cereals. Although the difference between the first and second decennial periods is but small, the third period compared with the first shows that the average annual yield per acre of fall wheat increased by 3½ bushels, spring wheat by 2 bushels, barley by 4½ bushels and oats by 1½ bushel. Expressed in terms of value, and calculated upon the area and prices of 1917, these extra yields represent for wheat $4,586,255, for barley $1,884,420 and for oats $2,901,960, or a total value of $9,372,635, due to the increased yield per acre in Ontario alone. While allowance may be made for causes other than improved skill in cultivation, such as for instance a decreased total area involving withdrawal from a particular crop of inferior land, it is reasonable to infer that improved methods of cultivation, including the use of better seed, have been the main factor in bringing about the progress indicated.

Although the census statistics being only taken at decennial intervals do not admit of satisfactory comparisons of the yield per acre, there is no doubt that the average yields at the present time are higher than they were at Confederation. In 1870 the yield of wheat in Ontario did not exceed 10·5 bushels per acre, whilst for the ten years 1902–1911 the yields were, according to the Ontario Bureau of Industries, 23 bushels for fall wheat and 17·9 bushels for spring wheat, and the decennial average for 1908–1917, according to the Census Office estimates, was 23 bushels for fall wheat and 18¼ bushels for spring wheat. Other crops also show a like progress. That Canada has been able to maintain a satisfactory progress in this direction is apparent from a comparison with the average yields of other countries, especially those countries where, like Canada, the areas devoted to grain are large and the cultivation is of extensive rather than intensive character. In Table 13 are shown the average yields per acre of wheat, barley and oats in the principal grain-growing countries of the world, compared with the decennial averages for the period 1908–1917, as recently calculated by the Census and and Statistics Office for Canada.

13.—Average Yield per acre of Wheat, Barley and Oats in selected Grain-producing Countries of the World.

Country.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Country.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
	bush. per acre.	bush. per acre.	bush. per acre.		bush. per acre.	bush. per acre.	bush. per acre.
United Kingdom...	31·82	35·13	48·55	France*.....	19·93	25·46	33·85
Canada.....	**19·25**	**27·00**	**35·25**	Germany*.....	30·78	36·80	49·86
Australia.....	11·00	18·96	21·25	Hungary*...	17·40	23·42	28·60
New Zealand.....	29·29	34·94	45·13	Italy.....	14·72	16·17	25·72
India..... ...	11·45	–	–	Rumania.....	16·21	17·84	23·09
United States.....	14·72	24·91	28·08	Russia in Europe*	10·56	34·57	20·99
Argentina.....	9·52	15·06	22·04	Russia in Asia (9 Gov.)*.....	9·67	14·31	18·37
Austria*.....	20·37	28·25	34·38	Russia in Asia (other Gov.)*....	9·67	12·27	22·04
Belgium*.....	37·32	51·49	64·29	Spain.....	13·38	20·82	21·25
Bulagria*.....	13·68	19·52	19·42				

NOTE.—The above averages are calculated over the decennial period 1907 to 1916, except for certain countries, marked with an asterisk (*), for which the decennial data are incomplete. For Canada the period is 1908 to 1917.