



CANADA

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
AGRICULTURAL DIVISION

MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE WHEAT SITUATION

Vol. 18

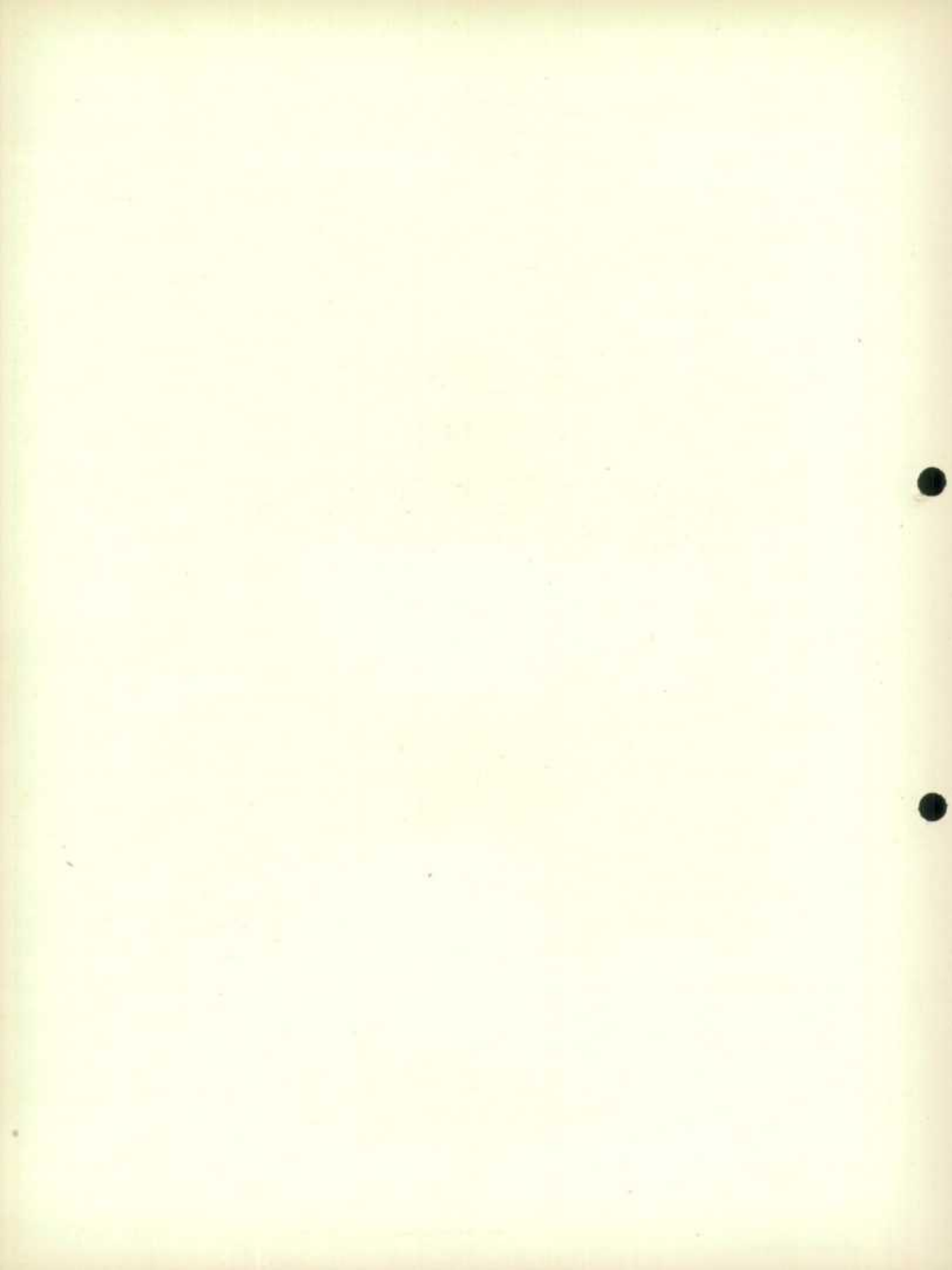
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WORLD WHEAT SITUATION

The Outlook for New Crops - Crop prospects over most of the world's wheat areas are generally promising. The United States winter wheat crop to be harvested in June and July is forecast on the basis of April 1 conditions at 861 million bushels, an increase of 22 million bushels over the December 1 estimate. Official estimates of the Canadian spring wheat crop will not be available until August but moisture conditions in the Prairie Provinces are deemed excellent at the present time. Some concern, however, is felt about the late spring in the west where seeding has been delayed. Spring floods, too, have been causing considerable anxiety, particularly in southern districts of the Prairies. While spring seeding will admittedly be late in the Canadian west it must be remembered that similar conditions have prevailed in other years, and good harvests have still been secured. The next wheat harvests in the Argentine and Australia are, of course, many months away, but soil conditions in those countries, too, are deemed satisfactory for seeding.

In Europe further rains fell in a number of countries during the last week of April and weather conditions for the continent as a whole leave little to be desired. Crop advices from most countries are optimistic and barring adverse growing conditions crops much larger than last year will be harvested. In France the standing acreage in wheat is much larger than a year ago and the condition of the crop far better. Hopes are entertained that the crop will be around the prewar level and that import needs during the coming season will be small. In Italy, too, the weather has continued favourable, and it is possible that estimates of wheat production will be increased. Reports from Russia and the Balkans indicate that conditions remain satisfactory for fall-sown crops and that spring planting has been making good progress. According to Broomhall, reports from Morocco are disappointing, soft wheat especially being poor, although hard wheat could improve with rain. The crops in Tunis are said to have improved considerably since the rains came and yields may reach last year's figure (11,000,000 bushels being harvested in 1947 compared to 15,000,000 bushels for the 1935-39 average). A report from India states that harvesting has been making good progress and wheat yields are described as excellent. Fears were voiced last month that rust might take some toll of the wheat crop but losses from this source have apparently failed to reach serious proportions.

Food Situation Reviewed by International Emergency Food Committee -

A report submitted in March by the I.E.F.C. to the Food and Agriculture Organization contains some interesting comments on the world food situation. Brief extracts from certain sections of this report dealing with cereals are reproduced herewith:

"For the first time since the end of the war...it is possible to express some cautious optimism about future prospects for food grains. Shipments from Australia will be larger in the first half of the 1948-49 cereals

year than in the corresponding period of 1947-48. The same seems almost certain to be true from Argentina." The report then comments on the favourable prospects for new crops and goes on to state that:

"Present indications, therefore, are that the world food situation will be moderately improved after this year's harvests are gathered. However, under the most favourable weather circumstances, per capita food production in 1948-49 will not recover to prewar levels. In many countries, food supplies will continue to be short in terms of prewar levels of consumption. In many instances, these in turn were far short of meeting minimum nutritional standards.

