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# MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE WHEAT SITUATION

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# MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE WHEAT SITUATION

# MAY 1946

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# DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

(Issued May 1946)

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#### WORLD WHEAT SITUATION

Heavy Export Requirements Anticipated Through 1947 - Exportable surpluses of wheat have dwindled steadily during the past month as all major exporting countries continue their efforts to meet the urgent requirements of deficit areas. Evidence is mounting to show that the world food shortage will not end with the harvesting of this year's crops. While relatively favourable crop reports have been received from many of the famine-stricken countries, it is obvious that production will attain pre-war levels in few, if any, of these areas. War has taken too great a toll of man power, and has brought about such serious shortages of farm machinery, fertilizer and draught power that complete agricultural recovery is bound to be a slow and laborious procedure. Realization of this fact is reflected in long-range agricultural programs and policies now being developed by most of the governments concerned. The general trend of policy is in the direction of encouraging production of more cereals and less live stock, based on the premise that more people can be fed directly with grain than can be fed if the grain is first converted into live stock.

Mr. Hoover Reports on the Extent of the Food Shortage - The conclusions reached by Mr. Hoover in his Famine Report to the President, together with the summarized results of his world survey will bear repetition here. Mr. Hoover in his report, dated May 13, said in part: "The dominant need of the world in this crisis is cereals, particularly wheat and rice. There is great need of fats and special food for children, but as cereals can furnish 85 per cent of an emergency diet, we considered cereal requirements were the first concern, and the best indicator. If a foundation of bread can be assured, and as much fats and children's food as possible, mass starvation can be prevented." Mr. Hoover's report contains detailed data on month-by-month (May 1 to September 30) requirements for the various deficit and famine areas. Total requirements are summarized as follows:

South Africa and New Zealand       198,000         Middle East       100,000         Indian Ocean Area       2,886,000         Pacific Ocean Area       1,910,000	Europe	8,390,000	tons
Indian Ocean Area       2,886,000 "         Pacific Ocean Area       1,910,000 "	South Africa and New Zealand	198,000	11
	Indian Ocean Area	2,886,000	H
	Pacific Ocean Area		

In connection with the above, Mr. Hoover says: "These programs represent a considerable reduction from the hitherto stated requirements of the various nations. The amounts have, in most cases, been agreed upon by their governments. In the case of China, we regret to say our program is less than the minimum need but is all, or more, than can be transported inland to the famine areas—of course every country would be better off if more could be furnished." With reference to probable supplies, Mr. Hoover has this to say: "We have found some increases in supplies possible during the crisis through development of certain new sources of supply; through additional loans of cereals from early-crop countries which may not themselves have annual surpluses; through substitution of other cereals for wheat and rice; and as a result of conservation up to this time. Our estimate of probable supplies as of May 1 to September 30 is:

From:	United States	4,220,000	tons
	Canada	2,300,000	tf
	Australia	992,000	11
	United Kingdom	200,000	11
	Argentine	2,375,000	79
	Brazil	200,000	11
	Other Western Hemisphere States	40,000	n
	Burma	75,000	- IT
	Siam	195,000	11
	Russia to France	300,000	п
Tot	a 1	10,897,000	Ħ

On the basis of these data on requirements and supplies the deficit amounts to around 3,600,000 tons (approximately 134 million bushels) as against an 11 million ton (approximately 410 million bushels) gap indicated in some earlier appraisals. Mr. Hoover also located another 1,500,000 tons of potential supplies not taken into account above, but which may conceivably be borrowed or released from stocks in certain countries. In summing up, Mr. Hoover states: "We are confident that if until the end of August, there can be further vigorous conservation in surplus countries, mainly wheats and fats, and more energetic cooperation between nations, the remaining deficit can be largely overcome. The cooperation of Russia and the Latin American States would greatly aid in meeting the problem. If mass starvation is to be prevented it will require constant effort. ..."

Canada - Export Program Holds Up Well - Total exports of wheat and wheat flour for the nine months ending April 30 amounted to 281,583,000 bushels. Exports for the month of April totalled 23,684,000 bushels. If overseas shipments can be maintained at this rate during May, June and July there will be no difficulty in reaching the goal of 340,000,000 bushels for export during the crop year. Much will depend, however, upon the level of farmers' marketings during the period. In addition, any lengthy tie-up of transportation, due to the current seamen's strike, could seriously impair the continued success of the export program.

United States - Frice Ceilings Raised - An increase of 15 cents per bushel on the ceiling price of wheat was made effective May 13 through June 30, 1947. This increase, together with the bonus plan announced last month had been largely instrumental in securing delivery of over 43,000,000 bushels from farmers up to May 17.

Argentina to Aid UNRRA — Favourable moisture conditions in Argentina have promoted the seeding of the 1946 grain crops, but have caused some damage to corn and sunflower crops. The extent of the new wheat acreage has not been revealed, although it is felt that it will be limited as a result of the low fixed prices prevailing at present. UNRRA has been promised 20 million bushels of grain and all efforts are being used to transport the supplies from the interior to the seaboard. Under its 5 peso per quintal bonus policy, which terminated last week, the government was able to purchase some 45.4 million bushels of wheat from the farmers to meet its obligations. The outturn of the 1945 crop of wheat is now placed at 143.5 million bushels in the third estimate, six million bushels lower than the second estimate. Latest official reports place the exportable surplus at from 36 to 43 million bushels.

Australian Seeding Conditions Excellent - With the exception of western Australia, moisture conditions have been ideal for the new wheat crop now being seeded. Some doubt has been expressed as to the possibility of realizing the wheat acreage goal of 15.5 million acres. Lack of fertilizers and low prices are deemed to be the limiting factors. Exports of wheat and wheat flour during the first four months of 1946 have amounted to 20.7 million bushels, destined exclusively to non-European consumers.

#### CANADIAN SITUATION

Supply Position - Canada's supply of wheat for export until the end of the crop year and carry-over into the 1946-47 season is rapidly disappearing, and at May 1 it stood at 132.7 million bushels as against 403.6 million at the same date a year ago, a decrease of almost 70 per cent.

Total exports of wheat and wheat flour for the first nine months of the current crop year are still running over 80 million bushels ahead of total exports for the same period in 1944-45. The amount of wheat cleared to overseas destinations up to May 1, 1946 was more than 100 million bushels above that for the corresponding period a year earlier. Compared with last year, United States imports of Canadian wheat for home consumption and milling in bond totalled about two-thirds less, while exports of flour remained about the same.

Total April exports were the lowest for any month since December 1945. This decline had been anticipated and it is felt that from now until the new crop is available, monthly exports will continue to be considerably smaller than they were during the earlier months of the 1945-46 crop year.

