

pecially in eastern Canada. That the objects of the Association are such as to make an appeal to every Canadian goes without saying; and its work may be well considered one of national importance. Undoubtedly a good deal of progress in the way of raising public interest on the subject of the proper conservation of Canada's timber wealth has been made during recent years, and, no doubt, the energetic work undertaken by the Association is to some extent responsible for the present more promising condition of public opinion. Requests for copies of the report should be addressed to Jas. Lawler, secretary Canadian Forestry Association, Ottawa, Ont.

Crop Conditions.

The monthly report on crop conditions in the Dominion, issued by the Census Department at Ottawa, points out that owing to differences of temperature and rainfall, it is difficult at the present time to make a statement of averages as between the East and the West that will not be misleading. Moreover, the areas sown have been considerably reduced since the June report (see CHRONICLE of July 15, p. 1021), and it is difficult to indicate fairly an average of conditions which does not take into account that fact. In comparing the per cent. condition of crops for 1909 and 1910, it should be remembered that fall wheat, rye, peas, buckwheat, mixed grains, beans, potatoes, hay and clover and corn are principally produced in the Eastern provinces, and spring wheat and flax mostly in the Northwestern provinces, with oats and barley in nearly equal proportions in the two regions. Fall wheat is grown chiefly in Ontario, and its condition for all Canada has been reduced by a relatively poor crop in Alberta. Compared with the condition at the same time last year, it is 84.63 to 76.53. The condition of other crops is as follows:—

	1910.	1909.
Rye.....	85.20	81.84
Peas.....	81.70	87
Buckwheat.....	87.64	86.15
Mixed Grains.....	99.91	87.23
Beans.....	84.43	84.33
Potatoes.....	81	92
Hay and Clover.....	90.87	73.79
Corn (for husking).....	84.30	82.86
Corn (for fodder).....	89.76	83.

These crops, which are mainly grown in the East, show a high average of condition, affected only in a slight degree by reports for the West. The average condition of spring wheat is 77 for 1910 to 84.57 for 1909, and of oats 79.57 to 87.78 for all Canada, which is substantially lower than the averages for the East. In the three North-west provinces the condition of spring wheat is 62, of oats 58.62 and of barley 63.60. The estimated yield of fall wheat in the country is 18,724,000 bushels, "being 26.47 bushels per acre. The hay and clover crop is estimated at 15,490,000 tons, or 1.80 tons per acre, and of alfalfa 1.92 tons per acre.

Damage by Lightning.

At a time when Montreal and the district round have had the experience of an abnormal number of heavy electric storms, which, in the aggregate, have done some considerable damage, it is interesting to note the results which have been arrived at by European observers over a long period of electric storms. The Spectator (London)

mentions the records kept for many years by a Mr. Hands. From these records Mr. Hands has compiled a chart showing the places known to have been struck in the years 1807-1908. On this chart he had to mark 7,793 different spots, and to chronicle damage done to 211 cathedrals, churches and chapels; 3,190 other buildings of various kinds; 226 ricks and stacks; 1,251 trees, and 398 other objects; while 194 persons have been killed and 1,016 injured, and there have been 1,307 cases in which animals have been killed, these being either single creatures or several killed by one stroke. There have been as many as 49 sheep struck dead in a single flock. The monetary loss is estimated at \$250,000 to \$500,000 per annum, but it is thought that the "moral and intellectual damages" which naturally go unreckoned, are the more serious.

The Population of the U. S.

The unofficial estimate of the population of the United States, as shown by the recent census, is 90 millions. This unofficial estimate is, in point of fact, a close official approximation, pending the giving out of the detailed figures in the fall. How this compares with the figures of the census in previous years is seen from the following table:—

1790.....	3,929,214	1860.....	31,443,321
1800.....	5,308,483	1870.....	38,558,371
1810.....	7,239,881	1880.....	50,155,783
1820.....	9,633,822	1890.....	62,622,250
1830.....	12,866,020	1900.....	76,303,387
1840.....	17,069,453	1910 (unofficial)	90,000,000
1850.....	23,191,876		

Thus in 120 years, the population of the United States has been multiplied almost by twenty-three and in fifty years almost by three. The average number of inhabitants to the square mile is now twenty-nine, although there are many States and Territories in which there is a square mile of room for every two or three persons. In contrast, in Greater New York, there are 15,000 people to the square mile and only two of the States, Pennsylvania and Illinois, have a greater population than is to be found within the purview of New York municipality.

Over-Insurance in the States.

Some activity is being shown by Insurance Commissioners in the United States with regard to the question of over-insurance. Commissioner Young, of North Carolina, has sent out a special circular in which he pointedly calls attention to the penalties provided by the law prohibiting over-insurance in the State. He says that his investigations show that but for the insurance on property being more than its value many fires would not occur, and he adds:—"In some cases it has developed that the insurance was procured either through the ignorance or carelessness of the agent writing the insurance, and was not discovered by the special agent or inspector of the company, and I deem it advisable to call the attention of companies and agents to this law, which will be strictly enforced." In Minnesota, a law has just been passed, which requires that prior to insurance, all structures be examined, and the insurable value fixed by the insurer or his agent, while the licenses of any agents writing insurance that is clearly excessive will be cancelled. Apparently in Minnesota the whole onus is thrown upon the fire companies,