Food shortages in 1948-49 will continue to affect industrial production adversely, to create problems of inflation in many countries, and to constitute a heavy drain on foreign exchange resources of numerous importing countries. However, the unbalanced geographic distribution of production, which has characterized the past two years, will be improved if present weather conditions continue. A moderate increase in world food production, if concentrated in areas where postwar production has been smallest relative to that of prewar years and where the population is large, can have proportionately much larger beneficial effects on industrial production, inflation, and foreign exchange resources."

In a later section dealing with the outlook for 1948-49 the report further discusses crop prospects and concludes that:

"Altogether, world production of food and feed grains may return to prewar levels in 1948-49, if not slightly above, with Europe contributing most of the increase over 1947-48 in bread grains.

If these prospects materialize it should be possible to restore bread rations to more normal levels, to improve working stocks in importing countries, and even to lower extraction rates. Less coarse grains may need to be diverted to food consumption than has been the case this year, thus affording improved prospects for livestock rehabilitation.

These are only prospects, however—and prospects after this year's harvests are gathered, not before. Unless weather conditions all over the world are extraordinarily favourable throughout the year—a most unlikely gamble—there appears no prospect that all requirements can be met and all controls of consumption, collections, and international trade discontinued. For many countries an improvement in working stocks will have a priority second only to moderate improvement in rations. It is estimated that 3 to 4 million tons are needed in importing countries alone to restore working stocks to more manageable levels. Stocks in exporting countries are also below normal and could stand a considerable increase.

Finally, it must be remembered that the world's population in 1948-49 will be nearly 10 per cent above that of prewar; that an abnormal demand will persist for cereals to take the place of other foods in short world supply, including rice; and that reduction in the current high use of coarse grains for food will mean a corresponding increase in the requirements for food grains.

From a strictly supply-demand standpoint, therefore, there can be little doubt that the need for careful international, as well as national, management of cereals will continue in 1948-49. It seems particularly vital at this time to avoid irresponsible enthusiasm about future prospects. Governments will require more than ever the most comprehensive and objective information it is possible to develop if they are to be in a position to counteract short-sighted pressure for premature removal of controls."

THE CANADIAN SITUATION

Navigation Opens - According to the Statistics Branch of the Board of Grain Commissioners "The arrival at 12:25 p.m. on April 19th, of the Freighter "Wahcondah" at Fort William, opened the 1948 season of navigation for the lakehead. On Friday, April 23rd, the Freighter "Saskadoc" cleared port with the first 1948 grain cargo. During the period from the close of navigation on December 15th, 1947 to the present opening, 25,112,655 bushels of all grains were put on rails for eastern points, representing the heaviest winter rail movement from the lakehead for the past three years shown in the summary below:

Rail Shipments Ex Lakehead to Eastern Points During Period Navigation Closed 1947-48, 1946-47 and 1945-46

| Period | Wheat | Oats | Barley | Rye | Flaxseed |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | - bushels - | | |
| Dec.15,1947 to Apr.22,1948 | 9,407,258 | 8,314,914 | 5,890,301 | 1,094,195 | 405,987 |
| Dec.13,1946 to Apr.18,1947 | 7,757,136 | 6,482,591 | 3,713,403 | 627,612 | 1,322,211 |
| Dec.11,1945 to Apr. 6,1946 | 10,498,868 | 7,350,356 | 4,387,390 | 364,622 | 1,204,617 |

The port of Montreal opened for the 1948 shipping on April 19, with the arrival of the first ocean vessel, the "Manchester Shipper".

Supply Position - Exports of wheat and flour in terms of wheat amounted to approximately 15.3 million bushels during the month of March, bringing the total for the first eight months of the crop year to 128.0 million bushels. During the same period last year 140.8 million bushels of wheat and flour were exported. An estimated 147.3 million bushels remained on April 1, 1948 for export or carry-over at August 1, 1948, the end of the current crop year.

Canadian Wheat Supplies

| | 1947-48 | 1946-47 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| | - million bushels - | |
| Carry-over in North America July 31 | 84.5 <u>1/</u> | 73.6 |
| New Crop | 340.8 <u>1/</u> | 413.7 |
| Total Supply | 425.3 | 487.3 |
| Estimated Domestic Requirements | 150.0 | 161.0 <u>2/</u> |
| Available for export or carry-over | 275.3 | 326.3 |
| Deduct: | | |
| Overseas clearances of wheat as grain Aug. 1-March 31 . | 84.9 | 93.0 |
| United States Imports of Canadian Wheat | 0.1 <u>3/</u> | 1.7 |
| Total Wheat Exports | 85.0 | 94.7 |
| Exports of Wheat Flour in terms of Wheat Aug.1-March 31 . | 43.0 | 46.1 |
| Total Exports Wheat and Wheat Flour | 128.0 | 140.8 |
| Balance on April 1 for Export or Carry-over | 147.3 | 185.5 |

1/ Subject to revision. 2/ Revised estimate, basis preliminary disposition data.

3/ U. S. imports August to January amount to 54,997 bushels. February and March data not yet available.

Canadian Wheat Stocks on March 31, 1948 - Total stocks of Canadian wheat in all North American positions on March 31, 1948 were 209.6 million bushels, of which 2.4 million bushels were held in the United States. On March 31, 1947 Canadian wheat stocks totalled 246.0 million bushels including 0.2 million held in the United States. Stocks of Canadian wheat at March 31 of this year were thus 36.4 million bushels or 14.8 per cent below the level of a year ago. These data are obtained from the Bureau's annual March-end survey of grain held on farms, from mill returns and from data supplied by the Board of Grain Commissioners relative to stocks of grain in commercial positions. These complete figures on stocks differ from the weekly visible supply figures by the inclusion of farm stocks and certain mill stocks. Farm stocks include seed held for the 1948 crop and grain required for live stock and poultry feed until new-crop grain becomes available.

On March 31 nearly three-quarters of Canada's total wheat stocks were held on farms and in country elevators, 116 million bushels or 55.3 per cent of total stocks being accounted for by farm-held wheat, while 39.5 million or 18.8 per cent were stored in country and private terminal elevators. A year ago there were an estimated 133.2 million bushels on farms and 65.3 million bushels in country and private terminal elevators. Lakehead stocks stood at 16.9 million bushels on March 31 in both 1947 and 1948. Despite the lower overall stock position this year, supplies of wheat in forward positions (Eastern Elevators and Pacific Coast) at approximately 19 million bushels on March 31 were up some 18 per cent over the stock level in the corresponding positions at March 31, 1947. It is observed, however, that the improved forward stock position is solely a result of higher stocks at the west coast terminals. Stocks in Eastern Elevators at 11.8 million bushels are down more than a million bushels from last year's level.

| <u>Location of Stocks</u> | <u>Bushels</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| On Farms | 115,978,000 ^{1/} |
| Country and Private Terminal Elevators | 39,465,443 |
| Western Mills and Mill Elevators | 4,042,006 |
| Interior Terminal Elevators | 1,155,090 |
| Vancouver-New Westminster Elevators | 7,045,967 |
| Victoria and Prince Rupert Elevators | - |
| Churchill Elevator | 143,786 |
| Fort William-Port Arthur Elevators | 16,876,079 |
| In Transit - Lakes | - |
| In Transit - Rail | 6,110,298 |
| Eastern Elevators | 11,830,586 |
| Eastern Mills | 4,536,974 |
| Total in Canada | 207,184,229 |
| Total Canadian Wheat in United States | 2,413,840 |
| Total Canadian Wheat in Canada and United States | 209,598,069 |
| <u>Comparative Stocks, March 31, 1947 ^{2/}</u> | |
| In Canada | 245,763,566 |
| In United States | 231,043 |
| Total in Canada and United States | 245,994,609 |

^{1/} Farm stocks in the Prairie Provinces account for 112,000,000 bushels of this total.

