

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Department of Trade and Commerce

THE COARSE GRAINS QUARTERLY

May, 1956

Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe
Minister of Trade and Commerce

Prepared in Crops Section, Agriculture Division
Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa

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FEED SITUATION IN CANADA

Initial Prices Announced for 1956-57 Crop Year

Speaking in the House of Commons on May 3, 1956 the Right Hon. C. D. Howe announced that the government had approved initial prices paid by the Canadian Wheat Board on wheat, oats and barley for the crop year beginning August 1, 1956 at the same levels as in effect at the beginning of the current crop year. The initial prices for 1956-57 are as follows:

Wheat: \$1.40 per bushel basis No. 1 Manitoba Northern in store
Fort William-Port Arthur or Vancouver.

Oats: 65 cents per bushel basis No. 2 C.W. in store
Fort William-Port Arthur.

Barley: 96 cents per bushel basis No. 3 C.W. Six-Row in store
Fort William-Port Arthur.

Commercial Supplies Deliveries of oats, barley, rye and flaxseed by farmers in the three Prairie Provinces from August 1, 1955 to May 16, 1956 amounted to 125.4 million bushels as against the comparable 1954-55 figure of 153.3 million and the ten-year (1944-45-1953-54) average for the period, of 164.1 million bushels. Deliveries of each of the four grains to mid-May, with comparable totals for 1954-55 in brackets were as follows (in millions of bushels): oats, 34.7 (49.9); barley, 68.3 (87.1); rye, 7.7 (8.2); and flaxseed, 14.7 (8.2).

Total supplies (excluding stocks on farms) of oats, barley, rye and flaxseed at May 16 this year amounted to 82.3 million bushels showing only a small relative change from the comparable 1955 total of 81.9 million and the 1954 total of 86.0 million. Stocks of barley, at 43.7 million bushels, accounted for slightly more than half of this year's mid-May supplies of the four grains in all commercial positions. Supplies of oats accounted for an additional 25.2 million bushels, with the remainder consisting of rye, 10.1 million and flaxseed, 3.2 million bushels. Stocks of the four grains in country elevators at May 16 totalled 44.6 million bushels, accounting for about 54 per cent of the total visible supplies. Supplies of these grains in the same position amounted to 37.5 million (46 per cent of total) a year ago and 52.2 million bushels (61 per cent of total), two years ago. Lakehead stocks of oats, barley, rye and flaxseed totalled 11.7 million bushels below both the 1955 and 1954 corresponding totals of 16.2 million and 15.0 million bushels, respectively. In Bay, Lake and Upper St. Lawrence ports stocks of those grains amounted to 5.0 million bushels, down from the 8.6 million of a year ago but above the 4.2 million in this position at mid-May two years ago. The total 3.1 million bushels in Lower St. Lawrence and Maritime ports were slightly below levels of the two preceding years when supplies of the four grains stood at 3.8 million and 3.6 million bushels, respectively. In west coast ports (Vancouver-New Westminster, Victoria and Prince Rupert) supplies of these grains amounted to 2.0 million bushels compared with 1.9 million at mid-May in 1955 and 1.3 million in 1954.

Exports of Oats, Barley, Rye and Flaxseed

Total exports of oats, barley, rye and flaxseed during the first three quarters of the 1955-56 crop year amounted to 54.5 million bushels as against 78.5 million during the August-April period

of 1954-55 and the five year (1949-50-1953-54) nine month average of 86.7 million bushels. Current crop year exports of each of the four grains to April 30, 1956 in millions of bushels, with figures for the corresponding period of last year and the five-year August-April averages, respectively, in brackets, were as follows: oats, 2.5 (17.1, 34.4); barley, 38.2 (53.9, 42.4); rye, 4.1 (3.1, 6.8); and flaxseed, 9.7 (4.4, 3.1).

During the period under review, exports of Canadian oats went to eight different countries. Principal importers were the United States and Belgium, with these countries receiving shipments totalling 922.4 thousand and 723.0 thousand bushels, respectively. Exports of barley went to ten different countries, with shipments of 19.0 million bushels to the United States, 10.6 million to the United Kingdom, 6.6 million to Japan and 1.7 million to the Federal Republic of Germany accounting for most of the total. The 4.1 million bushels of Canadian rye exported during the period were distributed among eight destinations, with the largest shipments going to United States, 1.6 million, the Federal Republic of Germany, 0.7 million and Belgium, 0.6 million. Of the sixteen countries importing Canadian flaxseed during the period, the United Kingdom was the leading market, receiving some 3.0 million bushels. Other principal markets for this grain with quantities imported in millions of bushels were: the Netherlands, 2.2; Belgium, 1.2, and Japan, 1.2.

Delivery Quotas The following instructions to the trade, re quotas, were issued by the Canadian Wheat Board:

Selected Malting Barley, No. 76, March 5, 1956 - "Effective immediately, provisions of the instructions to the trade No. 70 are extended to producers in Alberta and the Peace River area of British Columbia."

Purchases of Registered or Certified Seed - Durum Wheat and Barley, No. 78, March 9, 1956 - "As many producers have been unable to obtain their necessary requirements, the Board is prepared to extend the over-quota delivery privilege authorized in Instructions to the Trade re Quotas No. 48 of January 4, 1956, to the purchase of commercial seed durum, except Golden Ball and Pelissier varieties, where the grain has been cleaned and sealed in sacks by a Dominion Government Seed Inspector and carries an official tag indicating same to be of commercial seed grade.

The same privilege is also extended to producers desiring to purchase commercial seed barley, subject to the same provisions as outlined in the preceding paragraph. The maximum amount of grain that may be delivered against the purchase of registered, certified or commercial seed, as outlined in Instructions to the Trade re Quotas No. 48, remains unchanged." (See Coarse Grains Quarterly, February, 1956, page 2).

Purchases of Commercial Seed Flaxseed, Durum Wheat and Barley, No. 80, March 14, 1956 - "With reference to Instructions to the Trade re Quotas No. 67 and No. 78 of February 16 and March 9 respectively, we are advised that the Plant Products Division are not in a position to officially seal all commercial seed grain which may be purchased under the Board's policy outlined in the Circulars referred to. In these circumstances the overdelivery privilege authorized in Instructions to the Trade No. 48 of January 4 is extended to the purchase of commercial seed flaxseed, durum wheat, or barley, provided such seed has been cleaned to commercial

seed grade and is tagged with the Control Sample Certificate number and the seed grade. It must be understood that all purchases and sales of commercial seed grain under this policy are covered by provisions of the Dominion Seeds Act."

Supplementary Rye Quota, No. 95, April 30, 1956 - "Effective immediately, producers whose 1955-56 delivery permits indicate an acreage seeded to rye may deliver an additional supplementary quota of three (3) bushels per seeded acre to rye or a minimum of 100 bushels. This will bring the total supplementary rye quota authorized to date to six (6) bushels per seeded acre or a minimum of 200 bushels. The Board also authorizes an additional maximum delivery of 100 bushels of rye by any producer who had no acreage seeded to rye in 1955 but had stocks of rye grown from the lands described in his permit book which were carried over from the previous year. This will increase the total quantity of rye which can be delivered by such producers this season to a maximum of 200 bushels."

Supplementary Quota on Oats, No. 105, May 31, 1956 - "Effective immediately, Instructions to the Trade Nos. 38 and 73 are amended to permit delivery on the supplementary quota of any grade of oats in cases where producers have been unable to deliver oats grading Extra No. 1 Feed or higher. The total delivery of oats of any grade which may be made by any producer on the supplementary oats quota is 1,000 bushels and no further deliveries may be made by producers who have already completed this quota by delivery of higher grade oats."