#### Canadian Wheat Supplies

	1945-46	1944-45
	- million b	ushels -
Carry-over in North America July 31	258.4 305.9 <u>1</u> /	356.5 416.6
Total Supply	564.3	773.1
Estimated domestic requirements	150.0 1/	168.6
Available for export or carry-over	414.3	604.5
Deduct:		
Overseas Clearances of wheat as grain Aug. 1 - April 30. United States imports of Canadian wheat for home	224.2	120.7
consumption and milling in bond	12.9 2/	36.3 35.
Total wheat exports	237.1	157.0
Exports of wheat flour in terms of wheat Aug. 1 - Apr. 30	44.5	43.9
Total exports wheat and wheat flour	281.6	200.9
Balance on May 1 for export or carry-over	132.7	403.6

<sup>1/</sup> Subject to revision.

<sup>2/</sup> Estimate.

Acreage Intentions for 1946 - Through the April-end survey of crop correspondents the Dominion Bureau of Statistics learned that Canadian farmers intended to sow approximately 3 million more acres to wheat in 1946 than they did in 1945. This increase will be achieved largely at the expense of oats, barley and summerfallow, although an appreciable acreage will also be seeded on new breaking and previously idle cultivated land. The increase in the Prairie Provinces amounts to 3.3 million acres or more than the net increase for all of Canada. This unusual situation can be explained in the light of the fact that the seeding of Ontario winter wheat in 1945 was some 0.2 million acres below that of the previous year. It must be emphasized that actual seedings may vary considerably from the expressed 'intentions', the extent of the variation depending, in large part, upon weather and seeding conditions subsequent to April 30.

In the event that the intended acreage should be realized, Canada's wheat acreage in 1946 will almost equal that of 1939, when 26.8 million acres were seeded to wheat. However, the acreage figure would still be well below the record year of 1940, when Canadian farmers seeded 28.7 million acres to wheat.

The April 30 intentions data indicated a total wheat acreage of 26.5 million acres as compared with 23.4 million in 1945. The acreage intentions in the

Prairie Provinces are as follows:	Intentions 1946	Acreage Seeded in 1945	Proposed Increase
	acres	acres	acres
Manitoba	2,537,000	2,132,000	405,000
Saskatchewan	15,515,000	13,610,000	1,905,000
Alberta	7,779,000	6,824,000	955,000
Total	25,831,000	22,566,000	3,265,000

The changes which took place in acreage seeded to the principal grain crops in western Canada during the war years will be seen in the following table which sets out the seeded acreage and summerfallow during the twelve years 1934 to 1945, together with the intentions figures for 1946:

Seeded Acreage and Summerfallow in Prairie Provinces, 1934-1945, and Intended Acreage 1946

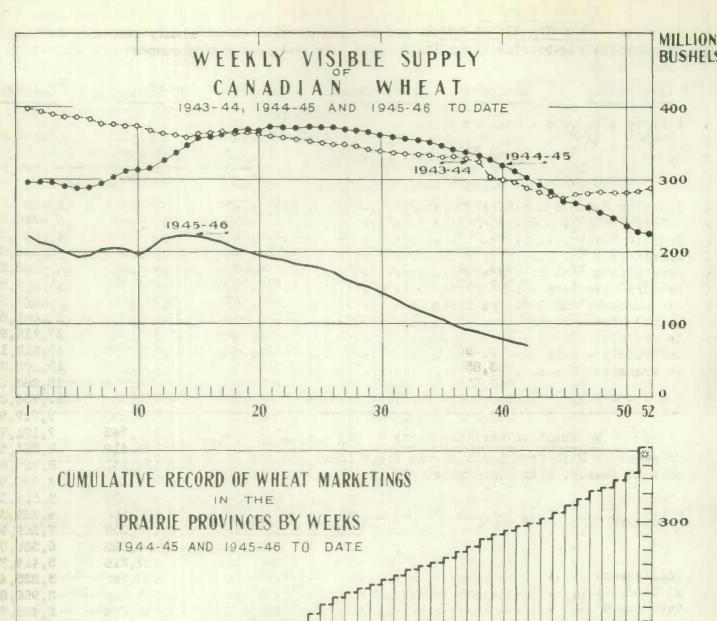
	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Flaxseed	Summerfallov
		(+	thousand acres	)	
1934	23,296	9,115	2,962	218	14,901
1935	23,293	9,478	3,187	297	14,252
1936	24,838	8,674	3.724	469	16,855
1937	24,599	8,579	3,562	233	15,150
1938	24.946	8,518	3,687	202	16,206
1939	25,813	8,227	3,607	289	15,950
6-year average .	24,464	8,765	3,455	285	15,552
1940	27,750	7,818	3,622	364	17,326
1941	21,140	8,137	4,735	982	23,111
1942	20,653	9,666	6,414	1,466	19,979
1943	16,091	11,790	7.896	2,918	20,637
1944	22,444	10,447	6,763	1,298	19,428
1945	22,566	10.749	6,859	1.034	19,859
6-year average .	21,774	9,768	6,048	1,344	20,116
1946 1/	25,831	9,883	6,251	1,025	18,724

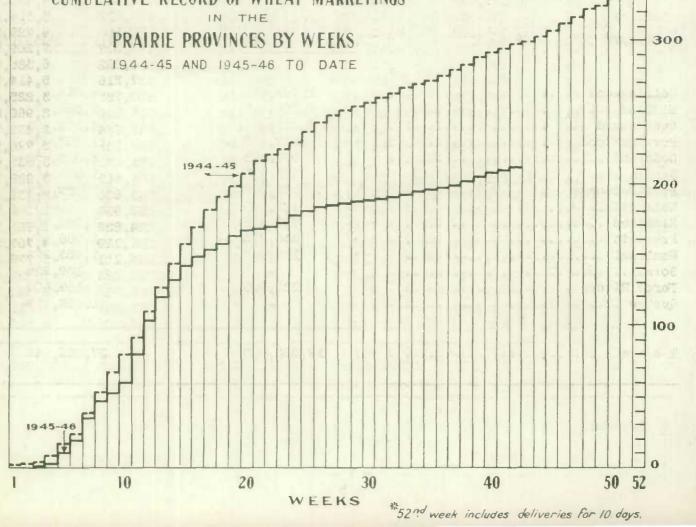
<sup>1/</sup> Intentions indicated on April 30, 1946.