^{2/} Revised.

Farmers' Marketings -

The following table shows primary receipts of wheat in the Prairie Provinces for the 1947-48 crop year along with comparative figures for 1946-47.

| Week ending | | Manitoba | Saskatchewan | Alberta | Total | Last Year |
|-------------|-----|------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| - bushels - | | | | | | |
| August | 1-7 | 48,176 | 177,510 | 579,479 | 805,165 | 1,680,367 |
| | 14 | 83,434 | 807,343 | 817,263 | 1,708,040 | 2,396,389 |
| | 21 | 290,330 | 2,231,980 | 1,336,799 | 3,859,109 | 4,989,464 |
| | 28 | 2,162,249 | 3,146,592 | 1,122,620 | 6,431,461 | 14,707,825 |
| September | 4 | 5,533,798 | 5,877,077 | 2,528,161 | 13,939,036 | 19,603,983 |
| | 11 | 6,686,135 | 17,788,507 | 6,955,198 | 31,429,840 | 19,206,621 |
| | 18 | 2,854,735 | 14,201,062 | 5,865,008 | 22,920,805 | 21,565,806 |
| | 25 | 1,188,968 | 4,460,164 | 1,130,219 | 6,779,351 | 16,320,368 |
| October | 2 | 1,402,524 | 9,751,555 | 2,471,494 | 13,625,573 | 10,246,130 |
| | 9 | 1,639,027 | 13,255,822 | 6,325,330 | 21,220,179 | 12,230,700 |
| | 16 | 1,043,657 | 6,809,636 | 4,146,024 | 11,999,317 | 12,347,694 |
| | 23 | 753,541 | 5,674,298 | 6,842,270 | 13,270,109 | 17,722,342 |
| | 30 | 628,279 | 4,294,423 | 4,871,038 | 9,793,740 | 20,118,778 |
| November | 6 | 313,817 | 3,562,227 | 4,087,957 | 7,964,001 | 14,867,353 |
| | 13 | 282,002 | 2,372,079 | 2,449,260 | 5,103,341 | 12,454,486 |
| | 20 | 475,936 | 2,371,363 | 1,848,518 | 4,695,817 | 9,962,340 |
| | 27 | 304,864 | 2,024,829 | 1,351,548 | 3,681,241 | 4,793,904 |
| December | 4 | 231,402 | 1,382,463 | 1,297,186 | 2,911,051 | 4,801,991 |
| | 11 | 213,907 | 1,381,350 | 1,157,117 | 2,752,374 | 6,029,735 |
| | 18 | 148,038 | 980,874 | 1,202,851 | 2,331,763 | 3,220,314 |
| | 24 | 149,444 | 817,046 | 1,096,796 | 2,063,286 | 2,979,468 |
| | 31 | 184,282 | 744,415 | 968,717 | 1,897,414 | 2,233,301 |
| January | 8 | 198,646 | 729,522 | 1,609,711 | 2,537,879 | 2,778,982 |
| | 15 | 226,546 | 1,031,959 | 1,641,887 | 2,900,392 | 3,721,482 |
| | 22 | 56,047 | 382,100 | 1,212,208 | 1,650,355 | 1,798,153 |
| | 29 | 45,044 | 318,168 | 1,139,508 | 1,502,720 | 2,498,619 |
| February | 5 | 71,854 | 332,748 | 1,013,931 | 1,418,533 | 1,186,877 |
| | 12 | 88,807 | 315,717 | 499,128 | 903,652 | 933,378 |
| | 19 | 83,561 | 221,250 | 526,826 | 831,637 | 1,816,968 |
| | 26 | 50,860 | 170,436 | 335,346 | 556,642 | 2,336,513 |
| March | 4 | 76,944 | 319,896 | 436,088 | 832,928 | 2,178,755 |
| | 11 | 108,829 | 344,906 | 408,099 | 861,834 | 2,646,735 |
| | 18 | 95,037 | 330,866 | 652,018 | 1,077,921 | 2,836,816 |
| | 25 | 112,552 | 402,072 | 687,526 | 1,202,150 | 1,948,485 |
| | 31 | 119,943 | 287,555 | 427,348 | 834,846 | 1,150,297 |
| April | 8 | 145,425 | 296,991 | 290,293 | 732,709 | 754,104 |
| | 15 | 98,739 | 259,784 | 315,953 | 674,476 | 1,062,187 |
| T o t a l | | 28,197,379 | 109,856,585 | 71,646,723 | 209,700,687 | 264,127,710 |

Wheat Visible Supply - The following table shows stocks of Canadian wheat in store and in transit in Canada and the United States on April 15, 1948, along with comparative figures for approximately the same date in 1947 and 1946.