General Quota Position By June 1, 1956 the Canadian Wheat Board had been able to place 659 out of a total of 2,080 shipping points in the Western Division on a quota of 6 bushels per specified acre, while an additional 484 points were on a 5-bushel quota. Of the remainder, 589 were on a 4-bushel quota, 312 on a 3-bushel quota and 18 on a 2-bushel quota. Eighteen stations were reported as "closed".

Summary of Elevator Shipping Points in Each Quota Group
as at May 25, 1956

Province	General Quota in Bushels per Specified Acre					Closed Stations	Total
	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six		
Ontario	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Manitoba	-	6	45	118	207	2	378
Saskatchewan	18	234	417	236	199	2	1,106
Alberta	-	72	127	130	248	13	590
British Columbia ...	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
All Provinces ...	18	312	589	484	659	18	2,080

INTENDED ACREAGE OF PRINCIPAL GRAIN CROPS AND SUMMERFALLOW IN CANADA*, 1956

On the basis of their intentions at March 1, Canadian farmers plan to seed an unprecedented acreage to flaxseed in 1956. Moderate increases in oats and mixed grains are also indicated, while the acreage of winter wheat seeded last fall for harvest in 1956 is also greater than in the previous season. These indicated increases are largely offset by prospective decreases in summerfallow acreage in the Prairie Provinces and by reduced seedings of spring wheat, barley and spring rye. In addition, the acreage of rye seeded last fall for harvest this year was also well below the acreage harvested in 1955. It is emphasized that intended acreages are merely indicative of farmers' plans at March 1, and the acreages actually seeded, therefore, may vary considerably from the intentions figures, depending upon conditions before and during seeding.

According to farmers' intentions at March 1, wheat acreage in Canada in 1956 will register the fourth consecutive annual decrease. The combined acreage of spring and winter wheat at 20.8 million acres will, if realized, be the smallest since 1943 and will be about 19 per cent below the five-year (1950-54) average of 25.7 million.

Intended acreages of oats and mixed grains at 11.9 and 1.8 million acres, respectively, are in excess of the acreage seeded to these crops in 1955 and are also well above their five-year averages. Indicated seedings of barley in 1956 at 9.5 million acres are 4.5 per cent below the 1955 acreage but still exceed the five-year average by about 20 per cent.

The area intended for spring rye in 1956 is placed at 165,000 acres, nearly 22 per cent below last year's level. With a more than 25 per cent decrease in the area seeded to fall rye last autumn the combined acreage of fall and spring rye is placed at 589,000 acres, down 24.5 per cent from last season. Flaxseed acreage indicated at a record total of 3.8 million acres is nearly double last year's area and is almost four times the 1950-54 average.

Intended Acreages of Principal Grain Crops and Summerfallow, Canada*,
at March 1, 1956, compared with Estimated Acreages, 1953-1955

Crop	Seeded Area <u>1/</u>			Intended Area, 1956	
	1953	1954	1955	Area	as % of 1955
	acres	acres	acres	acres	per cent
<u>CANADA</u>					
Winter wheat <u>2/</u>	732,000	710,000	582,000	640,000	110.0
Spring wheat <u>3/</u>	24,780,600	23,556,800	20,923,800	20,208,100	96.6
All wheat	25,512,600	24,266,800	21,505,800	20,848,100	96.9
Oats for grain	9,829,800	10,160,600	11,178,000	11,851,200	106.0
Barley	8,911,100	7,855,900	9,932,500	9,486,600	95.5
Fall rye <u>4/</u>	1,031,200	672,500	568,900	424,300	74.6
Spring rye	463,000	178,000	211,300	164,800	78.0
All rye	1,494,200	850,500	780,200	589,100	75.5
Mixed grains	1,445,400	1,632,600	1,705,200	1,847,300	108.3
Flaxseed	972,000	1,206,000	1,988,400	3,811,600	191.7
Summerfallow <u>5/</u>	22,764,000	25,253,000	23,965,000	22,944,000	95.7

*Excluding Newfoundland for which data are not available.

1/ Except for summerfallow.

2/ Seeded in the fall of the preceding year; Ontario only.

3/ Includes relatively small acreages of winter wheat in all provinces other than Ontario.

4/ Seeded in the fall of the preceding year; includes small acreages of spring rye in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia.

5/ Prairie Provinces only.

FARM STOCKS AT MARCH 31, 1956

Stocks of the principal grains held on farms in Canada (excluding Newfoundland) at March 31, 1956 were estimated at 785.3 million bushels, compared with 593.0 million in 1955, 835.2 million in 1954 and the record 843.1 million in 1943, according to a survey conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Average farm stocks for the 1946-55 period were 486.7 million bushels. Farm stocks of each of the five grains were larger than both the 1955 level and the ten-year average. Farm stocks of wheat at 403.8 million exceeded by a small margin the previous record holdings of 401.7 million in 1954. Flaxseed stocks on farms, at 4.4 million, also exceeded the previous high of 4.1 million established in 1953. However, farm stocks of oats, barley and rye were 148.7, 23.0 and 2.5 million bushels, respectively, below their previous record levels. This year's March 31 farm stocks of grains in millions of bushels, with last year's totals and the ten-year averages, respectively, in brackets, were estimated as follows: wheat, 403.8 (286.0, 204.0); oats, 213.4 (170.4, 182.8); barley, 146.8 (119.0, 90.6); rye, 17.0 (14.6, 7.0); and flaxseed, 4.4 (2.9, 2.3).

The Prairie Provinces, as the major grain-producing area, accounted for the bulk of this year's total March 31 farm-held grain stocks ranging from 81 per cent of the oats to 99 per cent of the rye and flaxseed. Farm stocks in these provinces, in millions of bushels, and as percentages of total Canadian farm stocks, respectively, were wheat, 396.0 (98.1 p.c.); oats, 173.0 (81.1 p.c.); barley, 143.0 (97.4 p.c.); rye, 16.8 (98.8 p.c.); and flaxseed, 4.3 (98.8 p.c.).

It should be noted that farm-held grain stocks at the end of March include amounts to be used as seed for the 1956 crop as well as quantities required for live stock and poultry feed during the remaining four months of the crop year, leaving the balance to be divided between deliveries and July 31 carryover stocks.

Stocks of Principal Grains on Farms in the Prairie Provinces,
March 31, 1956, with Comparisons

Year	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flaxseed
- thousand bushels -					
Average 1935-1939	45,955	61,266	13,999	1,145	168
Average 1940-1944	177,650	152,527	58,696	5,274	1,663
1945	149,000	164,000	54,000	1,575	1,920
1946	101,700	104,600	38,600	586	1,388
1947	129,000	120,000	55,000	564	1,209
1948	112,000	92,000	45,000	1,600	2,500
1949	122,000	114,000	60,000	7,100	3,300
Average 1945-1949	122,740	118,920	50,520	2,285	2,063
1950	106,000	91,000	44,000	3,600	600
1951	152,000	139,000	69,000	3,630	1,360
1952	246,000	224,700	141,500	6,800	2,500
1953	335,000 ^{1/}	220,000	139,000	9,900	3,900
1954	393,000 ^{1/}	195,000	164,000	19,200	2,900
Average 1950-1954	246,400	173,940	111,500	8,626	2,252
1955	277,500	128,000	114,000	14,400	2,850
1956	396,000	173,000	143,000	16,800	4,300

^{1/} Revised.

