

year intervals do not help us, and the annual estimates of the Dominion Government, begun in 1908, have not yet been long enough in existence to afford useful comparisons. But the annual records published by certain of the provincial Departments of Agriculture may usefully be consulted. They include New Brunswick from 1898, Ontario from 1882, Manitoba from 1883 and Saskatchewan and Alberta from 1898. Limiting our inquiry to wheat, oats and barley, we are able to make the comparisons shown in Table 12.

12.—Average Yields per Acre of Wheat, Oats and Barley in New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Province and Period.	Fall Wheat.	Spring Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.
	bushels per acre.	bushels per acre.	bushels per acre.	bushels per acre.
New Brunswick—				
1898-1907.....	-	18.6	29.2	-
1908-1917.....	-	19.1	29.6	-
Ontario—				
1882-1891.....	20.0	15.8	35.1	26.0
1892-1901.....	20.1	15.2	34.6	26.3
1902-1911.....	23.5	17.9	36.6	30.5
1912-1918.....	23.1	20.1	38.0	31.5
Manitoba—				
1883-1892 ¹	-	19.8	36.9	27.4
1893-1902.....	-	19.0	34.7	28.8
1903-1912.....	-	17.5	39.5	29.7
1913-1917.....	-	17.8	36.0	24.5
Saskatchewan—				
1898-1907.....	-	18.7	34.0	22.3
1908-1917.....	-	17.6	36.9	25.6
Alberta—				
1898-1907.....	-	20.6	37.0	26.1
1908-1917.....	-	22.4	38.5	26.6

¹For nine years; no record for 1888.

In New Brunswick there is a slight increase between the two decennial periods of half a bushel for wheat and two-fifths of a bushel for oats. In Manitoba and Saskatchewan the wheat yield shows a decline due perhaps to decrease of fertility through continuous growth of grain. In the case of oats, the average in Manitoba is less for the second period by 2.2 bushels, but the third period shows an increase of 4.8 bushels over the second period and of 2.6 bushels over the first period. For barley in Manitoba the rate has increased by 2.3 bushels as between the first and third periods. For the five years 1913-17, in Manitoba, the wheat yield is three-tenths of a bushel more, but oats show a decrease of 3½ and barley a decrease of 5.2 bushels as compared with the period 1903-1912. In Saskatchewan oats increased by 2.9 bushels and barley by 3.3 bushels. In Alberta all three crops increased, wheat by 1.8 bushel, oats by 1½ bushel and barley by half a bushel. In Ontario there has been a distinct improvement in the average rate of production of the chief