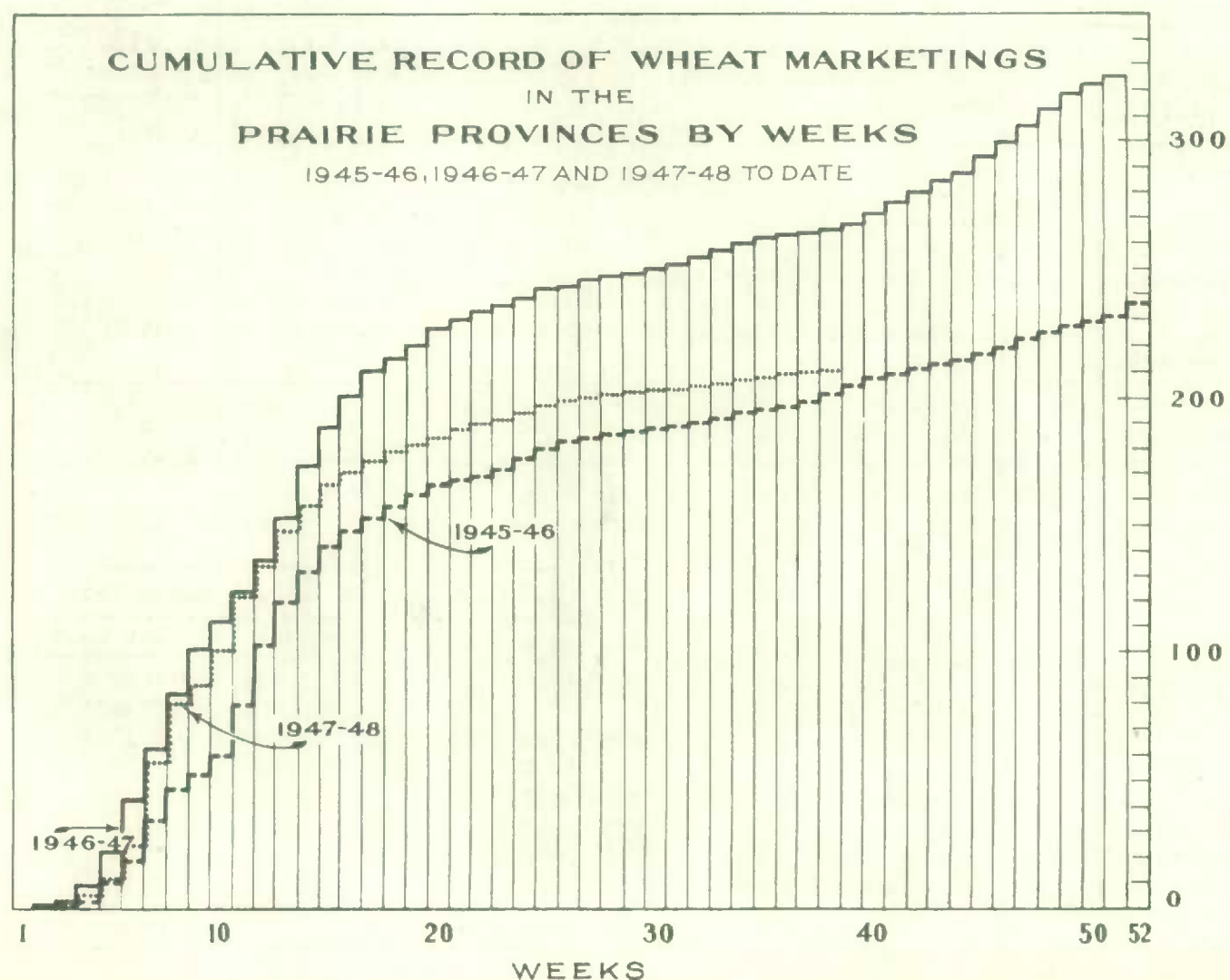
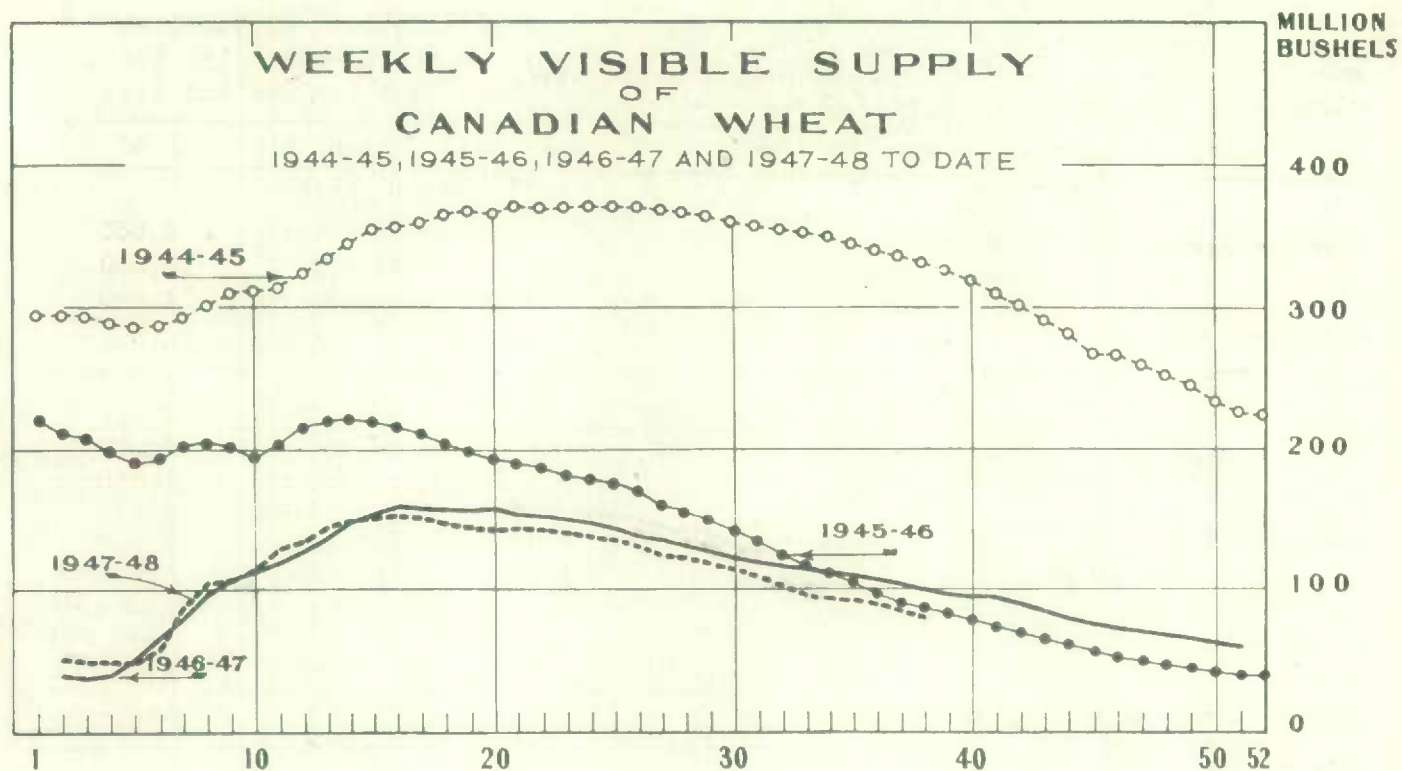
| | 1948 | 1947 | 1946 |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|--------|
| | - 000 bushels - | | |
| Country Elevators - Manitoba | 2,446 | 4,495 | 2,660 |
| Saskatchewan | 14,540 | 21,515 | 13,380 |
| Alberta | 15,468 | 26,025 | 14,055 |
| T o t a l | 32,454 | 52,035 | 30,095 |
| Interior Private and Mill Elevators | 3,247 | 3,431 | 4,665 |
| Interior Public & Semi-Public Terminals .. | 1,120 | 131 | 1,318 |
| Pacific Ports | 8,723 | 3,731 | 2,980 |
| Churchill | 144 | 43 | 1,878 |
| Fort William and Port Arthur | 20,044 | 21,551 | 23,523 |
| In Transit Rail (Western Division) | 5,721 | 8,229 | 5,297 |
| Eastern Elevators - Lake Ports | 4,250 | 5,225 | 5,478 |
| St. Lawrence and Seaboard Ports | 3,070 | 2,632 | 8,302 |
| Storage Afloat | 1,146 | - | - |
| In Transit - Lake | - | 492 | 2,912 |
| In Transit - Rail (Eastern Division) | 65 | 1,308 | 1,291 |
| United States Ports | 1,143 | 228 | 868 |
| In Transit - U.S.A. | 53 | - | - |
| T o t a l | 81,180 | 99,036 | 88,607 |

Total visible supplies at April 15, 1948 were down nearly 18 million bushels from the level recorded for the corresponding date in 1947. It will be noted, however, that a larger proportion of the stocks this year is in seaboard or near-seaboard positions, while the proportion in country elevators is considerably less than was the case in April 1947.