FARMERS' MARKETINGS OF OATS, BARLEY, RYE AND FLAXSEED

Total marketings of oats, barley, rye and flaxseed in the Prairie Provinces from the beginning of the current crop year to May 16 amounted to 125.4 million bushels as against 153.3 million during the same period of 1954-55. The ten-year (1944-45-1953-54) average for the period under review was 164.1 million bushels. Deliveries of barley at 68.3 million bushels and oats at 34.7 million accounted for 54 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively, of the total marketings of these grains to mid-May. Flaxseed, the only one of the four grains marketed in greater volume this year than last, accounted for some 12 per cent of the total, with the remainder (6 per cent) consisting of rye.

Farmers' Marketings of Oats, Barley, Rye and Flaxseed in the Prairie Provinces, 1955-56
with Comparisons

Period or week ending	Oats				Barley			
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	Total	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	Total
	- thousand bushels -				- thousand bushels -			
August 1, 1955—								
February 15, 1956 ...	5,190	12,829	5,175	23,194	10,888	22,864	19,501	53,253
22	59	196	59	314	70	176	400	645
29	46	134	36	217	70	131	307	508
March 7	105	437	122	664	175	311	462	947
14	54	240	311	606	177	251	346	775
21	151	473	469	1,093	208	489	562	1,259
28	170	554	509	1,233	335	571	585	1,491
April 4	69	216	192	477	156	375	236	767
11	134	330	127	591	261	375	246	882
18	111	274	81	466	154	281	161	596
25	122	438	125	686	218	338	298	854
May 2	259	921	454	1,633	409	848	675	1,931
9	296	1,066	559	1,921	538	877	797	2,212
16	276	873	482	1,631	511	917	789	2,217
Totals	7,042	18,983	8,700	34,725	14,170	28,803	25,363	68,337
Similar period 1954-55	9,701	26,445	13,768	49,914	25,291	32,690	29,075	87,057
Average Similar Period 1944-45-1953-54 ...	15,681	39,465	23,510	78,656	23,517	25,697	21,917	71,131
	Rye				Flaxseed			
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	Total	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	Total
	- thousand bushels -				- thousand bushels -			
August 1, 1955—								
February 15, 1956 ...	366	1,387	1,048	2,801	3,545	8,048 <u>1/</u>	2,165	13,759 <u>1/</u>
22	12	89	32	133	30	21	7	58
29	15	54	56	125	18	10	13	41
March 7	38	124	110	273	41	60	23	124
14	23	73	76	172	34	28	10	72
21	35	171	70	276	25	48	16	89
28	40	181	90	311	24	44	11	79
April 4	27	152	40	219	10	21	6	37
11	37	140	73	250	9	21	9	39
18	36	171	58	266	13	15	17	45
25	68	258	106	432	23	40	11	74
May 2	113	467	170	750	18	90	6	114
9	110	634	191	935	12	71	14	97
16	71	479	179	729	15	53	9	77
Totals	991	4,381	2,301	7,673	3,818	8,571	2,316	14,705
Similar period 1954-55	930 <u>1/</u>	4,419	2,862	8,211	3,123 <u>1/</u>	3,370	1,671 <u>1/</u>	8,165 <u>1/</u>
Average Similar Period 1944-45-1953-54 ...	721	4,475	2,727	7,923	2,932	2,426	1,068	6,426

1/ Revised.

Visible Supply of Canadian Oats, May 16, 1956, Compared with
Approximately the Same Date, 1954 and 1955

Position	1954	1955	1956
- thousand bushels -			
Country elevators - Manitoba	3,087	1,579	3,301
Saskatchewan	6,677	5,138	9,571
Alberta	8,244	5,490	5,299
Totals	18,007	12,207	18,171
Interior private and mill	560	827	780
Interior terminals	11	3	6
Vancouver-New Westminster	168	388	125
Victoria	1/	-	-
Churchill	1	1/	30
Fort William-Port Arthur	5,094	3,439	2,177
In transit rail (Western Division)	1,643	1,227	1,586
Bay, Lake and Upper St. Lawrence ports ..	1,471	2,401	1,060
Lower St. Lawrence and Maritime ports ...	651	712	305
In transit lake	501	944	878
In transit rail (Eastern Division)	30	413	77
United States ports	705	-	-
Totals	28,842	22,562	25,193

Visible Supply of Canadian Barley, May 16, 1956 Compared with
Approximately the Same Date, 1954 and 1955

Position	1954	1955	1956
- thousand bushels -			
Country elevators - Manitoba	5,465	4,017	2,903
Saskatchewan	7,783	3,970	4,058
Alberta	18,692	15,196	15,586
Totals	31,940	23,183	22,547
Interior private and mill	1,767	1,978	1,880
Interior terminals	331	427	376
Vancouver-New Westminster	946	748	1,616
Victoria	1	1	1
Prince Rupert	196	805	250
Fort William-Port Arthur	6,599	9,237	5,605
In transit rail (Western Division)	1,032	2,203	3,988
Bay, Lake and Upper St. Lawrence ports ..	2,278	3,848	2,644
Lower St. Lawrence and Maritime ports ...	1,963	1,867	1,834
In transit lake	1,168	3,306	2,917
In transit rail (Eastern Division)	10	6	5
United States ports	722	-	64
Totals	48,953	47,608	43,725

1/ Less than 500 bushels.

Visible Supply of Canadian Rye, May 16, 1956 Compared with
Approximately the Same Date, 1954 and 1955

Position	1954	1955	1956
- thousand bushels -			
Country elevators - Manitoba	222	221	415
Saskatchewan	972	803	1,713
Alberta	789	643	1,028
Totals	1,983	1,666	3,156
Interior private and mill	11	25	37
Interior terminals	<u>1/</u>	-	27
Vancouver-New Westminster	10	-	-
Fort William-Port Arthur	2,227	2,655	2,149
In transit rail (Western Division)	420	290	1,102
Bay, Lake and Upper St. Lawrence ports	97	2,058	1,178
Lower St. Lawrence and Maritime ports	797	980	801
In transit lake	306	947	1,588
In transit rail (Eastern Division)	-	-	111
United States ports	264	500	-
In transit U.S.A.	-	369	-
Totals	6,115	9,490	10,149

Visible Supply of Canadian Flaxseed, May 16, 1956 Compared with
Approximately the Same Date, 1954 and 1955

Position	1954	1955	1956
- thousand bushels -			
Country elevators - Manitoba	116	144	198
Saskatchewan	79	170	436
Alberta	86	84	88
Totals	280	397	722
Interior private and mill	37	30	24
Interior terminals	<u>1/</u>	2	<u>1/</u>
Vancouver-New Westminster	1	<u>1/</u>	3
Fort William-Port Arthur	1,037	914	1,736
In transit rail (Western Division)	129	192	248
Bay, Lake and Upper St. Lawrence ports	352	328	102
Lower St. Lawrence and Maritime ports	186	255	166
In transit lake	49	141	220
In transit rail (Eastern Division)	-	-	16
Totals	2,072	2,260	3,238

1/ Less than 500 bushels.

GRADING OF CROPS, 1955-56

The total number of cars of oats, barley, rye and flaxseed (both old and new crop) inspected by the Board of Grain Commissioners during the first three quarters of the 1955-56 crop year amounted to 58,887, representing a decrease of about 24 per cent from the 77,639 cars inspected during the August-April period of 1954-55. The 34,711 cars of barley and 11,995 cars of oats inspected, accounted for some 59 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively, of the nine-month total. The remainder consisted of 8,989 cars of flaxseed (15 per cent of the total) and 3,192 cars of rye (5 per cent of total).

