

VII.—PRODUCTION.

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

AGRICULTURE.

Field Crops, 1915-19.—The agricultural statistics of 1919 for all the nine provinces of Canada were collected in co-operation with the Provincial Governments under the system applied for the first time in 1917. In general, therefore, the reports of both the Dominion and Provincial Governments on the crops of 1919 record identical results. In Table 1 are presented for Canada and by provinces estimates of the area, yield, quality and value of the principal field crops for each of the five years 1915 to 1919. In consulting this table it should be remembered that comparability is affected by the new and improved methods applied in 1917 for the provinces of Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, and in 1918 and 1919 for all the provinces. In many cases the areas, as established by the new method, show considerable increases, and it is not possible to ascertain to what extent these may be due to actual expansion. Probably the larger part of the increase shown in each case is the result of greater accuracy in the method of collection.

Season of 1918.—At first, conditions were favourable, as an early spring and good weather enabled seeding to be completed in excellent time, whilst the area sown to wheat, viz., 17,353,902 acres, was the largest on record. In the West, however, May was exceptionally cold, with heavy frost retarding growth. In June, drought and high winds caused drifting, and large areas had to be resown. The drought in the West continued until towards the end of July, and serious damage to wheat in the blossom stage was caused by heavy frosts from July 23 to 25. In the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and Ontario, the conditions were generally favourable, and the harvest was good. Ontario, especially, had an excellent season for the second year in succession.

Season of 1919.—The season opened tardily and practically no seeding had been done in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec at the end of April. In Ontario very little had been done, as heavy snowfalls during the last week of April had left the land too wet for tillage. In the Prairie Provinces, although the spring opened late, about 60 p.c. of seeding was completed by May 1st. At the end of June the condition of the principal grain crops indicated that for the fourth successive year the yields of the Dominion would be below the average of the previous ten years. In Manitoba and Ontario warm rains and generally favourable weather gave promise of a good harvest. In the Maritime Provinces and Quebec the conditions also were generally favourable and the harvest was good. In consequence of a continuation of the drought throughout July the condition of the