Farmers' Marketings - The following table shows primary receipts of wheat in the Prairie Provinces for the 1945-46 crop year along with comparative figures for 1944-45:

Week endir	-6	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	Totals	Last Year
			- bu	shels -		
August	1-2	-	The state of the s	112,355	112,355	1,643,649
	9	29,396	79,152	137,853	246,401	1,070,37
	16	8,686	123,772	249,883	382,341	2,045,80
	23	96,463	755,302	921,069	1,772,834	5,368,79
	30	1,271,860	4,568,677	1,685,584	7,526,121	6,832,74
September	6	2,240,434	4,665,078	2,139,568	9,045,080	7,218,92
4	13	2,444,009	9,681,705	3,518,952	15,644,666	15,518,38
	20	963,800	7,020,619	3,844,220	11,828,639	14,619,03
	27	444,784	3,974,279	1,024,858	5,443,921	12,662,54
October	4	2,067,492	3,428,517	1,613,780	7,109,789	12,429,81
	11	4,198,777	10,147,043	5,647,547	19,993,367	12,129,37
	18	2,686,475	14,274,064	7,079,466	24,040,005	17,889,56
	25	1,236,158	9,375,221	5,120,006	15,731,385	17,118,91
lovember	1	1,275,290	7,071,685	3,256,083	11,603,058	16,813,10
	8	983,850	7,259,954	2,266,876	10,510,680	13,202,32
	15	548,654	3,401,162	1,403,183	5,352,999	12,283,64
	22	563,398	2,927,636	1,249,802	4,740,836	11,730,03
	29	397,061	2,758,969	1,348,822	4,504,852	9,797,98
December	6	415,040	3,220,454	1,322,269	4,957,763	7,101,70
	13	418,686	2,385,278	1,071,454	3,875,418	8,794,54
	20	222,497	1,305,273	846,361	2,374,131	8,727,86
	27	179,247	1,164,776	688,466	2,032,489	4,990,52
Tanuary	3	200,023	1,416,085	492,204	2,108,312	3,514,23
	10	565,523	2,628,773	1,493,312	4,687,608	4,729,36
	17	401,077	2,467,033	1,310,217	4,178,327	7,209,92
	24	198,829	1,141,194	1,078,059	2,418,082	6,386,02
	31	132,666	635,905	658,645	1,427,216	5,414,77
February	7	125,328	338,561	416,868	880,757	3,225,43
	14	116,387	402,761	498,218	1,017,366	2,960,80
	21	90,057	465,047	541,270	1,096,374	2,430,70
	28	152,664	805,267	681,000	1,638,931	3,796,92
March	7	147,692	985,658	621,921	1,755,271	3,332,84
	14	193,905	766,368	644,189	1,604,462	3,928,02
	21	175,336	801,489	666,783	1,643,608	2,759,39
	28	100,666	466,710	465,554	1,032,930	2,186,76
April	4	130,624	573,836	420,362	1,124,822	2,761,27
*	11	221,034	1,335,842	624,253	2,181,129	4,767,55
	18 1/	339,663	1,691,081	631,407	2,662,151	3,776,34
	25	418,798	2,384,689	715,136	3,518,623	5,281,42
May	2	357,753	1,693,468	705,547	2,756,768	3,376,63
	9	324,361	1,157,720	590,211	2,072,292	2,711,11
	16	292,678	1,390,592	508,811	2,192,081	2,547,65
rotal		27,377,121	123,136,695	60,312,424	210,826,240	297,086,89

<sup>1/</sup> Revised.





Visible Supplies - The following table shows stocks of Canadian wheat in store and in transit in Canada and the United States on May 16, 1946, along with comparative figures for approximately the same date in 1945 and 1944:

	1946	1945 000 bushels	1944
Country Elevators - Manitoba	2,010 11,770 9,140	15,955 75,110 59,025	18,235 79,545 62,390
Total	22,920	150,090	160,170
Interior Private and Mill Elevators Interior Public and Semi-Public Terminals Pacific Ports Churchill Fort William and Port Arthur Eastern Elevators - Lake Ports St. Lawrence and Seaboard Ports United States Ports In Transit - Lakes In Transit - Rail In Transit - U.S.A.	5,457 351 1,903 1,878 10,063 9,237 8,592 351 6,523 4,828	5,608 14,239 18,073 1,878 37,649 18,677 14,231 16,610 3,517 20,042 3,062	5,789 10,817 14,996 1,878 18,359 25,101 8,553 10,150 4,282 21,594 8,901
Total	72,103	303,676	290,590

Movement to Maritime Ports - The following figures represent the movement of wheat by RAIL from ports on the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River during the current season, with comparative figures for last year.

	August 1, 1945 to May 16, 1946	August 1, 1944 to May 17, 1945
	- bushel	S
Collingwood Midland Owen Sound Port McNicoll Goderich Sarnia Port Colborne Walkerville Kingston Prescott Montreal Sorel Three Rivers Quebec	1,099,955 7,066,598 2,021,566 7,287,712 597,473 201,923 50,000 195,873 717,978 330,815 130,967	4,065,601 9,552,579 4,105,253 11,403,233 1,335,852 1,050,467 29,932 
Total	19,920,860	37,036,046

Wheat Shipments to the United States - Movement of Canadian wheat into the United States was almost at a standstill during the April 18-May 16 period, when only 29,406 bushels were shipped south. The first shipment of wheat by vessel for the 1946 navigation season was despatched to the United States during this period, its destination being Duluth-Superior. The total movement since August 1, 1945 amounted to 61.7 million bushels as against 101.2 million for the same period a year ago.

## Shipments August 1 - May 16

	1946 - bu	shels - 1945
U. S. A. Pacific Ports  Buffalo  Chicago  Duluth-Superior  Erie  Milwaukee  Oswego  Toledo	15,000 46,948,319 331,494 22,104 6,981,861	1,633,914 54,490,893 7,746,957 5,479,526 9,645,792 677,554 1,833,013 4,469,371
Total - Vessel Shipments	54,298,778	85,977,020
Seaboard Ports	7,302,708 105,594	13,935,453 1,277,107
Total - Rail Shipments	7,408,302	15,212,560
GRAND TOTAL	61,707,080	101,189,580

# Lake Shipments of Canadian Grain from the Opening of Navigation to May 14

	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flaxseed	Total
			- bu	shels -		
1939	15,960,428	2,215,876	2,010,759	114,711		20,301,774
1940	37,269,025	4,110,540	1,045,920	356,786	97,277	42,879,548
1941	52,295,077	1,632,125	1,111,901	655,599	228,855	55,923,557
1942	53,833,840	769,145	822,429	491,645	60.765	55,977,824
1943	24,711,645	6,130,387	5,189,544	988,626	564,067	37,584,269
1944	57,579,519	15,187,452	9,658,614	2,815,062	3,052,840	88,293,487
1945	52,986,740	20,079,077	10,938,637	1,603,029	1,016,844	86,624,327
1946	24,166,991	15,411,314	6,590,484	517,568	218,706	46,905,063

April 8 witnessed the opening of navigation on the Great Lakes for the 1946 season, nearly two weeks later than the extremely early opening on March 27 a year ago. Up to May 14, 1946, the total movement of grain since the opening of navigation amounted to 46.9 million bushels, about 45 per cent below that of last year. Compared with last year, wheat shipments revealed the greatest absolute reduction, decreasing from nearly 53 million bushels in 1945 to 24.3 million this year.

Rail Movement from Fort William-Port Arthur - Compared with April shipments of the previous two years the movement of wheat by rail from the Lakehead during April 1946 did not experience the usual seasonal decline. Total shipments for the first nine months of the 1945-46 season were more than twice as large as those of the corresponding period a year earlier.