Reflecting the good quality of the 1955 crop, as well as the generally excellent weather conditions which prevailed over most areas of the Prairies during the harvesting season, are the exceptionally high proportions of inspected grain entering the higher grades the first nine months of the crop year. Percentages of the four grains falling into the higher grades (excluding "Toughs" and "Damps") during the August-April period of the current crop year with comparable data for the entire 1954-55 crop year and the five-year (1949-50-1953-54) averages, respectively, in brackets, were as follows: oats, 1 Feed or higher, 89.8 (75.5, 76.0); barley, 1 Feed or higher, 74.1 (43.8, 54.2); rye, 3 C.W. or higher, 77.0 (72.4, 72.7); and flaxseed, 1 C.W. and 2 C.W. 97.3 (77.0, 70.2).

Grading of Oats, Barley, Rye and Flaxseed Inspected, August-April, 1955-56 with Comparisons

Grain and Grade	Crop Year		August—April		Grain and Grade	Crop Year		August—April	
	Average					Average			
	1949-50- 1953-54	1954-55	1955-56			1949-50- 1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	
- per cent - cars per cent					- per cent - cars per cent				
<u>OATS</u>					<u>BARLEY</u>				
1 C.W.	1/	-	2	1/	1 C.W. Six-Row .	1/	1/	1	1/
2 C.W.	0.8	0.2	36	0.3	2 C.W. Six-Row .	3.9	0.5	2,767	8.0
Ex. 3 C.W.	4.2	1.3	332	2.8	3 C.W. Six-Row .	23.3	17.0	12,366	35.6
3 C.W.	15.9	11.2	2,153	17.9	4 C.W. Six-Row .	2.0	1.0	2,039	5.9
Ex. 1 Feed	15.0	13.6	1,751	14.6	1 C.W. Two-Row .	1/	1/	3	1/
1 Feed	40.1	49.2	6,506	54.2	2 C.W. Two-Row .	0.3	0.1	226	0.7
2 Feed	5.3	8.4	566	4.7	3 C.W. Two-Row .	1.5	2.6	2,034	5.9
3 Feed	1.0	1.4	109	0.9	1 Feed	23.2	22.6	6,242	18.0
Mixed Feed	0.1	1/	2	1/	Ex. 2 Feed	-	-	3,626	10.4
Toughs 2/ 3/ ...	13.4	13.6	360	3.0	2 Feed	17.6	17.2	1,546	4.5
Damps 2/ 4/	3.1	1/	2	1/	3 Feed	5.2	3.1	455	1.3
Rejected 2/	0.5	0.7	104	0.9	Toughs 2/ 5/ ...	17.5	34.6	2,904	8.4
All others	0.5	0.4	72	0.6	Damps 2/ 4/	5.0	1.0	16	1/
					Rejected 2/	0.3	0.3	306	0.9
					All others	0.2	0.1	180	0.5
Totals 100.0 100.0 11,995 100.0					Totals 100.0 100.0 34,711 100.0				
Bushel equivalent (approximately) 29,725,000					Bushel equivalent (approximately) 70,203,000				
<u>RYE</u>					<u>FLAXSEED</u>				
1 C.W.	0.2	0.1	4	0.1	1 C.W.	60.6	54.8	7,432	82.7
2 C.W.	32.4	19.2	899	28.2	2 C.W.	9.6	22.2	1,310	14.6
3 C.W.	40.1	53.1	1,555	48.7	3 C.W.	3.5	4.1	128	1.4
4 C.W.	5.5	2.5	232	7.3	4 C.W.	0.6	0.1	3	1/
Ergoty	5.5	2.4	145	4.5	Toughs 2/ 6/ ...	21.2	17.7	72	0.8
Toughs 2/ 3/ ...	14.5	22.3	331	10.4	Damp 2/ 7/	3.9	0.8	-	-
Damps 2/ 4/	1.4	0.1	-	-	Rejected 2/	1/	-	-	-
Rejected 2/	0.3	0.2	25	0.8	All others	0.6	0.2	44	0.5
All others	0.2	0.1	1	1/					
Totals 100.0 100.0 3,192 100.0					Totals 100.0 100.0 8,989 100.0				
Bushel equivalent (approximately) 5,683,000					Bushel equivalent (approximately) 13,123,000				

- 1/ Less than .05 per cent. 2/ All grades. 3/ Moisture content 14.1 per cent to 17 per cent.
 4/ Moisture content over 17 per cent. 5/ Moisture content 14.9 per cent to 17 per cent.
 6/ Moisture content 10.6 per cent to 13.5 per cent. 7/ Moisture content over 13.5 per cent.

LAKE SHIPMENTS FROM FORT WILLIAM-PORT ARTHUR

Total shipments of the five major grains out of Lakehead positions from the opening of navigation to May 16, 1956 amounted to 70.4 million bushels compared with 63.8 million during the corresponding period last season. Navigation was declared officially open on April 11 this year and on April 20 in 1955. A heavier movement of wheat accounted for virtually all of the increase. Shipments of barley were only slightly higher than those of last year while shipments of oats, rye and flaxseed were below the comparable 1955 levels. Of the current total shipments, wheat and barley accounted for 64 per cent and 23 per cent, respectively, with the remainder consisting of oats, 7 per cent; rye, 5 per cent; and flaxseed, 1 per cent.

Lake Shipments of Canadian Grain from the Opening of Navigation to May 6, 1956
and to Approximately the Same Date, 1946 to 1955*

Year	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flaxseed	Total
- thousand bushels -						
1946	24,167	15,411	6,590	518	219	46,905
1947	18,840	7,787	3,627	841	-	31,094
1948	18,470	3,214	2,983	231	960	25,859
1949	48,361	4,351	4,888	3,540	2,993	64,133
1950	21,847	2,155	4,024	662	69	28,757
1951	32,253	10,147	6,068	1,362	136	49,966
1952	50,532	12,876	14,006	1,882	1,392	80,688
1953	59,955	15,907	23,224	2,702	1,109	102,896
1954	4,988	12,771	11,196	1,223	1,123	31,301
1955	35,343	6,330	16,271	4,481	1,381	63,807
1956	44,706	5,096	16,483	3,385	687	70,357

*Shipments from opening of navigation to May 14, 1946 and 1947. Shipments for subsequent years to the following dates: May 13, 1948; May 19, 1949; May 18, 1950; May 17, 1951; May 15, 1952; May 14, 1953; May 17, 1954; and May 18, 1955.

RAIL SHIPMENTS FROM FORT WILLIAM-PORT ARTHUR

The total volume of wheat, oats, barley, rye and flaxseed shipped by rail from the Lakehead during the first three-quarters of the 1955-56 crop year amounted to some 23.3 million bushels, exceeding by 33 per cent the comparable 1954-55 total of 17.6 million.