Grading of Wheat - Fifty-six per cent of cars inspected during the first eight months of the current crop year have graded No. 3 Northern or better (excluding toughs in these grades) as against 69 per cent for the same period of the previous crop year. The proportion of toughs (all grades and varieties) at 31 per cent is well above last year's level of approximately 21 per cent for the corresponding period.

The following table shows the grading of all cars of wheat inspected during the eight-month period August to March 1948. Comparable figures for 1947 are also included in the table. It is observed that these inspections include a relatively small proportion of old-crop wheat in both years.

| | Inspections | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| | August-March 1948 | | August-March 1947 | |
| | Cars | Per Cent | Cars | Per Cent |
| 1 Northern | 7,108 | 6.7 | 15,463 | 12.8 |
| 2 Northern | 33,783 | 31.9 | 53,756 | 44.6 |
| 3 Northern | 18,268 | 17.2 | 13,603 | 11.3 |
| 4 Northern | 3,118 | 3.0 | 3,031 | 2.5 |
| Garnet | 200 | 0.2 | 556 | 0.5 |
| Amber Durum | 4,064 | 3.8 | 2,949 | 2.5 |
| Alberta Winter | 744 | 0.7 | 1,395 | 1.2 |
| Toughs- All Varieties and Grades . | 32,869 | 31.0 | 25,191 | 20.9 |
| All Others | 5,786 | 5.5 | 4,483 | 3.7 |
| T o t a l | 105,940 | 100.0 | 120,427 | 100.0 |



Wheat Shipments to the United States - No movement of wheat by lake or rail into the United States has been recorded in the two months prior to April 15. Wheat shipments to the United States between August 1, 1947 and April 15, 1948 were, however, nearly 3 million bushels greater than the quantity moved into the States during the same period a year ago. Practically all of this movement during the current crop year was scheduled for re-export and all but 60,577 bushels was moved by vessel to Buffalo and Erie prior to the closing of navigation in December.

The following table sets out details of wheat shipments to the United States, by destination:

| | August 1, 1947 to April 15, 1948 | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | 1948 | 1947 | 1946 |
| | bu. | bu. | bu. |
| <u>By Vessel</u> | | | |
| U.S.A. Pacific Ports | - | - | 15,000 |
| Buffalo | 14,266,961 | 8,442,773 | 46,948,319 |
| Chicago | - | - | 331,494 |
| Erie | 1,155,260 | 2,948,381 | 6,981,851 |
| Total - Vessel Shipments | 15,422,221 | 11,391,154 | 54,276,674 |
| <u>By Rail</u> | | | |
| U.S.A. Seaboard Ports | - | 1,346,043 | 7,302,708 |
| Other U.S.A. Points | 60,577 | 15,418 | 98,292 |
| Total - Rail Shipments | 60,577 | 1,361,461 | 7,401,000 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 15,482,798 | 12,752,615 | 61,677,674 |

Rail Movement of Wheat to Maritime Ports from Lake & St. Lawrence Ports -
Rail shipments from Bay, Lower Lake and St. Lawrence Ports to Maritime Ports from the beginning of the current crop year to April 15 amounted to 9.2 million bushels. Movement during the same period of 1946-47 was approximately 12 million bushels.

The following table shows a breakdown of these shipments by port of departure:

| | August 1, 1947 to April 15, 1948 | August 1, 1946 to April 17, 1947 |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | - bushels - | |
| Collingwood | 796,915 | 523,925 |
| Midland | 4,084,468 | 4,273,671 |
| Owen Sound | 729,479 | 876,459 |
| Port McNicoll | 2,129,024 | 4,134,392 |
| Goderich | 233,514 | 122,658 |
| Sarnia | 348,217 | 1,834,894 |
| Walkerville | - | 71,622 |
| Port Colborne | 339,496 | 136,195 |
| Humberstone | 175,000 | - |
| Toronto | 68,369 | - |
| Kingston | 280,887 | - |
| Prescott | 8,712 | - |
| Montreal | 6,617 | 1,496 |
| T o t a l | 9,200,698 | 11,975,312 |

Rail Movement from Fort William-Port Arthur - Rail shipments of wheat from the Lakehead during March increased to 3.4 million bushels, nearly twice the movement in the previous month. Most of the March shipments went to Maritime ports for export.

Rail shipments of wheat from the Lakehead month-by-month during the past four crop years are shown in the following table:

| | 1947-48 | 1946-47 | 1945-46 | 1944-45 |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| - bushels - | | | | |
| August | 90,573 | 187,825 | 23,255 | 91,891 |
| September | 91,366 | 175,773 | 57,533 | 169,603 |
| October | 131,290 | 255,754 | 73,776 | 86,571 |
| November | 100,562 | 256,249 | 99,197 | 97,512 |
| December | 691,223 | 1,601,883 | 2,230,636 | 1,236,339 |
| January | 3,143,984 | 2,462,002 | 4,533,707 | 1,936,038 |
| February | 1,851,773 | 1,816,087 | 1,127,764 | 764,629 |
| March | 3,423,684 | 1,711,013 | 2,223,266 | 1,091,909 |
| April | | 566,006 | 1,015,730 | 196,042 |
| May | | 361,386 | 536,462 | 66,154 |
| June | | 241,475 | 920,233 | 58,642 |
| July | | 123,145 | 130,276 | 52,726 |
| Total - 12 months | | 9,758,598 | 13,021,835 | 5,848,056 |

The grades of wheat shipped during March 1948 and the provincial distribution of this rail movement are shown in the following table:

