

four grades of condition, viz. "good," represented by any figure from 75 to 100 or over; "average," from 50 to 74; "fair", from 25 to 49 and "poor", below 25.

Effects of the season of 1908.

Owing to a favourable spring the condition of crops and live stock when first reported upon at the end of June was of high promise; but, as in the case of the two previous seasons, summer drouths ensued affecting many parts of Canada, and the condition consequently both of crops and live stock underwent gradual deterioration as the season advanced. The following statement shows with respect to the principal cereals how this deterioration was measured in the reports issued during growth:

Crop	Per cent of standard condition			Average quality
	June 30	July 31	Aug. 30	Sept. 30
Wheat.....	84	76	74	75
Oats	90	81	75	75
Barley.....	83	80	72	71
Rye.....	92	78	70	73
Corn for husking	-	-	83	82
Fodder corn.....	-	-	90	92

Forecasts of yields.

Forecasts of the yields anticipated from the principal crops were published by the Census and Statistics Office for the months ended July 31, August 31, and September 30, and the final results, estimated from the actual threshing returns, were published as for the month ended November 30. The following statement shows how these forecasts had to be successively modified owing to the adverse influence of the season:

Crop	First estimate July 31 ¹	Second estimate Aug. 31	Third estimate Sept. 30
	bush.	bush.	bush.
Wheat.....	130,263,000	124,690,000	115,651,000
Oats.....	269,254,000	269,944,000	267,651,000
Barley.....	51,690,000	49,488,000	50,723,000
Mixed grains	18,865,000	19,380,000	19,113,000
Corn....	-	24,936,000	21,007,000
	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover.....	8,780,000	11,128,000	11,706,000
Fodder corn.....		2,743,000	2,815,000

(¹) Excluding Maritime provinces and B.C.

Fortunately the drouth set in too late to affect very materially the yield of hay and clover, which moreover was as a rule saved in good condition. Another satisfactory feature of the