Shipments month-by-month during the past four crop years are shown in the following table:

	1945-46	1944-45	1943-44	1942-43
		- bush	nels -	-
August	23,255	91,891	990,879	390,264
September	57,533	169,603	1,547,042	600,921
October	73,776	86,572	780,035	644,926
November	99,197	97,512	711,238	1,250,952
December	2,280,636	1,236,339	898,565	3,871,297
January	4,533,707	1,936,038	4,364,158	1,757,163
February	1,127,764	764,629	4,397,318	3,196,248
March	2,223,266	1,091,909	1,076,142	1,997,275
April	1,015,730	196,042	107,257	3,968,148
Total - 9 months	11,434,864	5,670,535	14,872,634	17,677,194

The grades of wheat shipped during April 1946 and the Provincial distribution of this rail movement are shown in the following table:

	Ontario	Quebec	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
			bushels -		
4 Northern	237,781	420,550	19,133	15,000	19,133
No. 5	20,971	19,857	4,000	_	1,500
Feed	6,267	6,134	em	1,000	-
Tf. 4 Nor	33,000	28,500	1,500	1,500	20
Tf. No. 5	9,500	21.814	-	108	600
Rej. 2 & 3 Nor	1,500	3,000	400		-
Rej. 1 Nor. Mxd. Htd	3,136	3,000	-	_	
Rej. 2 Nor. Mxd. Htd	<i>a</i>		-	1,410	
Smitty 1 Nor.	1,500	13,765	-	-	-
Smutty 2 Nor	800	3.000	-	400	
Smutty Rej. 2 Nor. Mxd. Htd	-	1,566	-	-	-
Tf. Smutty Rej. 2 Nor. Mxd.Htd.		1,503	400	_	-
If. 2 C.W. Garnet	9,000	4,500	-	-	in .
If. 3 C.W. Garnet	1,500	8,500		44	_
If. Rej. 2 C.W. Garnet Mxd. Htd.	con .	1,143	-	-	-
rf. Rej. 3 C.W. Garnet Mxd. Htd.	-	-	-	1,482	-
1 C.W.A.D.	12,000	1,000	•	1,500	
Smutty 2 C.W.A.D.	-	3,075	-	-	
rf. 4 C.W.A.D.	com.	3,133	_	de	
rf. Smutty 2 C.W.A.D.	_	778		_	_
Tf. Rej. 2 C.W.A.D. Mxd. Htd	1,514	4944	-	_	
Rej. 2 C.W.A.D. Mixed Htd	yat3	1,569	ene	•	_
Pf. Sple A.D. Mxd. Htd	443	1,408	- H-		0.0
1 A.R. Vi.	51,000				
A. W.	12,000	ad	esth		
Total	400,669	547,795	24,633	22,000	20,633

Freight Assistance Shipments - According to preliminary data for the month of March, nearly 2 million bushels of wheat moved into eastern Canada and British Columbia under the Federal Freight Assistance scheme. Total shipments for the first eight months of the current season totalled 19.1 million bushels as compared with 17.5 million bushels in the same period a year ago, an increase of about 9 per cent. With the exception of Nova Scotia and British Columbia, all of the feed-deficit provinces have increased their receipts of wheat shipped under Freight Assistance.

During the August to March period, Ontario has absorbed just under 50 per cent of the wheat and about 35 per cent of the millfeeds moved under this scheme.

The provincial distribution is shown in the following table, by months, with comparative totals for the crop year 1944-45.

1945-46	Ontario	Quebec	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island	British Columbia	Total
			- b	ushels -			
August	1,159,693	864,462	74,287	83,563	68,320	353,505	2,603,830
September	1,024,657	848,687	97,768	91,215	51,017	344,563	2,457,907
October	1,223,082	971,883	101,615	99,648	41,420	364,417	2,802,065
November	1,099,365	891,155	99,570	112,468	44,445	316,217	2,563,820
December	1,172,072	664,530	90,863	128,237	40,288	320,295	2,416,285
January	1,053,555	653,145	93,558	94,072	37,940	294,252	2,226,522
February	1,059,301	599,175	51,733	63,908	32,510	227,760	2,034,387
March	1,191,985	592,103	54,195	48,660	39,985	51,883	1,978,811
Total	8,983,710	6,085,140	663,589	721,771	355,925	2,272,892	19,083,027
Same Period 1944-45	7,539,224	5,725,095	620,713	848,418	270,496	2,486,486	17,490,432

Millfeeds - The distribution of millfeeds under the Freight Assistance Plan is shown for the five eastern provinces in the following table. One column of figures covers the first eight months of the present crop year and the other the corresponding period a year ago.

	August 1, 1945 to March 31, 1946	August 1, 1944 to March 31, 1945
	- to	ons -
Ontario	157,457	154,483
Quebec	204,723	199,740
New Brunswick	35,915	35,387
Nova Scotia	37,899	43,741
Prince Edward Island	9,980	8,184
Total	445,974	441,535

### Wheat and Wheat Flour

	Overseas Clearances of Canadian Wheat	U. S. Imports of Canadian Wheat for consumption and		Total	Customs Exports of Wheat and Wheat Flour
		milling in bond			
1943-44			000 bushels -		
August	13,926	8,744	5,047	27,717	23,143
September	8,950	9,332	3,933	22,215	21,426
October	7,424	12,597	3,824	23,845	23,791
November	7,900	11,429	3,860	23,189	28,733
December	10,639	9,802	4,979	25,420	43,022
January	10,956	14,178	5,063	30,197	22,336
February	8,977	20,704	3,844	33,525	24,655
March	7,859	14,529	5,518	27,906	20,566
April	9,394	24,979	6,943	41,316	40,092
lay	14,148	15,420	7,090	36,658	40,009
June	11,720	8,617	5,999	26,336	31,061
July	11,444	9,497	4,490	25,431	29,640
rotal	123,337	159,828	60,590	343,755	348,474
1944-45					
	19 251	9,043	3,391	24,785	19,899
lugust	12,351				
September	11,798	8,940	5,470	26,208	32,107
ctober	15,428	5,758	4,908	26,094	33,624
lovember	14,658	4,891	4,417	23,966	27,601
December	9,972	2,169	5,591	17,732	32,815
anuary	14,730	1,413	3,781	19,924	8,944
ebruary	10,858	766	4,642	16,266	11,998
March	13,890	763	5,571	20,224	15,665
April	22,703	2,157	6,154	31,014	21,606
day	39,351	2,499	6,307	48,157	35,432
fune	34,366	1,725	7,257	43,348	50,552
fuly	38,322	1,737	5,168	45,227	43,362
otal	238,427	41,861	62,657	342,945	333,605
1945-46 1/					
August	34,227	1,114	4,979	40,320	48,074
September	22,454	1,143	4,294	27,891	34,428
ctober	40,764	1,265	4,789	46,818	36,139
November	30,424	2,139	4,501	37,064	42,817
ecember	17,755	1,582	4,344	23,681	42,443
anuary	22,443	1,890	5,125	29,458	20,373
February	18,512	1,867 2/	5,111	25,490	14,958
March	21,025	$1,462\frac{2}{2}$	4,690	27,177	20,075
April	16,612	421 2/	6,651	23,684	20,095
otal- ug. to Apr.	224,216	12,883	44,484	281,583	279,402

<sup>1/</sup> Subject to revision.