| | Ontario | Quebec | New Brunswick | Nova Scotia | Prince Edward Island |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|-------------|----------------------|
| - bushels - | | | | | |
| 1 Northern | - | - | - | 64,000 | - |
| 2 Northern | - | 340,000 | 1,010,000 | 640,000 | - |
| 4 Northern | 22,434 | 39,200 | 4,500 | 1,467 | - |
| No. 5 and No. 6 | 11,133 | 10,200 | 2,266 | 1,133 | 1,133 |
| Tough 2 Northern | - | - | 314,500 | - | - |
| Tough 3 Northern | - | - | 20,000 | 516,000 | - |
| Tough 4 Northern | 41,067 | 30,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | - |
| Tough No. 5 | 62,300 | 127,700 | 10,767 | 6,733 | 7,034 |
| Tough No. 6 | 18,959 | 9,000 | - | - | - |
| Tough Feed | 6,000 | 6,000 | - | 1,500 | - |
| 4 Special | 3,000 | 1,500 | 1,500 | - | - |
| Tough 4 Special (minus) | 1,865 | - | - | - | - |
| Rejected 2 Nor. Mxd. Htd. | 4,219 | 2,267 | - | - | - |
| Tough No. 4 Mixed Heated | - | 1,133 | - | - | - |
| Tough Rej. 3 Nor. Mxd. Htd. | 1,133 | 1,500 | - | - | - |
| Tough Rej. No. 5 Mxd. Htd. | - | 1,923 | - | - | - |
| Smutty 1, 2 and 3 Northern | 4,500 | 3,000 | - | - | - |
| Smutty Rej. 2 Nor. Mxd. Htd. | 3,000 | - | - | - | - |
| Tough Smutty 3 Northern | 1,500 | 4,500 | - | - | - |
| Tough Sample Heated | - | 2,737 | - | - | - |
| 2 C.W. Garnet | 2,000 | - | - | - | - |
| Tough 3 C.W. Garnet | 7,133 | - | - | - | - |
| Sample Red Spring Broken | 1,000 | - | - | - | - |
| Tough 4 C.W. Mixed Wheat | - | 1,133 | - | - | - |
| 1, 2 and 3 C.W.A.D. | 8,333 | - | - | - | - |
| 1 A.R.W., 2 A.W. and 3 A.W. | 27,000 | - | - | - | - |
| Tough 2 A.W. and T. Smutty 2 A.W. | 10,585 | 2,427 | - | - | - |
| T o t a l | 233,431 | 584,720 | 1,365,033 | 1,232,333 | 8,167 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 3,423,684 | | | | |

Freight Assistance Shipments - The quantity of wheat on which the freight subsidy was claimed during February amounted to 1.1 million bushels. The total movement indicated for the first seven months of the crop year lags over a million bushels behind shipments for the corresponding period of 1946-47. Consideration must, however, be given to the fact that the filing of late claims for assistance under the plan will necessitate upward revisions, particularly in the current figures--thus narrowing the gap between shipments in the periods under review.

The provincial distribution of freight-assisted wheat shipments is shown in the following table, by months, with comparative figures for the crop year 1946-47:

| 1947-48 | Ontario | Quebec | New Brunswick | Nova Scotia | Prince Edward Island | British Columbia | Total |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------|------------|
| - bushels - | | | | | | | |
| August | 630,495 | 520,857 | 59,503 | 51,185 | 26,023 | 320,620 | 1,608,683 |
| September | 1,559,857 | 864,758 | 84,987 | 89,493 | 22,472 | 365,737 | 2,987,304 |
| October | 953,028 | 1,076,123 | 92,247 | 114,385 | 31,588 | 396,095 | 2,663,466 |
| November | 640,208 | 477,072 | 54,367 | 77,000 | 25,065 | 323,310 | 1,597,022 |
| December | 655,193 | 434,232 | 66,755 | 54,160 | 16,580 | 312,393 | 1,539,313 |
| January | 665,602 | 471,863 | 47,758 | 46,040 | 27,857 | 314,468 | 1,573,588 |
| February | 393,017 | 445,193 | 37,318 | 41,092 | 30,340 | 114,157 | 1,061,117 |
| T o t a l | 5,497,400 | 4,290,098 | 442,935 | 473,355 | 179,925 | 2,146,780 | 13,030,493 |
| Same Period | | | | | | | |
| 1946-47 | 5,506,601 | 4,675,829 | 535,182 | 639,615 | 281,087 | 2,651,556 | 14,289,870 |

Freight-assisted shipments of millfeeds for the first seven months of the current crop year at 424 thousand tons are down some 82 thousand tons from movements during the same period last year. While late claims will occasion upward revisions of the current data, decreased production of millfeeds will adversely affect shipments and it is expected that movement of millfeeds throughout 1947-48 will be significantly lower than the level reached in 1946-47.

The provincial distribution of millfeeds under the freight assistance plan is shown in the following table. One column of figures covers the first seven months of the present crop year and the other the corresponding period a year ago.

| | August 1, 1947 to February 29, 1948 | August 1, 1946 to February 28, 1947 |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| - tons - | | |
| Ontario | 153,206 | 177,110 |
| Quebec | 168,352 | 200,199 |
| New Brunswick | 27,433 | 36,296 |
| Nova Scotia | 29,024 | 37,719 |
| Prince Edward Island | 7,351 | 10,518 |
| British Columbia | 39,102 | 44,192 |
| T o t a l | 424,468 | 506,034 |

Monthly Export Clearances, Etc., in Comparison with the Customs Exports of
Wheat and Wheat Flour

| | Overseas Clearances of Canadian Wheat | U. S. Imports ^{1/} of Canadian Wheat for Consumption and Milling in Bond | Customs Exports Canadian Wheat Flour | Total | Customs Exports of Wheat and Wheat Flour |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------|
| - 000 bushels - | | | | | |
| <u>1945-46</u> | | | | | |
| August | 35,358 | 1,114 | 4,979 | 41,451 | 48,074 |
| September | 26,645 | 1,143 | 4,294 | 32,082 | 34,428 |
| October | 37,551 | 1,265 | 4,789 | 43,605 | 36,139 |
| November | 29,679 | 2,139 | 4,501 | 36,319 | 42,817 |
| December | 20,163 | 1,582 | 4,344 | 26,089 | 42,443 |
| January | 19,984 | 1,988 | 5,125 | 27,097 | 20,373 |
| February | 19,592 | 351 | 5,111 | 25,054 | 14,959 |
| March | 22,780 | 587 | 4,690 | 28,057 | 20,075 |
| April | 16,220 | 559 | 6,651 | 23,430 | 20,095 |
| May | 15,131 | 465 | 7,507 | 23,103 | 23,003 |
| June | 16,161 | 754 | 4,771 | 21,686 | 14,718 |
| July | 6,471 | 386 | 5,275 | 12,132 | 18,910 |
| T o t a l | 265,735 | 12,333 | 62,037 | 340,105 | 336,034 |
| <u>1946-47 ^{2/}</u> | | | | | |
| August | 5,982 | 227 | 8,896 | 15,105 | 17,339 |
| September | 10,131 | 241 | 5,563 | 15,935 | 11,338 |
| October | 12,481 | 437 | 4,436 | 17,354 | 23,653 |
| November | 20,494 | 441 | 6,156 | 27,091 | 23,008 |
| December | 11,044 | 124 | 3,248 | 14,416 | 17,488 |
| January | 14,333 | 77 | 6,208 | 20,618 | 20,406 |
| February | 10,439 | 75 | 5,538 | 16,052 | 13,639 |
| March | 8,121 | 31 | 6,102 | 14,254 | 14,085 |
| April | 10,286 | 4 | 5,015 | 15,305 | 12,152 |
| May | 17,859 | 1 | 10,385 | 28,245 | 28,701 |
| June | 22,192 | 5 | 10,537 | 32,734 | 31,594 |
| July | 18,354 | 9 | 7,386 | 25,749 | 26,404 |
| T o t a l | 161,716 | 1,672 | 79,470 | 242,858 | 239,807 |
| <u>1947-48 ^{3/}</u> | | | | | |
| August | 9,601 | 2 | 6,956 | 16,559 | 18,140 |
| September | 9,362 | 12 | 5,817 | 15,191 | 15,990 |
| October | 9,680 | 35 | 7,123 | 16,838 | 17,204 |
| November | 12,006 | 1 | 5,389 | 17,396 | 22,763 |
| December | 7,480 | 2 | 4,912 | 12,394 | 20,717 |
| January | 15,175 | 3 | 4,460 | 19,638 | 15,962 |
| February | 11,296 | <u>4/</u> | 3,464 | 14,760 | 10,743 |
| March | 10,323 | <u>4/</u> | 4,946 | 15,269 | 15,058 |
| T o t a l | 84,923 | 55 | 43,067 | 128,045 | 136,577 |

^{1/} U. S. A. Official figures.

