

Presentation of Agricultural Statistics.—In the current edition of the Year Book, the statistics of agriculture are presented under the following headings:—(1) Acreage, yield, quality and value of crops, (2) Farm live stock and poultry, (3) Fur farming, (4) Dairying, (5) Fruit, (6) Farm labour and wages, (7) Prices, (8) Miscellaneous, (9) Summary of agricultural revenue and agricultural wealth, (10) World statistics of agriculture.

1.—Acreage, Yield, Quality and Value of Crops.

Field Crops, 1917-22.—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 1917 to 1922, with the five-year averages for the period 1917 to 1921.¹ The estimates of 1922 are based upon statistics collected from about 168,000 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 estimating totals for the year 1922 it was possible to use a preliminary count of the number of farms, according to the schedules of the census of 1921 as received and compiled.

Season of 1921-22.—Taken altogether, the Canadian agricultural season of 1922 was of marked excellence. In parts of the Dominion, notably British Columbia and the northern and central districts of Alberta and Saskatchewan, severe drought prevailed during the growing season up to the end of July; but in the southern districts of Alberta and Saskatchewan the rainfall was ample, and the grain crops were superior to any since 1915. These conditions were a very welcome change from a series of bad seasons in the southern and drier districts of the two provinces. In Manitoba and Ontario an excellent all-round harvest was gathered. In Quebec the grain crops were generally good, and the yields were superior to those of last year. Potatoes however in this province, as a consequence of drought in September following excessive rains, did not realize early expectations, and the tubers were as a rule small and few. Abundant rains in the Atlantic provinces resulted in good grain crops, but the yield of potatoes was below average, and the wet season induced rotting. The fall of 1922 was fine and mild, enabling cattle to be kept out of doors until a late date; and in most parts of the Dominion live stock entered upon the winter with plentiful supplies in prospect.

Areas and Yields of Grain Crops.—The total yield of wheat in Canada for the year 1922 was finally estimated at 399,786,400 bushels from an area of 22,422,693 acres, as compared with 300,858,100 bushels from 23,261,224 acres in 1921 and with 236,025,200 bushels from 18,545,863 acres, the annual average for the five years 1917-21. The total for 1922 consisted of 18,956,000 bushels from 892,569 harvested acres of fall wheat and of 380,830,400 bushels from 21,530,124 sown acres of spring wheat. The total wheat crop of 399,786,400 bushels, as finally estimated, was the largest on record for Canada, and compares with 393,542,600 bushels, the previous record crop of 1915. The average yield per acre of all wheat

¹ Statistics of acreage, yield, and value of various field crops collected at the decennial censuses since 1871 will be found in the "Statistical Summary of the Progress of Canada," immediately following the Table of Contents.