

Reciprocity negotiations with the United States.

Throughout these negotiations the President and other American representatives maintained the most friendly attitude towards Canada, and a desire was expressed on the part of the United States for the opening of further negotiations having for their object the establishment of permanent reciprocal trading relations between the two countries. This took formal shape in a letter addressed by the United States Secretary of State on May 12 to H. M. Ambassador at Washington. Subsequently, in November 1910 at Ottawa, and in January 1911 at Washington, conferences took place between the Canadian and American representatives, with the result that an agreement was arrived at and formally embodied in letters exchanged on January 21 1911 between the Canadian Ministers of Finance and Trade and Commerce and the United States Secretary of State. In these letters it was agreed that the desired tariff changes should not take the formal shape of a treaty, but that the Governments of the two countries should use their utmost efforts to bring about such changes by concurrent legislation at Washington and Ottawa. Accordingly legislative proposals giving effect to the agreement have been laid before the Dominion Parliament and the United States Congress for settlement in 1911.

Harvest results of 1910.

Outstanding features of the season were the uniform excellence of the crops throughout eastern Canada and the diminution of yield caused by prolonged drouth throughout the southern portions of the Northwest provinces. The result was a lowered average of production for the whole of the Dominion and a total yield of wheat less than that of the previous year from an area larger by over $1\frac{1}{2}$ million acres. The monthly crop reports issued during the season of growth by the Census and Statistics Office reflected plainly the difference between the conditions in the east and those of the west. Throughout the Maritime provinces and in Quebec the percentage of a standard condition for spring wheat and most other cereals was maintained at well over 90 and in Ontario it was over 84, while in the Northwest provinces at the end of July the figures fell below 57 for wheat, oats and barley in Manitoba and below 70 in Saskatchewan and Alberta. In Alberta at the same date oats were down to 53.

Final estimates of production and value of field crops 1910.

The final estimates of the production and value of the field crops of 1910 were issued on December 30, and the following table gives the details of area, yield and value for each crop for the year 1910, together with the corresponding figures for 1909 and 1908 :