^{2/} Revised.

^{3/} Subject to revision.

^{4/} U. S. A. imports for February and March not available.

Overseas Clearances of Canadian Wheat and Wheat Flour (including United States Imports) August 1947 to March 1948 - The following statistics on monthly overseas clearances have been compiled by the Statistical Branch of the Board of Grain Commissioners:-

| | MARCH | | FEBRUARY | | AUGUST-MARCH | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Wheat Flour 1/ | Wheat 2/ | Wheat Flour 1/ | Wheat 2/ | Wheat Flour 1/ | Wheat 2/ |
| <u>BRITISH EMPIRE</u> | - bushels - | | - bushels - | | - bushels - | |
| United Kingdom | 3,713,535 | 9,244,098 | 2,424,101 | 9,944,405 | 24,260,562 | 74,979,789 |
| Eire | 51,579 | - | 59,764 | - | 994,581 | - |
| <u>Africa</u> | | | | | | |
| Br. E. Africa | - | - | - | - | 4,783 | - |
| Br. S. Africa | 689 | - | - | - | 2,507 | - |
| <u>Br. West Africa</u> | | | | | | |
| Gambia | 2,853 | - | - | - | 4,019 | - |
| Gold Coast | 918 | - | 4,068 | - | 45,684 | - |
| Nigeria | 918 | - | - | - | 5,661 | - |
| Sierra Leone | 12,856 | - | 4,590 | - | 67,432 | - |
| <u>Asia</u> | | | | | | |
| Aden | - | - | - | - | 450 | - |
| Hong Kong | 21,258 | - | 6,129 | - | 128,646 | - |
| India | 37,076 | - | 19,467 | - | 3,953,885 | - |
| Palestine | - | - | - | - | 9,162 | 777,785 |
| <u>Europe</u> | | | | | | |
| Gibraltar | 319 | - | - | - | 319 | - |
| Malta | - | - | - | 168,000 | - | 1,587,829 |
| <u>North America</u> | | | | | | |
| Bahamas | 18,229 | - | 5,283 | - | 168,470 | - |
| Barbados | 22,019 | - | 10,953 | - | 293,077 | 767 |
| Jamaica | 226,845 | 6,129 | 42,863 | - | 1,182,308 | 22,402 |
| St. Vincent | 88,043 | - | - | - | 88,043 | 10 |
| Trinidad-Tobago ... | 181,782 | - | 157,356 | - | 1,488,533 | - |
| Other Br. W. Indies | - | - | 41,161 | - | 394,159 | - |
| Bermuda | 15,358 | - | 7,938 | - | 81,634 | - |
| Br. Honduras | 7,344 | - | - | - | 32,769 | - |
| Newfoundland | 55,728 | - | 85,824 | - | 1,184,152 | - |
| <u>South America</u> | | | | | | |
| Br. Guiana | 79,083 | - | 53,919 | - | 579,983 | - |
| TOTAL BRITISH EMPIRE. | 4,536,432 | 9,250,227 | 2,923,416 | 10,112,405 | 34,970,819 | 77,368,582 |
| <u>FOREIGN COUNTRIES</u> | | | | | | |
| <u>Africa</u> | | | | | | |
| Azores & Madeira .. | 7,304 | - | 2,799 | - | 47,647 | - |
| Belgian Congo | 3,636 | - | 4,950 | - | 18,896 | - |
| Egypt | - | - | - | - | 143,496 | 1,716,131 |
| Liberia | - | - | - | - | 5,706 | - |
| Morocco | 5,513 | - | - | - | 5,513 | - |
| Portuguese Africa . | 1,836 | - | 4,545 | - | 54,496 | - |
| <u>Asia</u> | | | | | | |
| China | 11,016 | - | - | - | 25,290 | - |
| Iraq-Iran | - | - | - | - | - | 339,000 |
| Netherlands E. Indies | 15,043 | - | - | - | 15,043 | - |
| Philippine Islands. | 21,749 | - | 34,281 | - | 522,103 | - |
| Portuguese Asia ... | - | - | - | - | 18,797 | - |
| Syria | - | - | - | - | 325,476 | - |

Overseas Clearances of Canadian Wheat and Wheat Flour - concluded

| | MARCH | | FEBRUARY | | AUGUST-MARCH | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | Wheat Flour 1/ | Wheat 2/ | Wheat Flour 1/ | Wheat 2/ | Wheat Flour 1/ | Wheat 2/ |
| FOREIGN COUNTRIES | - bushels - | | - bushels - | | - bushels - | |
| <u>Europe</u> | | | | | | |
| Austria | - | - | - | - | 29,074 | - |
| Belgium | - | 599,591 | - | 492,966 | 348,282 | 2,993,082 |
| Denmark | - | - | - | - | 16,596 | - |
| France | - | - | - | - | 672,062 | - |
| Germany | 56,061 | - | - | - | 337,739 | - |
| Greece | - | - | - | - | 19,134 | - |
| Iceland | 33,552 | - | - | - | 84,087 | - |
| Italy | - | 10,573 | 6,885 | - | 1,782,288 | 10,573 |
| Netherlands | - | 462,133 | - | 690,666 | 249,075 | 2,495,466 |
| Norway | 74,488 | - | 172,238 | - | 1,026,215 | - |
| Portugal | - | - | - | - | 30,803 | - |
| Switzerland | - | - | 25,191 | - | 134,537 | - |
| <u>North America</u> | | | | | | |
| Costa Rica | 6,426 | - | 13,185 | - | 84,146 | - |
| Cuba | - | - | 22,955 | - | 222,224 | - |
| Dominican Republic .. | 11,502 | - | 15,309 | - | 101,206 | - |
| French West Indies .. | 14,229 | - | 23,868 | - | 145,715 | - |
| Guatemala | 6,737 | - | 9,383 | - | 52,790 | - |
| Haiti | 10,399 | - | 32,323 | - | 75,550 | - |
| Honduras | 1,836 | - | 918 | - | 13,995 | - |
| Netherlands W. Indies | 10,489 | - | 11,691 | - | 102,635 | - |
| Nicaragua | 4,658 | - | 2,772 | - | 16,083 | - |
| Panama | 4,361 | - | 9,297 | - | 72,774 | - |
| Salvador | 3,330 | - | 918 | - | 9,989 | - |
| St. Pierre-Miquelon . | - | - | 2,556 | - | 9,297 | - |
| <u>United States</u> | | | | | | |
| For grinding in bond. | - | 3/ | - | 3/ | - | 10,731 ^{5/} |
| For human consumption 4/ | 9 | 3/ | 76 | 3/ | 711 | 347 ^{5/} |
| Unfit for human consumption 4/ | - | 3/ | - | 3/ | - | 43,919 ^{5/} |
| Alaska | - | - | - | - | 508 | - |
| Virgin Islands | - | - | - | - | 5,661 | - |
| <u>South America</u> | | | | | | |
| Brazil | 25,286 | - | 33,233 | - | 519,742 | - |
| Colombia | 1,147 | - | 688 | - | 112,742 | - |
| Ecuador | 3,105 | - | 12,051 | - | 42,799 | - |
| French Guiana | - | - | 7,807 | - | 11,807 | - |
| Netherlands Guiana .. | 8,258 | - | 11,880 | - | 64,840 | - |
| Peru | 1,993 | - | - | - | 9,733 | - |
| Venezuela | 65,686 | - | 78,286 | - | 508,940 | - |
| TOTAL FOREIGN COUNTRIES | 409,649 | 1,072,297 | 540,085 | 1,183,632 | 8,096,242 | 7,609,249 |
| GRAND TOTAL EXPORTED .. | 4,946,081 | 10,322,524 | 3,463,501 | 11,296,037 | 43,067,061 | 84,977,831 |

