

41.—Average Prices per lb. paid to farmers for Clover and Grass Seed, by provinces, during April and May, 1922, and Average Prices for Canada during April and May, 1919-22.

Province.	Red Clover.	Alsike.	Alfalfa.	Sweet Clover.	Western Rye.	Timothy.	Brome Grass.
	cents	cents	cents	cents	cents	cents	cents
Prince Edward Island.....	25½	21½	-	13	-	10½	-
Nova Scotia.....	29	22½	-	-	-	12	-
New Brunswick.....	30½	22	-	13	-	12	-
Quebec.....	27	25	33	8½	-	12½	-
Ontario.....	18½	14	22½	10	-	7½	-
Manitoba.....	-	-	-	11	7½	9	9½
Saskatchewan.....	-	-	-	45	12½	25	9½
Alberta.....	-	-	-	-	-	7	9
British Columbia.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada, 1922.....	21	16½	23½	11½	10½	9	9
“ 1921.....	29	28	26½	11	11½	12½	14
“ 1920.....	66	56	55	29	25	20½	29
“ 1919.....	44	36	38	23½	27	16	30½

Index Numbers of Agricultural Prices.—Records of the average prices received by farmers for agricultural produce have been collected annually since 1909 through the crop correspondents of the Census and Statistics Office and Dominion Bureau of Statistics. From these records annual index numbers have been calculated for each crop and for the field crops as a whole. The average prices for the five year pre-war period 1909-1913 have in each case been taken as 100, and the figures for each year are expressed as a percentage of these. In calculating the index numbers for the combined field crops, the various crops have been weighted according to the proportion which the value of each crop in each year bears to the total value for that year. Table 42 and its accompanying illustrative diagram show the great increase which took place in agricultural prices during the war period and the fall which took place in 1920 and 1921. The year 1921 will indeed be memorable for the great and sudden fall in the prices of agricultural produce, and the index numbers provide a convenient means of measuring its extent, as compared with previous years, and especially with the maximum prices, which were reached in 1919. For wheat, in 1921, the index number for Canada was 117.4, representing a drop of 117.3 points as compared with 1920 and of 226.1 points as compared with 1919. The price was only 17.4 p.c. above that of the pre-war base-period 1909-13. Oats and barley receded by 55.9 points and 76.6 points respectively from the records of 1920, and were exactly equal to the pre-war average for the five years 1909-13. The hay and clover price remained relatively high, but the index number was 21.8 points below that of 1920 and was 102.2 points above the pre-war average. This was due however, to the poorest hay crop on record, caused by the prolonged drought. The Canadian weighted index number for all field crops in 1921 was 147.5, or 57.4 points below that of 1920 and 47.5 points above that of the base-period.