<sup>2/</sup> Estimate.

Selling Prices of Canadian Wheat - The export price of Canadian wheat to overseas destinations remains unchanged at \$1.55 per bushel, basis No. 1 Northern in store Fort William-Port Arthur or Vancouver. The monthly averages of Canadian Wheat Board prices are as follows:

- cents and eighths per bushel -  October 19-30, 1943 128/2 125/2 123/2 118/2 November 132/3 129/3 127/3 122/3 December 141/2 138/2 136/2 131/2  January, 1944 145/5 142/5 140/5 135/5	
November       132/3       129/3       127/3       122/3         December       141/2       138/2       136/2       131/2	
November       132/3       129/3       127/3       122/3         December       141/2       138/2       136/2       131/2	
December 141/2 138/2 136/2 131/2	
January, 1944	
February 144/7 141/7 139/7 134/7	
March	
April 148 145 143 138	
May 148 145 143 138	
June 143/3 140/3 138/3 134/2	
July 138 135 133 130	
August	
September	
October 143/2 140/2 138/2 137/2	
November	
December	
January, 1945 145/6 142/6 140/6 139/6	
February	
March 152/3 149/3 147/3 146/3	
April	
May	
June	
July 155 152 150 149	
August	
September	
October 155 152 150 149	
November	
December	
January, 1946 155 152 150 149	
February	
March	
April 155 152 150 149	
May 1-22 155 152 150 149	

Exports of Canadian Wheat and Wheat Flour - The following is the record of exports of wheat and wheat flour of Canadian origin during the past three crop years, showing the countries of final destination as nearly as can be determined. The wheat export figures are clearances compiled by the Statistics Branch of the Board of Grain Commissioners, while the wheat-flour exports are those of the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.	1040 47	3047 44	1944-45
Country	1942-43	1943-44	
	bu.	bu.	bu.
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	150,231,313	114,521,914	147,923,412
Eire	3,766,842	6,805,356	7,511,851
Aden	18,667	4,947	1,661
British East Africa	1,723	111111-	A STATE OF THE STA
British South Africa	267,728	39,907	1,693,290
British West Africa	194,286	158,979	124,389
Bermuda	52,705	144,608	113,621
British India	TO THE PARTY OF TH	593,734	14,300,144
Ceylon	The state of the s	93,361	641,657
Gibraltar for Orders	T. DES LOUIS	and the same of the	2,587,361
British Guiana	1,181,701	1,023,190	1,027,548
	1,101,101	16,200	2,001,020
British Honduras	7 200 403	7,716,283	6,569,206
British West Indies	7,299,483		2,626,985
Malta	3 604 007	1,575,636	
Newfoundland	1,604,973	1,795,281	1,588,964
New Zealand	The same of the same	Sale But Tuest to	2,043,518
Palestine and Syria	-	-	445
Total British Empire	164,619,421	134,489,396	188,754,052
Albania	-	-	168,000
Arabia		-	85,890
Belgium	_		6,022,223
Belgian Colonies	24,559	20,007	18,032
Brazil	16,951	30,118	112,16
Central America (country unknown)	68,650	00,220	
Czechoslovakia	-	-	65,624
Colombia	46,391	209,418	1,683,119
Costa Rica	78,713	73,266	66,603
Suba	262,028	167,913	109,131
Dominican Republic	78,653	80,291	30,922
Ecuador	70,000	26,288	204,799
Egypt	9,268,566	15,132,527	13,436,873
	5,200,000	286,268	7,546,147
France	1.774,534	3,484,173	10,304,979
French Colonies	1,114,004		644,975
Germany	C 774 903	C 00C 100	
Greece	6,334,281	6,936,133	9,215,057
Greenland and Iceland	226,895	221,383	303,87
Guatemala	16,244	22,792	38,696
Haiti	4,972	12,541	36,751
Honduras	33,948	5,719	63,353
Iraq-Iran	1,541,594	502,214	834,219
Italy	water	2,849,199	14,666,534
Liberia	9,058	3,285	11,416
Mediterranean Ports	-	380,267	
Mexico	9,072	-	-
Netherlands			2,917,727
Netherlands Colonies	138,618	119,630	167,589

Country	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45
THE RESERVE AND THE RESERVE AND THE PROPERTY AND THE PROP	bu.	bu.	bu.
Nicaragua	11,866	9,787	3,613
Norway	PERSONAL REPORT OF	orly authorizing a	2,536,593
Panama	39,236	35,349	23,837
Peru	to the	8,635	756,361
Poland	ter (	-	71,253
Portugal	10,457,669	6,771,995	11,152,524
Portuguese Colonies	758,142	209,112	770,210
U.S.S.R	1,004,550	11,225,817	9,779,131
Salvador	2,799	39,843	32,065
San Domingo	35,878	-	60,737
Spain	131,540	149,329	927,102
Spanish Colonies	24	10,148	
South America (country unknown)	en-	38,272	159,252
Switzerland	2,588,279	2,012	The state of the s
Turkey	148,100	-	
United States 1/	14,861,753	159,837,108	41,938,019
Alaska	-	-	2,736
Philippine Islands	-	-	201,100
Puerto Rico	2,375	2,910	
Venezuela	105,567	362,175	350,652
Yugo Slavia	-	-	226,631
Total Foreign Countries	50,081,481	209,265,924	137,746,515
United Nations Organizations for distribution 2/	La transport	many witch	16,444,948
GRAND TOTAL	214,700,902	343,755,320	342,945,515

<sup>1/</sup> Includes wheat for milling in bond.

Compared with the crop year 1943-44, exports of wheat and wheat flour during the succeeding season were increased considerably to the United Kingdom, while a drastic reduction was evident in shipments to the United States. Wheat flour shipments have been converted back to bushels of wheat at the rate of 4 1/2 bushels to the barrel of 196 pounds of flour.

The following table summarizes the percentage of the total shipments of wheat and wheat flour which went to the United Kingdom.

Exports of Wheat and Wheat Flour to the United Kingdom as a Percentage of Total Exports of Wheat and Wheat Flour

	Wheat		Milear Liour
		non cont	
1942-43	73.3		
1943-44	31.0		
1944-45	42.9		44.1

<sup>2/</sup> Destined mostly to the Mediterranean area.

Telegraphic Crop Report - Prairie Provinces - The following is summarized from the telegraphic report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on May 28 covering crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces.