Rail Shipments of Canadian Grain from Fort William-Port Arthur
August-April 1955-56 and 1954-55

Month	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flaxseed	Total
- thousand bushels -						
August, 1955	57	176	36	1	-	271
September	64	172	138	1	3	378
October	64	277	75	-	20	436
November	149	279	101	-	259	787
December	478	634	216	5	1,596	2,929
January, 1956	2,341	1,592	620	3	1,242	5,797
February	1,735	2,036	765	12	615	5,162
March	1,600	2,871	1,063	13	60	5,607
April	301	1,154	449	11	35	1,950
Totals	6,788	9,191	3,463	47	3,829	23,317
Same period 1954-55	1,503	6,937	5,826	78	3,244	17,589

FREIGHT ASSISTANCE SHIPMENTS

Claims filed for payment up to April 30, 1956 indicate that on the basis of preliminary data, some 55.3 million bushels of wheat, oats, barley and rye were moved from the Prairie Provinces to Eastern Canada and British Columbia under the freight assistance policy during the August—March period of the current crop year. This preliminary total subject to upward revision with the filing of additional claims already exceeds by 4 per cent the revised total of 53.1 million bushels of these grains moved under the policy during the same period of 1954-55. Although shipments of each of the four grains up to March 31 this year were above the revised totals for the corresponding period of last year, most of the increase was accounted for by an increased movement of wheat.

According to preliminary data, the movement of screenings and millfeeds under the freight assistance policy during the first eight months of the current crop year represent shipments of 61,667 tons and 344,511 tons, respectively. Shipments of screenings already exceed by about 39 per cent the 1954-55 revised total of 44,380 tons moved during the period August 1, 1954 to March 31, 1955. Shipments of millfeeds, however, based on the assumption of approximately the same rate of submission of claims during both the current and preceding crop years, have been about equal to the comparable August—March level of the preceding crop year. As with wheat, oats, barley and rye these totals are based on claims submitted up to April 30, 1956 and will likely be subject to considerable upward revision with the filing of additional claims.

The bulk of all freight-assisted shipments went to destinations in Ontario and Quebec with the two provinces together accounting for 76 per cent of the wheat, 84 per cent of the oats, 85 per cent of the barley, 97 per cent of the rye, 87 per cent of the screenings, and 78 per cent of the millfeeds.

Provincial Distribution of Freight-Assisted Shipments, August—March 1955-56 and 1954-55

Province	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Screenings	Millfeeds
	- thousand bushels -				- tons -	
Newfoundland	60	406	97	-	598	2,451
Prince Edward Island .	160	185	258	2	895	5,180
Nova Scotia	620	1,442	796	2	2,971	22,934
New Brunswick	386	871	534	-	2,383	20,625
Quebec	4,266	11,381	8,398	194	24,316	171,243
Ontario	3,992	11,979	5,312	107	29,050	97,653
British Columbia	1,420	1,622	769	4	1,454	24,425
Totals <u>1/</u>	10,905	27,886	16,164	310	61,667	344,511
Same Period 1954-55						
Preliminary <u>2/</u>	9,051	26,903	15,244	177	42,700	345,763
Revised <u>1/</u>	9,499	27,681	15,741	177	44,380	367,326

1/ Based on claims filed up to April 30, 1956.

2/ Based on claims filed up to April 30, 1955.

Exports of Canadian Oats and Barley, 1955-56

Destination	February	March	April	August—April
			- bushels -	
			<u>OATS 1/</u>	
<u>COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES</u>				
United Kingdom	-	-	-	373,013
<u>North America</u>				
Trinidad and Tobago	-	-	-	449
Totals, Commonwealth Countries	-	-	-	373,462
<u>FOREIGN COUNTRIES</u>				
<u>Europe</u>				
Belgium	16,481	-	7,259	722,979 2/
Netherlands	-	16,455	-	274,577
Switzerland	-	-	-	161,636 3/
<u>North America</u>				
Panama	2,353	2,941	3,529	36,470
United States				
For domestic use 2/	114,108	142,500	186,929	922,353
<u>South America</u>				
Colombia	-	195	-	195
Totals, Foreign Countries	132,942	162,091	197,717	2,118,210
Totals, All Countries	132,942	162,091	197,717	2,491,672
			<u>BARLEY 1/</u>	
<u>COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES</u>				
United Kingdom	494,613	11,660	244,849	10,564,319
<u>North America</u>				
Trinidad and Tobago	-	-	-	666
Totals, Commonwealth Countries	494,613	11,660	244,849	10,564,985
<u>FOREIGN COUNTRIES</u>				
<u>Asia</u>				
Japan	1,210,067	1,258,857	1,210,533	6,617,022
<u>Europe</u>				
Belgium	-	-	-	168,218
Germany, Federal Republic	467,133	1,197,000	-	1,687,466
Italy	-	-	-	28,000
Netherlands	-	-	116,667	116,667
Switzerland	-	-	-	30,303
<u>North America</u>				
United States				
For domestic use 2/	1,922,476	1,170,551	3,318,950	18,955,641
<u>South America</u>				
Venezuela	-	-	-	2,646
Totals, Foreign Countries	3,599,676	3,626,408	4,646,150	27,605,963
Totals, All Countries	4,094,289	3,638,068	4,890,999	38,170,948

Exports of Canadian Rye and Flaxseed, 1955-56

Destination	February	March	April	August—April
- bushels -				
<u>RYE 1/</u>				
<u>COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES</u>				
<u>North America</u>				
Trinidad and Tobago	-	-	-	1,835
Totals, Commonwealth Countries	-	-	-	1,835
<u>FOREIGN COUNTRIES</u>				
<u>Europe</u>				
Belgium	-	-	40,000	576,715 3/
Denmark	38,000	-	-	351,000 3/
Germany, Federal Republic	37,608	-	83,906	690,968 3/
Netherlands	-	45,200	120,000	375,983
Norway	92,163	-	19,977	420,590
Sweden	-	-	-	60,000
<u>North America</u>				
United States				
For domestic use 2/	-	-	-	1,608,980
Totals, Foreign Countries	167,771	45,200	263,883	4,084,236
Totals, All Countries	167,771	45,200	263,883	4,086,071
<u>FLAXSEED 1/</u>				
<u>COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES</u>				
United Kingdom	638,743	394,646	60,542	2,958,605
<u>Africa</u>				
Union of South Africa	-	-	-	3,967
Totals, Commonwealth Countries	638,743	394,646	60,542	2,962,572
<u>FOREIGN COUNTRIES</u>				
<u>Africa</u>				
Morocco	-	-	-	52,000
<u>Asia</u>				
Israel	-	-	-	19,293
Japan	185,860	203,191	172,451	1,182,310
<u>Europe</u>				
Belgium	-	-	-	1,243,975
France	130,000	-	-	864,653
Germany, Federal Republic	-	-	-	177,002
Greece	7,945	-	-	76,614
Ireland	-	-	-	2,000
Italy	31,447	-	-	471,684
Netherlands	-	20,348	-	2,240,178
Norway	81,666	-	-	203,872
Portugal	-	-	-	172,895
Spain	36,000	-	-	48,228
<u>South America</u>				
Chile	-	-	-	3,695
Totals, Foreign Countries	472,918	223,539	172,451	6,758,399
Totals, All Countries	1,111,661	618,185	232,993	9,720,971

1/ Subject to revision.

2/ Compiled from returns of Canadian elevator licensees and shippers and advice from American grain correspondents.

3/ Revised.

