

VIII.—PRODUCTION.

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

AGRICULTURE.

Areas under Field Crops, 1918.—In June, 1918, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, conjointly with the Provincial Governments, undertook the collection, by means of cardboard schedules filled up by individual farmers, of the areas under field crops and the numbers of farm live stock, in each of the nine provinces of Canada, thus extending to the whole of the Dominion the system applied for the first time in 1917 to the four provinces of Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Table 1 shows therefore for Canada and by provinces the areas under field crops for the year 1918, as estimated by the Dominion and Provincial statistical offices from the returns received.

Field Crops, 1915-17.—In Table 2 are presented for Canada and by provinces estimates of the area, yield, quality and value of the principal field crops for each of the years 1915 to 1917. For the provinces of Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, the agricultural statistics of 1917 were collected by new and improved methods in co-operation with the Provincial Governments, and the results are not strictly comparable with those of 1916 and previous years. In many cases the areas of the crops of 1917 in these provinces show considerable increases, and it is not possible to ascertain to what extent these may be due to actual expansion as compared with 1916. Most probably the larger part of the increase shown in each case is the result of greater accuracy in the method of collection.

Season of 1917.—The year was notable for the backwardness of the spring and consequent lateness of seeding, which made it impossible for farmers to sow as much wheat as would otherwise have been put in and which therefore accounts for an expansion in the areas devoted to later-sown crops. Severe frosts in the Prairie Provinces at the end of May caused a serious set-back, and a long period of drought and excessive heat, broken only by rains just before harvest, caused the western grain yields to be below the average. On the other hand, the grading quality of the grain was excellent, and this, with the further rise in prices, offset considerably the low yields. In the Maritime Provinces, where the seeding was also late, early frosts during September did much damage. Quebec had a poor season from the same causes and from excessive rains and heat. In Ontario the general conditions were excellent, and the season was one of the best on record.

Yield of Grain Crops.—The total yield of wheat for Canada in 1917 was returned as 233,742,850 bushels from 14,755,850 acres, as compared with 262,781,000 bushels from 15,369,709 acres in 1916. Of oats the total yield was 403,009,800 bushels from 13,313,400 acres, as compared with 410,211,000 bushels from 10,996,487 acres in 1916. The yield of barley was 55,057,750 bushels from 2,392,200 acres, as against 42,770,000 bushels from 1,802,996 acres in 1916. The