Continued dry weather prevails over the greater part of the Prairie Provinces and while damage to grain crops is not yet considered to be serious, general rains are needed almost immediately to prevent deterioration. Average precipitation since April 1 has been far below normal in all provinces. Scattered showers occurred during the week ending May 20 but during the last week rainfall has been nil or negligible except in some portions of the Peace River District where up to one-half inch has been registered. Temperatures have averaged 3 degrees above normal during the past week. Some frost damage occurred during the first two weeks in May but recovery has been generally good. No serious insect infestations are reported as yet.

Wheat seeding is completed with the exception of a few scattered areas, principally in northern sections. Some coarse grains and a considerable percentage of the anticipated flax acreage remain to be seeded. In general, the southern areas of all three provinces are in relatively greater need of rainfall than are the northern districts. Rainfall since April 1 has been lowest in Alberta and dry conditions extend well to the north in that province. Conditions in the Peace River area are reported to be satisfactory.

Manitoba - With the exception of late feed crops and flax, seeding of the 1948 crop in Manitoba is practically completed. The outlook in the southern portions of Crop Districts 1, 2 and 3 has deteriorated since the last report. While crops are recovering from recent heavy frosts, growth is reported to be slow with all crops, especially grass, urgently in need of rain. Portage la Prairie reports very little loss from frost but rain is needed for late seeding, pastures and gardens. Subsoil moisture here is still good with sugar beets in good shape. Recent warm weather has aided rapid growth west of Winnipeg.

Germination has been uniform and growth rapid in the Brandon area but prospects are only fairly good due to limited soil moisture reserves. At Dauphin in the north-west, 10 per cent of the wheat remains to be seeded. Field peas in this area are all in the ground but much of the coarse grains and flax acreage remains to be seeded. Weather and moisture conditions are excellent in this area. Early-sown wheat is showing two inches above the ground and weed growth is above normal. Swan River in Crop District 13 reports all seeding well along with plentiful moisture supplies. Clover and alfalfa are in good shape as is winter rye. Stock on pastures are in good condition and roots and vegetables are showing above ground.

Insect infestation so far is apparently limited to sweet clover crops; the entomological laboratory at Brandon reporting considerable damage to seedling sweet clover by the sweet clover weevil. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 46 per cent below normal as compared with 38 degrees below normal two weeks ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 27 was 3 degrees above normal.

Saskatchewan - Wheat seeding in Saskatchewan is practically completed, while 81 per cent of the coarse grains and 50 per cent of the flax acreage are reported sown. About 50 per cent of the wheat crop is showing green as is 30 per cent of the coarse grain acreage. Germination has been fair to good but growth has been retarded through lack of moisture and backward weather. Crops have somewhat recovered from frost damage but immediate rains are required in many districts to promote growth.

Indian Head reports early-sown grain to be well established and making good growth, although hay and pasture fields require rain to ensure feed. Fallow work is

well under way. Fruit crops in the Indian Head area suffered frost damage ranging from 10 to 50 per cent.

Advices from Swift Current in the south-west indicate no effective rainfall during the past two weeks except in the Cypress Hills area. Growth has been retarded by nightly frosts until the past week. Most fields recovered from the heavy frost of May 9 but some permament damage to fall rye is evident. Seeding of some land and reseeding of blown out areas is still delayed awaiting improvement in soil moisture. Medium early fields are making satisfactory growth now but weed growth will compete unduly owing to set-back of grain by frost.

Seeding is completed in the Fox Valley area but the crop is making slow growth due to dry weather. Soil drifting has reduced the stand of grain in some fields causing severe damage in spots. Pastures are getting dry. Willowbrook in the east-central portion of the province reports early seedings well above ground but rain needed. Rosetown in the west-central area states some flax seeding is being withheld while awaiting rain. Considerable wheat is above ground. Rain would be welcome but no damage has occurred as yet in this area from drought. Reports from Scott in Crop District 7 B indicate that conditions are abnormally dry in open prairie regions. Pastures are suffering from lack of moisture but grain is still standing up well. Uneven germination has been noted, however, in late seedings and land held for flax is not being seeded due to continued dry weather. Melfort in Crop District 8B reports wheat all seeded with coarse grains 60 per cent in the ground. Indications are that wheat acreage in this area is up 10 per cent from last year with coarse grains down 5 per cent. Forage crops need rain now.

Cutworms have been reported active at Mendham and wireworms at Sceptre, but no serious insect infestations are reported in any area. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 51 per cent below normal, as compared with 41 per cent below normal two weeks ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 27 was 3 degrees above normal.

Alberta With wheat seeding practically completed and coarse grains about 80 per cent seeded, rain is now needed in almost all districts of Alberta to ensure good even germination. Rainfall from April 1 to date has been well below normal throughout the province, and though subsoil moisture supplies are generally fair, surface moisture conditions are poor. Fall wheat and fall rye are reported heading out. Early-sown wheat is reported three inches above grains in some areas.

In the southern districts the greatest need is rainfall. Continued dry weather is causing uneven growth of grains and rangeland grasses are in poor condition. Some injury from the pale western cutworm is reported in this part of the province.

Crop conditions in central Alberta are only fair. The topsoil is becoming very dry and pastures are showing the effects of lack of rainfall. Satisfactory recovery of grain fields from frost damage is reported.

In northern districts and the Peace River area conditions are generally satisfactory. Moisture conditions are only fair. Light rains are reported in parts of the Grande Prairie and Spirit River sections.

For the province as a whole, rainfall from April 1 to date has averaged 64 per cent below normal, as compared with 60 per cent below normal two weeks ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 27 was 3 degrees above normal.

#### UNITED STATES SITUATION

Ceilings Raised on Grain Frices - On May 8 the Government announced a number of increases in the ceiling prices for grains effective May 13 through June 30, 1947. The increase for wheat amounted to 15 cents per bushel. This meant that, taken in conjunction with the 30 cents bonus set up last month for deliveries up to May 25, producers could receive 45 cents more per bushel than was the case before the bonus was instituted. The avowed purpose of the upward ceiling revision was threefold (1) to remove uncertainty in the minds of producers as to possible adjustments in grain price ceilings between now and June 30, 1947 (2) to encourage movement of grain into overseas channels for human consumption in the United States and into feeding of essential live stock in deficit grain-producing areas in the United States, and (3) to bring about a relationship in the sale price of grain and the price of live stock, which will discourage production of hogs, cattle and other meat animals beyond their present levels.

Producers apparently have responded well to the increased prices, at least insofar as wheat is concerned. Reports indicate that over 43 million bushels of wheat had been purchased under the bonus plan by May 17. North Dakota farmers alone had marketed nearly 10 million bushels by May 9.