Customs Exports of Canadian Rolled Oats, 1/ 1955-56

Destination	February	March	April	August—April
- bushels -				
<u>COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES</u>				
United Kingdom	-	-	-	4,923
<u>Asia</u>				
Ceylon	583	1,082	473	4,742
Hong Kong	-	-	637	3,807
India	-	-	-	110
Malaya and Singapore	687	192	-	1,066
<u>North America</u>				
Bahamas	22	50	143	984
Barbados	269	-	-	797
Bermuda	505	198	192	3,670
Jamaica	165	1,665	4,154	33,011
Leeward and Windward Islands	747	857	412 2/	6,214 2/
Trinidad and Tobago	-	247	-	1,407
<u>South America</u>				
British Guiana	-	-	11	368
Totals, Commonwealth Countries	2,978	4,291	6,022 2/	61,099 2/
<u>FOREIGN COUNTRIES</u>				
<u>Europe</u>				
Switzerland	-	-	-	21,758
<u>North America</u>				
Costa Rica	-	-	-	3,714
Guatemala	302	3,846	2,363	35,577
Nicaragua	-	-	-	374
Panama	495	77	247	2,742
St. Pierre and Miquelon	-	-	247	895
United States	-	440 2/	-	3,418 4/
<u>South America</u>				
Bolivia	550	-	-	6,071
Colombia	-	1,566	-	11,506
Ecuador	-	-	275	275
Peru	-	-	-	117,071
Venezuela	8,170	2,456	7,500	165,907
Totals, Foreign Countries	9,517	8,385 2/	10,632	369,308 4/
Totals, All Countries	12,495	12,676 2/	16,654 2/	430,407 5/

1/ In terms of oats equivalent. Conversion rate: 1 bushel of oats equals 18.2 pounds of oatmeal and rolled oats.

2/ Includes 440 bushels of oatmeal.

3/ Includes 165 bushels of oatmeal.

4/ Includes 1,044 bushels of oatmeal.

5/ Includes 1,209 bushels of oatmeal.

HOG-BARLEY RATIO

The hog-barley ratio declined slightly during the February--April period this year, with relatively stable hog prices accompanied by increasing feed barley prices. Hog prices during the period, reflecting an 11 per cent increase in marketings compared with a year earlier, remained only slightly above the government floor price of \$23.00 per hundredweight, basis Grade A, Toronto. The Winnipeg price, basis per hundredweight of Grade B-1 (Live) moved only from a monthly average of \$20.04 in February to \$20.18 in March and down to \$19.73 in April. At the same time the price of a bushel of barley, basis No. 1 Feed, in store Fort William-Port Arthur went steadily upward from a monthly average of \$1.01 7/8 in February to \$1.10 1/4 in March and \$1.14 1/2 in April. As a result, the ratio gradually declined from 16.3 points in February to March and April levels of 15.2 points and 14.3 points, respectively.

Number of Bushels of No. 1 Feed Barley
Equivalent in Price to 100 Pounds of B-1 (Live) Hog at Winnipeg, by Months, 1951--1956
(Long-time average 1913--1949, with 1930 omitted due to extreme abnormality, is 18.3)

Month	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
January	17.0	14.6	15.1	28.1	16.2	16.3
February	17.2	14.7	16.1	28.9	15.3	16.3
March	17.4	15.4	17.0	30.7	16.0	15.2
April	16.4	16.5	17.0	30.6	15.9	14.3
May	20.2	17.4	19.0	31.7	17.0	
June	24.3	17.2	20.7	28.3	19.7	
July	26.1	17.5	21.4	23.6	19.0	
August	25.1	15.9	23.2	18.4	19.4	
September	21.2	15.2	23.8	16.3	19.7	
October	17.0	14.4	26.5	15.8	16.4	
November	15.2	14.2	24.8	16.0	16.3	
December	15.8	16.3	27.4	17.1	16.4	

Note: The above data include the effect of subsidies on hogs.

FEED AND LIVESTOCK PRICE INDICES

During the three months February to April, 1956 the index of feed prices continued the upward movement which began in November, 1955. The April index of 225.6 points was the highest monthly level since March, 1952. Prices for virtually all components of the index showed increases during the period under review, with higher levels for hay, oats, feed barley and feed wheat largely responsible for the overall increase of 17.6 points between the January and April indices of 208.0 and 225.6 points, respectively.

Largely reflecting relatively minor fluctuations in prices of both hogs and steers, two of the major components of the index, the index of prices of farm animals and animal products remained almost constant during the three months February--April, 1956. Veal calves, fluid milk and wool brought generally lower returns per unit while lambs, poultry and eggs increased steadily during the period.

Index Numbers of Feed Prices and Prices of Farm Animals and Farm Animal Products
by Months, 1953--1956 (1935--1939 = 100)

Month	1953		1954		1955		1956	
	Feed	Animal	Feed	Animal	Feed	Animal	Feed	Animal
January	211.3	266.4	201.6	266.3	215.7	248.3	208.0	235.0
February	210.4	263.1	202.8	264.7	218.6	245.6	211.9	232.3
March	209.8	264.3	202.2	262.0	210.5	241.3	216.0	231.1
April	207.5	255.8	204.4	260.4	215.1	238.7	225.6	232.0
May	203.7	263.2	203.3	268.0	216.4	243.4		
June	200.0	268.7	202.8	267.3	212.5	250.0		
July	197.0	265.3	201.1	262.1	199.5	249.5		
August	196.6	269.9	201.9	248.2	198.1	250.6		
September	195.0	263.7	208.2	245.5	199.1	251.6		
October	192.5	265.3	214.1	240.5	199.1	241.9		
November	191.8	258.0	215.8	243.1	200.5	240.5		
December	192.6	261.6	215.2	245.9	202.7	239.4		

MILLFEEDS

Supply and Distribution of Millfeeds, August—April, 1955-56 and 1954-55

Month	Production				Imports	Exports	Apparent Domestic Disappearance <u>1/</u>
	Bran	Shorts	Middlings	Total			
				- tons -			
August, 1955	24,007	24,776	9,846	58,629	557	8,366	51,014
September	25,255	26,753	9,036	61,044	523	15,078	47,378
October	27,019	24,301	10,079	61,399	614	10,213	52,664
November	27,594	25,516	10,710	63,820	336	12,405	48,869
December	24,223	21,877	10,871	56,971	219	7,993	47,566
January, 1956	22,619	22,234	9,455	54,308	348	9,115	47,965
February	23,855	21,521	8,756	54,132	378	5,482	48,120
March	25,720	22,976	8,807	57,503	873	7,206	52,754
April	24,735	22,841	9,031	56,607	<u>2/</u>	7,567	49,700
Totals	225,027	212,795	86,591	524,413	3,848	83,425	446,030
Same period 1954-55 (revised)	224,769	226,754	81,244	532,767	3,034	88,508	447,652

1/ Adjusted for change in mill stocks. 2/ Not available.

CROP AND WEATHER CONDITIONS IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

According to the Bureau's telegraphic crop report of May 30 above-normal temperatures and relatively light rainfall had permitted rapid progress towards completion of seeding in the Prairie Provinces. With minor exceptions, wheat seeding was from 85 to 100 per cent completed and a large proportion of the coarse grains and flax had also been sown. While subsoil moisture reserves were generally adequate, surface moisture supplies were being rapidly depleted in most areas, with spring rainfall up to the end of May considerably below normal. Good rains were needed to promote even germination and growth, especially in central and northern areas of Alberta, southwestern Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba.

Generally excellent progress was made with seeding during the preceding week in Manitoba under near ideal conditions. Showers on Friday and Monday, however, temporarily checked seeding. Wheat for the most part was planted and early-seeded fields were green and looked promising. Given good weather, seeding of all crops was expected to be completed by June 9. Wintered-over crops, pastures and hay were promising. Moisture supplies were ample and there had been a minimum of soil drifting.

