

PRODUCTION.

were favourable. With the prospects of high prices for wheat and other cereals, and responding to appeals for increased production on patriotic grounds, the farmers of Canada took the fullest advantage of their opportunities, with the result that the area sown to wheat for the harvest of 1915 was not only the largest on record in Canada, but exceeded the area sown in the previous year by 1,964,400 acres, or nearly 18 per cent. Finally, the growing season was uniformly favourable, and the average yields per acre of all the principal cereals in Canada were higher than in any previous year on record. For wheat, the average yield per acre was close upon 29 bushels, or eight bushels more than the previous record of 21 bushels in 1913. Owing to the heavy rains of August in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, the yield of potatoes turned out to be very poor, the average of 130.81 bushels to the acre being lower than in any previous year except 1910, when the average was 119.36 bushels. As shown in Table 3, the total area estimated to be sown to field crops in Canada for 1915 was 37,063,455 acres, as compared with 35,102,175 acres, the sown area, and 33,436,675 acres, the harvested area, in 1914.

Yield of Grain Crops.—As a result of the returns of the average yield per acre, made after threshing, the total yields of the grain crops for the season of 1915, compared with 1914, were in bushels as follows. Wheat, 376,303,600, as against 161,280,000 in 1914; oats, 520,103,000, as against 313,078,000; barley, 53,331,300, as against 36,201,000; rye, 2,394,100, as against 2,016,800; peas, 3,478,850, as against 3,362,500; beans, 723,400, as against 797,500; buckwheat, 7,865,900, as against 8,626,000; flaxseed, 10,628,000, as against 7,175,200; mixed grains, 17,523,100, as against 16,382,500 and corn for husking, 14,368,000, as against 13,924,000 bushels. The average yields per acre in 1915 are, in bushels, as follows, the figures placed in brackets representing the yields of 1914 for comparison: Fall wheat, 29.41 (21.41); spring wheat, 28.93 (15.07); all wheat, 28.98 (15.67); oats, 45.76 (31.12); barley, 35.33 (24.21); rye, 21.32 (18.12); peas, 17.73 (17.64); beans, 16.70 (18.20); buckwheat, 22.88 (24.34); flaxseed, 13.18 (6.62); mixed grains, 37.54 (35.36); and corn for husking, 56.72 (54.39).

Yield of Root and Fodder Crops.—The total estimated yield of potatoes in 1915 was 62,604,000 bushels from 478,600 acres, an average yield per acre of 130.81 bushels. In 1914 the corresponding figures were 85,672,000 bushels from 475,900 acres, an average yield per acre of 180.02 bushels. In Ontario the average yield per acre was not more than 92.66 bushels, almost the lowest yield of potatoes on record for the province. In the other provinces the potato yield was also poor, excepting in Alberta and British Columbia. In Alberta the total yield was 5,155,000 bushels from 27,300 acres, an average of 188.84 bushels per acre, and in British Columbia the yield was 3,956,000 bushels from 16,000 acres, an average of 247.28 bushels. In both provinces the yield per acre was larger than in any recent year. In Alberta the yield was 211.64 bushels in 1912, and in British Columbia it was 252.31 bushels in 1911. Turnips and other roots for the whole