Outline of 1946-47 Wheat Program Announced - Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson announced on May 14 the general outline of the wheat program for the 1946-47 marketing year. In summary, the highlights of the proposed program are as follows (1) not more than 250 million bushels of wheat will be available for all exports from the United States during the next crop year (2) the 80 per cent extraction order will be continued (3) beginning July 1, millers will be permitted to increase milling of flour for domestic use to 85 per cent of the quantity produced in the same months of 1945; the present limitation is 75 per cent of last year's figures (4) one-half of all wheat delivered to elevators by a producer must be offered for sale to the elevators or merchandisers who, in turn, must sell half of what they buy to the Government-this provision to remain in effect until the 250,000,000 bushels required to meet export requirements is obtained by the Government (5) continued prohibition of the use of wheat and wheat products in the manufacture of beer and alcohol. Taking into consideration these and other measures, such as the conservation program, it is anticipated that the disposition of wheat in the 1945-47 crop year may be roughly as follows:

	Million Bushels
Estimated carry-over June 30, 1946	80 1,000
Total Supplies	1,080
Disposition - Export goal	250 450 <u>1</u> / 150 <u>2</u> / 85 2 <u>3</u> / 140 3
Total Disposition	1,080

<sup>1/10</sup> per cent below 1945-46 level.

<sup>2/ 50</sup> per cent below 1945-46 level.

<sup>3/ 1/10</sup> of 1945-46 level.

Winter Meat Prospects Deteriorate since April 1 - The Crop Reporting
Board of the United States Department of Agriculture reported that at May 1, anticipated production of winter wheat was 743 million bushels, a drop of 88 million bushels from the April 1 forecast. This figure, while considerably lower than last year's record production of 823 million bushels is well above the 1935-1944 average of 618 million bushels. Winter wheat was seeded last fall under generally favourable soil moisture conditions. Winter-killing was relatively light and wheat came through the winter in good condition. Prospects, however, declined during April with the sharpest reduction in the south-west. Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas all contained large areas deficient in precipitation. In the western parts of Kansas and Nebraska, heavy growth during the early spring caused a rapid drain on subsoil moisture. In south-western Kansas and south-central Nebraska, the wheat crop at May 1 was in critical condition because of the shortage of subsoil moisture. The wheat crop in New Mexico deteriorated materially during April.

The advanced stage of development of the wheat crop in Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri promises an earlier than usual harvest in those states. Prospects continue relatively favourable in the Corn Belt States, and at May I were above-average in the Pacific Northwest. Subsoil moisture was, however, deficient in a number of other western States, especially California, where the deficiency was critical. Insect damage has been reported in some areas with infestations of green bugs occurring in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas, and Hessian flies causing injury to wheat in Illinois and Missouri.

During the month of May favourable crop reports have been received from both the winter and spring wheat belts. Badly needed rains fell in some areas and harvest is under way in Texas and parts of Oklahoma with better-than-anticipated yields being received. Assuming a possible outturn of spring wheat of some 257 million bushels (based on seeding intention and 1937-44 average yields) prospects are still excellent for a billion bushel wheat crop in the United States this year.

Wheat Exports Highest in United States History - An official release of the United States Department of Agriculture, dated May 17, reveals the extent of United States wheat exports up to May 10. The report reads, in part, as follows:

"Exports of U. S. wheat and flour equivalent during the first 10 days of May totaled an estimated 3,920,000 bushels (105,000 long tons).

"These figures cover actual shipments from ports. They do not reflect as yet the accelerated movement of grain in recent weeks from farms to local elevators as a result of the bonus payments and price ceiling increases. This movement will be reflected in increased exports during the next few weeks. Exports during the period ahead will also include some corn and other coarse grains.

"Exports of wheat and flour equivalent so far during the marketing year (beginning last July 1) have totaled 321,000,000 bushels, the largest export movement of record for a like period. Of this total, 195,000,000 bushels were exported during the first six months of the year, and the remaining 126,000,000 bushels (3,374,000 long tons) during the period from January through May 10."

Chicago Wheat Futures - Since the Government announcement of an increased ceiling price for wheat, effective May 13, much confusion and lack of co-ordinated policy have been evident in the various futures markets of the United States. The Chicago Board of Trade Directors announced that an "emergency" existed and that until further notice there would be no trading in grain contracts outstanding as of Saturday's close, May 11, except for the purpose of liquidation at or under the old ceilings. May 1946 rye was exempt from this ruling. Trading was permitted at not higher than the new ceilings in new futures contracts. The Minneapolis market did not concur with Chicago and continued to trade in the old months allowing them to rise to the new ceiling levels, while Kansas City, on the other hand, prohibited further trading, except for liquidating purposes on old contracts and announced no new trading would be permitted until further notice.

Commencing May 14, new deliveries at Chicago advanced the 5 cent limit for three days in a row to the new ceiling of 198/4 cents per bushel.

The following are the high points of closing in the wheat futures market at Chicago for the various contract months:

2015 16		Old Contracts		New Contracts
1945-46	July	September	December	August, November and March
		- cents and	eighths per bushel	
April 22	183/4	183/4	183/4	
23	183/4	183/4	183/4	
24	183/4	183/4	183/4	
25	183/4	183/4	183/4	
26	183/4	183/4	183/4	
27	183/4	183/4	183/4	
29	183/4	183/4	183/4	
30	183/4	183/4	183/4	
May 1	183/4	183/4	183/4	
2	183/4	183/4	183/4	
3	183/4	183/4	183/4	
4	183/4	183/4	183/4	
6	183/4	183/4	183/4	
7	183/4	183/4	183/4	
8	183/4	183/4	183/4	
9	183/4	183/4	183/4	
10	183/4	183/4	183/4	
11	183/4	183/4	183/4	
13	183/4	183/4	183/4	
14	183/4	183/4	183/4	188/4
15	183/4	183/4	183/4	193/4
16	183/4	183/4	183/4	198/4
17	183/4	183/4	183/4	198/4
18	183/4	183/4	183/4	198/4
20	183/4	183/4	183/4	198/4
21	183/4	183/4	183/4	198/4
22	183/4	183/4	183/4	198/4

#### ARGENTINE SITUATION

Crop Conditions — Heavy rains at the first of May delayed field work and caused some damage to the maize and sunflower crops. However, it did help to build up moisture supplies and provide favourable conditions for further seeding when the weather cleared at the middle of the month. Seeding in the Republic has been advancing steadily, but there is considerable doubt as to the probable extent of the wheat acreage this season.

Grain Exports - Exports of grain were slowed somewhat during the forepart of May owing to wet weather, which impeded the movement of grain supplies from the interior to coastal shipping points. Since the Government has committed itself to provide UNRRA with 20 million bushels of grain for relief purposes, priority has been given to grain for all available transportation facilities within the country and with the coming of fine weather, exports have been stepped up. It has been reported that the Government subsidy of 5 pesos per quintal of wheat, (approximately 45 cents per bushel Canadian) instituted for thirty days at April 17, was effective in bringing some additional supplies to the market. Under the scheme about 45.4 million bushels were purchased by the Government. From the first of January to the middle of the present month, total exports of wheat have amounted to about 20.1 million bushels, a little less than half of the total amount exported during the corresponding period a year ago. The new Under Secretary of Trade and Industry stated that the present exportable balance of wheat ranged from 36 to 43 million bushels, but he gave no assurance that these exports were negotiable.