Considerable improvement in the general crop situation had occurred in Saskatchewan during the past week and many correspondents reported that wheat seeding was completed, and that rapid progress was being made in the seeding of coarse grains and flaxseed. According to the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, an estimated 85 per cent of the wheat, 51 per cent of the coarse grains and 45 per cent of the flax had been seeded. This compares favourably with a year ago when 80 per cent of the wheat, 50 per cent of the coarse grains, and 30 per cent of the flaxseed were seeded. Germination had been good but the surface soil was drying out particularly in the central and western areas. Rain would soon be required in most districts to promote even germination and plant growth. Wild oat infestation was heavy in the early-sown fields but many correspondents reported that the weather had been particularly favourable lately for obtaining a good kill. In the northeast and north-central sections where seeding had been delayed, progress was exceptionally rapid and some correspondents in this area reported wheat seeding 100 per cent completed.

Warm, dry weather prevailed throughout most of Alberta during the preceding week and the bulk of seeding was now completed. Scattered showers had fallen in southern and western areas but surface soils in recently worked fields in central and Peace River points were very dry. Winds continued to aggravate the situation and an early general rain was hoped for in these areas. Early seedings were germinating well.

Canadian Wheat Board Monthly Average Cash Grain Prices,
Basis in Store Fort William—Port Arthur

Grain and Grade	February 1956	March 1956	April 1956
- cents and eighths per bushel -			
<u>OATS</u>			
<u>Initial Payment to Producers</u>			
2 C.W.	65	65	65
Ex. 3 C.W.	62	62	62
3 C.W.	62	62	62
Ex. 1 Feed	62	62	62
1 Feed	60	60	60
2 Feed	55	55	55
3 Feed	48	48	48
<u>Domestic and Export 1/</u>			
2 C.W.	84/7	87/6	88/2
Ex. 3 C.W.	81/7	84/5	85/1
3 C.W.	77	80/5	81/5
Ex. 1 Feed	77	80/7	81/5
1 Feed	75	79/7	81
2 Feed	73/5	78/1	79
3 Feed	69/2	75/1	76
<u>BARLEY</u>			
<u>Initial Payment to Producers</u>			
1 C.W. Six-Row	98	98	98
2 C.W. Six-Row	98	98	98
3 C.W. Six-Row	96	96	96
4 C.W. Six-Row	90	90	90
1 C.W. Two-Row	91	91	91
2 C.W. Two-Row	91	91	91
3 C.W. Two-Row	88	88	88
1 Feed	87	87	87
2 Feed	82	82	82
3 Feed	75	75	75
<u>Domestic and Export 1/</u>			
1 C.W. Six-Row	116	119/5	123/4
2 C.W. Six-Row	116	119/5	123/4
3 C.W. Six-Row	112	115/5	119/4
4 C.W. Six-Row	104/2	110/2	114/4
1 C.W. Two-Row	115	118/5	122/4
2 C.W. Two-Row	115	118/5	122/4
3 C.W. Two-Row	106/1	111	115
1 Feed	101/7	110/2	114/4
2 Feed	101/3	109/7	114/2
3 Feed	98/3	106/6	111

1/ For local sales and for spot sales subject to confirmation.

Winnipeg Grain Exchange Monthly Average Cash Grain Prices,
Basis in Store Fort William—Port Arthur

Grain and Grade	February 1956	March 1956	April 1956
- cents and eighths per bushel -			
<u>OATS</u>			
<u>Domestic and Export</u>			
2 C.W.	84	86/6	87/1
Ex. 3 C.W.	80/6	84	84/3
3 C.W.	76/4	80/4	81
Ex. 1 Feed	76/4	80/6	81
1 Feed	74/5	79/7	80/4
2 Feed	72/7	77/7	78/4
3 Feed	68/7	74/6	75/4
<u>BARLEY</u>			
<u>Domestic and Export</u>			
1 C.W. Six-Row	114/6	118/4	122/4
2 C.W. Six-Row	114/6	118/4	122/4
3 C.W. Six-Row	105	111/2	115/4
4 C.W. Six-Row	101	110	114/3
1 C.W. Two-Row	113/6	117/4	121/4
2 C.W. Two-Row	113/6	117/4	121/4
3 C.W. Two-Row	104/5	110/4	114/3
1 Feed	101	110	114/3
2 Feed	100	109/4	114/1
3 Feed	97/1	106/3	110/4
<u>RYE</u>			
<u>Producers', Domestic, and Export Prices</u>			
2 C.W.	115/6	124/3	131/3
3 C.W.	110/3	117/2	125/2
4 C.W.	102/2	103/4	115/1
Ergoty	96	98/4	110/1
<u>FLAXSEED</u>			
<u>Producers', Domestic, and Export Prices</u>			
1 C.W.	402/5	417/3	416/3
2 C.W.	399/1	412/7	411/3
3 C.W.	360/3	356/7	356/3

UNITED STATES FEED SITUATION

The following summary of the feed situation in the United States has been taken from the May 21, 1956 issue of The Feed Situation published by the Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

Prices of most feeds have advanced during the past few weeks with corn and many of the other feeds reaching the highest levels so far this season. Corn prices have risen much more than seasonally from the low level of last fall, influenced by the large quantity under the price support program and prospects for increasing pressure on "free" supplies later in the marketing year. Prospects for smaller 1956 acreages of feed grains, unfavorable weather for feed crops this spring, the recently announced increase in the support level for 1956 corn and the broadening of the support program to include non-complying corn producers also have influenced feed prices in recent months.

The price of No. 3 Yellow corn at Chicago increased about 30 cents per bushel in the past 2 months to an average of \$1.54 per bushel for the first week in May, a little higher than a year earlier. Prices of other feed grains increased more moderately. With limited supplies of "free" corn in prospect, corn prices are expected to continue firm during the next 2 or 3 months. Prices of oats and barley probably will decline seasonally later this spring and summer, but the drop may be less than usual, since current prices are not much above the 1956 supports. Prices of most of the byproduct feeds in early May were near or above the levels of a year ago.

The growing season has been less favorable than average so far this spring for feed crops and pastures, especially in the important producing area of the Midwest. Cold, dry weather has delayed the planting and retarded the early growth of corn and other feed grains throughout most of the central part of the country. Pastures and hay crops on May 1 were the poorest in recent years. Conditions, however, have been improved in large areas of the North Central Region by beneficial rains in early May.

Disappearance of feed grains during October-March was about 7 per cent above the comparatively small disappearance in this period last year, and nearly equal to the 1949-53 average. The combined stocks of corn, oats and barley on April 1 totalled 80 million tons, the largest on record and 5 million more than a year earlier. Nearly half of this was under loan or owned by CCC. "Free" stocks were a little less than on that date last year. Disappearance of feed grains is expected to continue heavier than a year earlier in the last half of the current feeding year, but the increase may not be as great as in the first half. The carryover of feed grains into 1956-57 probably will be around 10 per cent larger than the record of 39 million tons in 1955. The carryover of corn is expected to increase to around 1,150 million bushels, 12 per cent larger than last year. The carryover of oats is expected to be up about 15 per cent, while the carryover stocks of barley and sorghum grains may be about the same as the record levels of last year.

The total quantity of feed grains placed under the price support this year is expected to equal, if not exceed, the record of 18 million tons in 1948. Through April 15, 366 million bushels of corn had been placed under price support, much more than the 259 million for the entire 1954-55 crop year. While the quantities of the other feed grains placed under price support were below the record

amounts in 1954-55, they were larger than in any other previous year.

The supply of oilseed meals available for feeding for the 1955-56 feeding year is expected to total about 9.1 million tons compared with 8.5 million tons last year. During October-March production was much higher than a year earlier and the increase in supplies available during April-September is not expected to be as great as the 9 per cent gain in the first 6 months.

