

Thompson and Nicola. Later many of the miners turned to farming and stock raising.

In what is now British Columbia agricultural societies were formed and exhibitions held at a very early date in the history of the colony. The first agricultural association was formed at Victoria in 1861 and its first exhibition was held in the same year, while on the mainland the first exhibition was held at New Westminster in 1867. Later, under the provisions of the Farmers' Institutes and Co-operation Act of 1897, a number of Farmers' Institutes were formed, with a Farmers' Central Institute having annual meetings.

AGRICULTURE.

Field Crops, 1916-21.—In Table 1 are presented for Canada, by provinces, estimates of the area, yield, quality and value of the principal field crops for each of the six years 1916 to 1921, with the five-year averages for the period 1916 to 1920. The estimates of 1921 are based upon statistics collected from about 160,000 farmers throughout Canada in June of that year under arrangements made between the Dominion and Provincial Governments in accordance with plans dating from 1917 for the four provinces of Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, and from 1918 for the remaining five provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba. As was pointed out in previous editions of the Year Book (see 1920 edition, p. 188), comparability with the statistics of 1917 and 1918 was somewhat affected by the change in the method of estimation which then took place. In preparing the estimates of totals for the year 1921, partial use was made of preliminary census data showing the total number of farms in Canada. The effect was to increase considerably the areas estimated to be sown to wheat in 1921, as compared with the final estimate of 1920, the difference being partly due to actual increase and partly to correction by use of the census data¹. The estimates for 1920 and 1921 are subject to final revision according to the results of the census of 1921, when available.

Season of 1920-21.—The winter of 1920-21 proved to be exceptionally mild, as a consequence of which the loss of potatoes through freezing and rotting in cellars was reduced to a minimum. The percentage of fall-sown wheat that was winter-killed was, however, higher than in either of the two previous seasons when the winters were more severe, the proportions for all Canada being 10 p.c. in 1921 as against 4 p.c. in 1920 and 5 p.c. in 1919. The summer of 1921 will be remembered for the extraordinary and prolonged drought, which prevailed in most countries of the northern hemisphere. Notwithstanding this, however, Great Britain and France produced excellent wheat crops, with average yields per acre the highest on record in both countries. In Canada the wheat crop on the whole proved fair, although the yield per acre for the Dominion was less than

¹For more detailed explanation, see Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics for November, 1921 (Vol. 14, No. 159, p. 431).