New Wheat Acreage may be at a Low Level - The third estimate of the 1945 wheat crop now places the outturn at 143.5 million bushels as compared with 150.1 million a year ago and 249.8 million for the 1943 crop. The outlook for the new crop is somewhat obscure. It is felt by members of the trade that the 1946 acreage seeded may be limited, as a result of farmers' dissatisfaction with the government-controlled price, which they feel is far below the world level at present.

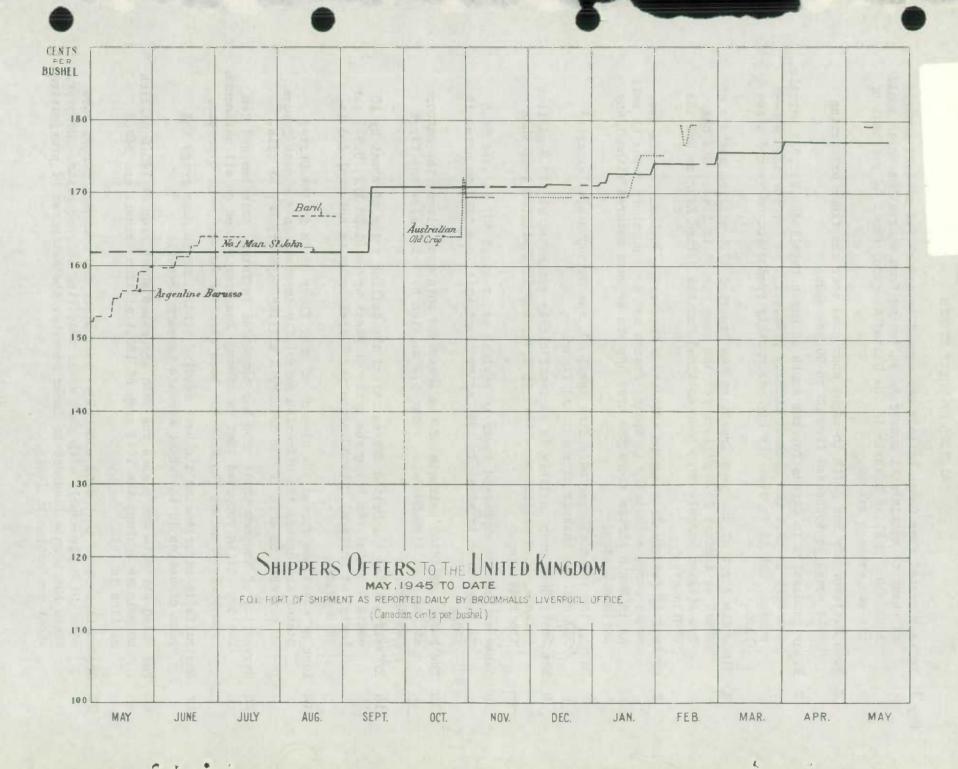
Corn Crop Estimate - Locusts, a small seeded acreage and early season dryness have resulted in a small corn crop in Argentina this year. The second estimate of production has lowered the outturn to 145.7 million bushels, as compared with 149.6 million in the first estimate. Although much less corn is being consumed domestically as fuel and live-stock feed this year, it is estimated that the exportable surplus is not likely to exceed 70 million bushels and most of that is already under contract.

#### AUSTRALIAN SITUATION

The following cable was received on May 15 from the Canadian Government Trade Commissioner in Melbourne.

"Australian wheat stocks, including flour, totalled 88,230,000 bushels at May 4. The rainfall position is satisfactory in nearly all states except Western Australia. Exports of wheat and flour during the month of April amounted to 81,003 tons of wheat and 81,444 long tons of flour mostly shipped to India. A wharf strike has held up shipments seriously. Flour mills in all States are working to capacity."

Australia is experiencing one of the most favourable seeding seasons in many years, but inadequate fertilizer supplies and the low price being granted to farmers are considered to be serious limiting factors in the attainment of the 1946 goal of 15.5 million acres. During the first four months of the present year Australia has exported 20.7 million bushels of wheat, all to non-European destinations. The present heavy demand for wheat from the Pacific area is expected to exhaust Australia's exportable surplus long before the new crop becomes available.



#### CALENDAR OF WHEAT EVENTS



- May 1 It is reported that Great Britain has agreed to divert 7.5 million bushels of wheat to continental countries suffering from starvation which would leave 30.0 million bushels in the United Kingdom, about 64 per cent of pre-war average stocks.
  - 2 Food Minister Sir Ben Smith to-night announced that the flour extraction rate would be increased from 85 to 90 per cent.
  - 3 Flour production in Canada for the month of March totalled 2,392,927 barrels.

    Not only is this the highest monthly production so far for the 1945-45 season, but it is also the highest monthly production on record since 1920.
  - 4 Since the first of the year Argentina has exported 17.0 million bushels of wheat as against 36.8 million for the same period in 1945. All but 3.0 million bushels have been destined for the United Kingdom and the Continent.
  - 6 Optimistic reports from Europe indicate a favourable outlook for the new wheat crop, especially in Spain, France and some northern areas as well as in North Africa where the crop appears to have matured without any serious losses.
  - 7 During the ten-month period ending April 30, the United States exported 317 million bushels of wheat and flour.
  - 8 The 1946 wheat crop in Italy is semi-officially estimated at 220.8 million bushels, 65.8 million more than in 1945, but 17.2 million less than the 1944 crop.
  - 9 Canadian farmers expressed their intentions as of April 30, to seed 26.5 million acres to wheat in 1946 as compared with 23.4 million acres in 1945.
  - 11 The second official estimate of the Argentine corn crop places the outturn at 145.7 million bushels, about 3.9 million bushels below the first estimate.
  - 13 Effective today the United States raised the ceiling price of wheat by 15 cents a bushel, to bring the price of wheat up to \$1.98 1/2 (U.S.) per bushel at Chicago. The 30 cents per bushel bonus is not included in this price.
  - 14 Lack of wheat has forced the closing of many flour mills in the United States and unless the situation materially improves in the near future 75 per cent or more of the country's milling capacity may be idle.
  - 15 Harvesting of the new wheat crop has commenced in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. It is reported that an embargo has been placed on all shipments from these areas as the crop has been reserved for shipment overseas.
  - 17 Australia is experiencing the best seeding conditions in many years and some expansion in the wheat acreage appears probable.
  - The third estimate now places the 1945 Argentine wheat crop at 143.5 million bushels as against the 1944 crop of 150.1 million bushels and 249.8 million in 1943.
  - 27 Broomhall reports that crop conditions in western and southern Europe have been quite favourable with most areas receiving welcome rains. However, there has been a tendency to lower somewhat the estimates of prospective wheat production in Italy.