NOTES ON ARGENTINE CROPS

The following information relative to Argentine crop conditions is extracted from a report provided by Mr. W. F. Hillhouse, Agricultural Secretary for Canada, Canadian Embassy, Buenos Aires, under date of May 18, 1956, and is reproduced with the permission of the Trade Commissioner Service, Department of Trade and Commerce.

Weather and Crops The weather during the past month has been cool and relatively clear except for a few well spaced timely rains in the last half of April. In most sections of the grain zone these rains have at least maintained the good to excellent moisture supply and have permitted the work of land preparation and sowing of winter crops to continue unabated. However, in some areas an excess of water is making transportation and land preparation difficult and/or is slowing down the germination or early growth of the crops. Although some fields of ripe sunflower and corn are suffering from excessive moisture, in general harvesting of these crops has been progressing satisfactorily. Several light frosts have been experienced in recent weeks but they apparently have done little damage to the growing crops and undoubtedly aided the drying of the corn.

Corn - 1955-56 Crop In its report for April on crop conditions, the Ministry of Agriculture has the following to say about the corn crop:
"Harvesting of early corn is somewhat inferior to normal on account of excess rainfall, although rains during January improved conditions and the crop recuperated. Outstanding in their results are the fields in north and northeastern Buenos Aires, center of Santa Fé and center-east of Córdoba where yields range between 1,300 and 2,400 kilograms per hectare (21 and 38 pounds per acre). Production in other zones is generally inferior to normal. In spite of this, the Ministry still estimates a production of 3,800,000 tons (149.6 million bushels) out of 2,881,900 seeded hectares (7.1 million acres)."

General trade opinion is still much more optimistic but has been tempered especially by the official estimate of abandoned acreage of 21.4 per cent. The Grain Institute has obviously assessed their export positions at least partially since in the past 2 1/2 weeks export sales have amounted to over 200,000 tons (7,874,000 bushels) which brings total sales from the present crop to approximately 280,000 tons (11,023,000 bushels).

NOTES ON AUSTRALIAN CROPS AND MARKETS

The following notes relative to Australian coarse grain and oilseed crops and markets have been abstracted from a report from Mr. R. W. Blake, Commercial Secretary for Canada, Melbourne, under date of May 11, 1956 and is reproduced with the permission of the Trade Commissioner Service, Department of Trade and Commerce. Currency conversions have been made at the rate of £1 equals \$2.2320 (Canadian), the quotation in effect on April 26, 1956.

Coarse Grains A slight increase in the area sown to barley is expected in New South Wales, but the total area in oats is likely to be lower, due to the presence of large areas of self sown oats, and the wet conditions making early sowing difficult. Sowing of barley and oats is proceeding in Victoria and South Australia, but no indication of farmers' acreage intentions has been given as yet.

Maize Overall prospects for this season's maize harvest in New South Wales are good, despite damage done by heavy rains. The acreage harvested is expected to be about the same as last year - 70,000 acres. Production of maize from the 1955-56 Queensland crop is expected to be at least 2.75 million bushels from approximately 100,000 acres.

Barley and Oat Sales Japanese buyers have indicated that they were very satisfied with the quality of Queensland barley purchased last year, and they will require at least 50,000 tons (2,334,000 bushels) of two-row malting barley in the coming season. Tests made by the Department of Agriculture and Stock on 15,000 tons (700,000 bushels) of Queensland two-row malting barley showed it to be 99.23 per cent sound with a bushel weight of 56.25 pounds, a moisture content of 13 per cent, and malt extract up to 93 per cent.

Sales of oats and barley from Western Australia since November have totalled £2.5 million (\$5.6 million). Germany bought most of the oats. England took most of the barley, and the remainder of the oats. Sales of barley were also made to Holland and Ireland, and negotiations for further sales are taking place.

Feed Barley Prices It was announced by the Australian Barley Board that feed barley prices will in future be estimated on a truck's terminal port basis. The new prices will be - two-row 10/- (\$1.12) a bushel; six-row 9/6d. (\$1.06) a bushel. The board handles barley grown in the two main barley growing States of Victoria and South Australia. West Australian barley growers have delivered 670,000 bushels of two-row malting barley and all but 25,000 bushels have been sold. It is the first time that Western Australia has grown enough malting barley for local requirements. Nearly 2.5 million bushels of six-row barley have been received by the W.A. Pool, and almost all of it has been sold.

Final Payment on West Australian Oats A final payment of 4/7½d. (52 cents) a bushel on oats of the 1954-55 season has been sent out to West Australian farmers, making the total payment 9/4½d. (\$1.05) a bushel.

Sorghum The 1956 grain sorghum crop in Queensland is expected to yield about 4.5 million bushels, the same as last year. About 180,000 acres were planted, but flooding and other causes have reduced the crop harvested to 165,000 acres. The yield this year is expected to be above average.

Linseed Greater production of linseed is expected to follow restrictions on the importation of linseed oil. It is estimated that this season's crop in Queensland may exceed 20,000 tons (800,000 bushels) compared with 12,000 tons (480,000 bushels) last year. The Australian Linseed Crushers' Association has indicated there will be a firm market for good linseed at £70 per ton (\$3.91 per bushel) delivered f.o.r. Melbourne. The bulk of Australian linseed crushing capacity is in the Southern capitals, and there is need for a reasonable balance between northern and southern production.



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Safflower Crop The vice-president of the Queensland Grain Growers' Association told farmers that there appeared to be a limited market for up to 2,000 tons of safflower oil, but growers should be careful not to plant too big an acreage. Safflower oil was worth about 9d. (8 cents) a gallon more than linseed oil, but linseed yielded 40 per cent oil compared with 30 per cent for safflower. However, prospects for this product as a commercial crop were very encouraging. He said that Sydney had a good market for safflower oil at present, and was importing a large quantity from India.

CALENDAR OF COARSE GRAIN EVENTS

- March 21 - Based on farmers' intentions at March 1, the indicated acreage of Canada's major grain crops for 1956, in millions of acres, with 1955 acreages in brackets, were as follows: spring wheat, 20.2 (20.9); oats for grain, 11.9 (11.2); barley, 9.5 (9.9); spring rye, 0.2 (0.2); mixed grains, 1.8 (1.7); and flaxseed, 3.8 (2.0).
- April 2 - The navigation season opened at the port of Montreal with the docking of the British freighter, the Manchester Regiment.
- April 11 - Navigation on the Great Lakes was declared officially open for the 1956 season.
- April 18 - Total stocks of Canadian oats, barley, rye and flaxseed in all North American positions as at March 31, 1956, in millions of bushels, were estimated as follows: oats, 238.1; barley, 197.3; rye, 24.7; flaxseed, 8.1. Farm-held stocks of these grains in millions of bushels, were placed at 213.4 for oats, 146.8 for barley, 17.0 for rye, and 4.4 for flaxseed.
- May 18 - Settlement of a wage-labour dispute between the Seafarers International Union and the Association of Lake Carriers brought an end to an eight-day seaman's strike which had tied up more than 100 of the 280 ships in the Canadian Great Lakes fleet.
- May 28 - President Eisenhower signed into law a farm bill of which the principal feature is the Soil Bank Plan. In addition price supports were authorized for 1956 feed grains at 76 per cent of parity, as at May 1, with no limitations on acreages. Price supports per bushel for the various grains will be as follows: oats, 65 cents; barley, \$1.02; and rye, \$1.27. Grain sorghums will be supported at \$1.97 per cwt. Supports for these grains in 1957 will be not less than 70 per cent of parity.