VI.—PRODUCTION.

In this section are included the statistics of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, minerals and manufactures.

AGRICULTURE.

Correction of Estimates by Census Returns.—Previous estimates of the areas and yields of the field crops of Canada for the years 1915 and 1916 have been corrected to agree with the finally ascertained results of the Census of the Prairie Provinces, taken in June, 1916. These results indicate that the estimates of areas sown to the principal grain crops for the harvest of 1915, as compiled from the reports of correspondents, were considerably below the census returns as compiled from the individual schedules filled up for every farm. Thus, in 1915, the census returns showed, for the three Prairie Provinces, 13,867,715 acres of wheat instead of 11,744,700; 6,480,681 acres of oats instead of 6,290,000 and 1,171,082 acres of barley instead of 962,000. For flax the area was 457,759 acres instead of 801,000 acres. Similarly, in 1916, the census returns are for wheat 14,362,809 acres instead of 9,068,200; for oats 7,359,487 acres instead of 5,673,000; for barley 1,391,296 acres instead of 898,500 and for flax 652,781 acres instead of 705,000 acres, the area in the case of flax being less for both years. The increases shown were largely in the more recently settled districts where the system of reporting by correspondents is necessarily less fully developed.

Season of 1916.—The prospects for a favourable grain harvest were good up to the end of July, and from the beginning of the crop-reporting season in May up to that time, the monthly figures representing the condition of spring wheat in Saskatchewan and Alberta were over 90 p.c. of the standard, whilst in Manitoba they were above 90 for May and June and 84 for July. But during August a severe outbreak of rust spread rapidly into Canada from the northern States across the border. The Census and Statistics Office crop correspondents reported on August 31 that the grain crops in Manitoba and Saskatchewan had been so seriously affected by rust and hot winds during August that large areas sown would either fail to produce any crop at all, or would have to be cut green, whilst the yield of grain from producing areas would be very low, both in quantity and grade. These statements were fully borne out by the numerical expression given to the facts, and for Manitoba, where the attacks of rust were of the greatest and most widespread severity, the average condition of spring wheat on August 31 was down to 37 p.c. of the standard—the lowest percentage on record since the crop-reporting system was started in 1908,—and in Saskatchewan and Alberta the averages were 61 and 78, respectively. The consequence was that the average yield per acre of spring wheat in Manitoba was only 10·8 bushels, as compared with $24\frac{3}{4}$ bushels in 1915; in Saskatchewan the yield per acre was $16\frac{1}{3}$ bushels against 25 bushels and in Alberta 25 bushels against 31 bushels.

Average Yields per Acre of Grain Crops.—For the whole of the Dominion, the average yields per acre of the principal grain crops for 1916 were, in bushels, as follows, the yields of 1915 and 1914 being placed within brackets for comparison: Fall wheat, $21\frac{1}{2}$ ($28\frac{1}{2}$ and $21\frac{1}{2}$);