	14,362,809	242,314,000	13,619,410	211,953,100
Oats	7,359,487	313,916,000	8,559,500	254,877,200
Barley	1,391,296	33,419,000	1,850,000	40,384,100
Flax	652,781	8,212,500	909,800	5,335,900

III.—VALUES OF FIELD CROPS, 1916 AND 1917.

Crops.	1916.		1917.	
	Price per bushel.	Total value.	Price per bushel.	Total value.
Fall wheat	\$ 1.54	\$ 27,118,300	\$ 2.08	\$ 32,336,900
Spring wheat	1.29	316,978,100	1.93	420,710,700
All wheat	1.31	344,096,400	1.94	453,038,600
Oats	0.51	210,957,500	0.69	277,065,300
Barley	0.82	35,024,000	1.08	59,654,400
Rye	1.11	3,106,000	1.62	6,267,200
Peas	2.22	4,919,000	3.54	10,724,100
Beans	5.40	2,228,000	7.45	9,493,400
Buckwheat	1.07	6,375,000	1.46	10,443,400
Mixed grains	0.88	9,300,900	1.16	18,801,750
Flax	2.04	16,889,900	2.65	15,737,000
Corn for husking	1.07	6,747,000	1.84	14,307,200
Potatoes	0.81	50,982,300	1.01	80,804,400
Turnips, mangolds, etc.	0.39	14,329,000	0.46	29,253,000
	per ton.		per ton.	
Hay and clover	11.60	168,547,900	10.33	141,376,700
Fodder corn	4.92	9,396,000	5.14	13,834,900
Sugar beets	6.20	440,000	6.75	793,800
Alfalfa	10.69	3,066,000	11.50	3,041,300
Totals		\$886,494,900		\$1,144,638,450

IV.—VALUES OF FIELD CROPS BY PROVINCES 1913-1917 (000's OMITTED.)

Province.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
P. E. Island	\$ 9,535	\$ 11,544	\$ 10,930	\$ 14,124	\$ 16,530
Nova Scotia	17,133	21,970	19,557	22,370	23,313
New Brunswick	17,965	26,045	20,093	22,924	24,404
Quebec	88,965	99,279	104,683	102,937	153,198
Ontario	167,835	196,220	207,043	190,646	251,095
Manitoba	64,557	65,528	92,319	76,749	134,471
Saskatchewan	129,376	152,752	265,606	292,774	349,488
Alberta	46,712	59,780	93,514	148,739	176,966
British Columbia	11,069	11,463	11,626	15,232	12,171
Totals	552,772	638,580	825,871	886,495	1,144,636