

\$1,500,000. The hail loss in Saskatchewan in 1924 was less than half the 1923 total. The annual report for the year ended January 31, 1924, of the Alberta Hail Insurance Board showed that in 1923 over 2,240,000 acres were insured at rates of \$6, \$8, and \$10 per acre, making a total risk of over \$21,000,000. At the end of the season there were 5,329 claims, and the total awards for indemnity amounted approximately to \$2,411,000. The year 1923, which was a record one for Alberta in respect of yield, was also one in which very heavy hail damage was sustained, and the premium rate of 12 p.c. was the highest ever set under the municipal plan. During the five years' operation of the present Act, the total assessment amounted to \$7,376,000 and the amount paid out in losses to \$6,260,000. The surplus in hand is over \$500,000. The report also states that out of every dollar charged to the farmer for premiums, 85 cents were returned to claimants for awards, 8½ cents represent the cost of administration and 6½ cents are in the surplus account.

Flax Fibre.—According to estimates furnished by the Economic Fibre Production Division of the Experimental Farms, the area sown to flax for fibre in Ontario in 1923 was 3,300, as compared with 1,200 acres in 1922, 6,515 acres in 1921 and 31,300 acres in 1920. Of the acres sown in 1923, the produce from 1,485 acres was converted into fibre and that from the remaining 1,815 acres was manufactured into upholstering tow. The yield obtained from the 1,485 acres was 272,650 lb. of long fibre and 148,500 lb. of tow. All the long fibre was sold in Belfast at the average price of 21 cents per lb.; 90 p.c. of the tow was sold in Belfast at an average price of 7 cents per lb.; the remaining 10 p.c. was marketed in the United States. The upholstering tow, which averaged one ton per acre, was sold to upholstering firms in Ontario at prices ranging from \$50 to \$65 per ton. The yield of seed from the total crop was 20,000 bushels of the value of \$50,000, an average per bushel of \$2.50. The total value of the produce of the flax fibre crop of 1923 was about \$111,375.

12.—World's Production of Cereals and Potatoes.

Table 59, constructed from data published by the International Institute of Agriculture, shows the area and yield of wheat, rye, barley, oats, corn and potatoes for the years 1922 and 1923 in countries of the northern hemisphere, and for the years 1922-23 and 1923-24 in countries of the southern hemisphere (Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Australia and New Zealand). The annual average areas and yields are also given for the five-year period 1917-21 (1917-18 to 1921-22), and the areas and yields of 1923 (1923-24) are compared with those of the five-year averages in percentages.

Wheat.—For 45 countries the production of wheat in 1923 was 3,458,375,000 bushels from 217,865,000 acres, as compared with 3,137,077,000 bushels from 216,534,000 acres in 1922 and 2,915,451,000 bushels from 209,144,000 acres, the five-year average for the years 1917-21 (1917-18 to 1921-22). As compared with 1922, the total area and yield of wheat in these countries showed increases of 0.6 and 10.2 p.c. respectively, and as compared with the average the increases were 4.2 and 18.6 p.c. respectively.

Rye.—In 28 countries the production was 937,738,000 bushels from 46,213,000 acres in 1923, as against 854,107,000 bushels from 47,496,000 acres in 1922 and 777,154,000 bushels from 43,221,000 acres, the average for the five years 1917 to 1921. The area under rye was 2.7 p.c. less and the yield 9.8 p.c. more than in 1922. As compared with the five-year average the area was 6.9 and the yield 20.7 p.c. more.