1/ Canadian Customs Returns - conversion rate 4½ wheat bushels equal 1 barrel.

2/ Subject to revision.

3/ United States Imports for February and March not available.

4/ Revised to include January imports which were recorded as: Human consumption 250 bushels; unfit for human consumption 3,090 bushels.

5/ Source: United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Current Wheat Prices -

The table below sets out the weekly averages of domestic and export prices of western Canadian wheat for the weeks ending April 3 through April 24. The prices for domestic use and for export to the United Kingdom have remained unchanged during the period covered. Effective April 1, however, the initial price to producers was increased by 20 cents per bushel to \$1.55 per bushel for No. 1 Northern. The 20 cents increase is retroactive and will be paid on all wheat delivered to the Board during the crop years 1945-46, 1946-47 and up to April 1 of the current (1947-48) crop year.

The price of 'commercial' wheat for export to countries other than the United Kingdom has held quite steady during the four weeks under review, the average prices for the weeks ending April 3, 10, 17 and 24 for No. 1 Northern being 270/5, 272/7, 274/7 and 270/7 respectively.

Note - The prices quoted for domestic use and for sale to the United Kingdom include carrying charges of 3 1/2 cents per bushel.

| | | Average Prices for the weeks ending: <u>1/</u> <u>2/</u> | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| | | April 3 | April 10 | April 17 | April 24 |
| (1) Class I Domestic | | - cents and eighths per bushel | | | |
| (A) Domestic Use | | | | | |
| 1 Hard | 158/4 | 158/4 | 158/4 | 158/4 | 158/4 |
| 1 Northern | 158/4 | 158/4 | 158/4 | 158/4 | 158/4 |
| 2 Northern | 155/4 | 155/4 | 155/4 | 155/4 | 155/4 |
| 3 Northern | 153/4 | 153/4 | 153/4 | 153/4 | 153/4 |
| 4 Northern | 150/4 | 150/4 | 150/4 | 150/4 | 150/4 |
| Number 5 | 145/4 | 145/4 | 145/4 | 145/4 | 145/4 |
| Number 6 | 141/4 | 141/4 | 141/4 | 141/4 | 141/4 |
| Feed | 139/4 | 139/4 | 139/4 | 139/4 | 139/4 |
| 1 C. W. Garnet | 153/4 | 153/4 | 153/4 | 153/4 | 153/4 |
| 2 C. W. Garnet | 151/4 | 151/4 | 151/4 | 151/4 | 151/4 |
| 3 C. W. Garnet | 149/4 | 149/4 | 149/4 | 149/4 | 149/4 |
| 1 Alberta Red Winter | 158/4 | 158/4 | 158/4 | 158/4 | 158/4 |
| 2 Alberta Winter | 157/4 | 157/4 | 157/4 | 157/4 | 157/4 |
| 3 Alberta Winter | 154/4 | 154/4 | 154/4 | 154/4 | 154/4 |
| 1 C. W. Amber Durum | 158/4 | 158/4 | 158/4 | 158/4 | 158/4 |
| 2 C. W. Amber Durum | 155/4 | 155/4 | 155/4 | 155/4 | 155/4 |
| 3 C. W. Amber Durum | 153/4 | 153/4 | 153/4 | 153/4 | 153/4 |
| (B) Initial Price to Producers - Effective from April 1, 1948, and retroactive to August 1, 1945, established at \$1.55 per bushel for No. 1 Northern. Spreads between other grades as above. | | | | | |
| (2) Class II Export | | | | | |
| (A) United Kingdom | | | | | |
| 1 Hard | 158/4 | 158/4 | 158/4 | 158/4 | 158/4 |
| 1 Northern | 158/4 | 158/4 | 158/4 | 158/4 | 158/4 |
| 2 Northern | 155/4 | 155/4 | 155/4 | 155/4 | 155/4 |
| 3 Northern | 153/4 | 153/4 | 153/4 | 153/4 | 153/4 |
| (B) Commercial | | | | | |
| 1 Hard | 270/5 | 272/7 | 274/7 | 270/7 | 270/7 |
| 1 Northern | 270/5 | 272/7 | 274/7 | 270/7 | 270/7 |
| 2 Northern | 267/5 | 269/7 | 271/7 | 267/7 | 267/7 |
| 3 Northern | 265/5 | 267/7 | 269/7 | 265/7 | 265/7 |
| 1 C. W. Amber Durum | 270/5 | 272/7 | 274/7 | 270/7 | 270/7 |
| 2 C. W. Amber Durum | 267/5 | 269/7 | 271/7 | 267/7 | 267/7 |
| 3 C. W. Amber Durum | 265/5 | 267/7 | 269/7 | 265/7 | 265/7 |

1/ Source: Statistics Branch, Board of Grain Commissioners, Fort William.

2/ Price - Basis in store Fort William-Port Arthur and Vancouver.

Flour Milling Situation - Production of wheat flour in Canadian mills for the month of March 1948 amounted to 1,871,781 barrels, an increase of 72,502 barrels over February millings, but nearly half a million barrels below the output in March 1947.

Total wheat flour production for the first eight months of the current crop year is 1.9 million barrels below output for the corresponding period of the 1946-47 crop year. The smaller 1947 wheat crop resulted in lowered supplies available to millers, and flour production in the last few months has dropped off sharply. According to Customs returns, an amount of flour equivalent to 57 per cent of the total flour produced in the August-March period had moved into export channels by the end of March.

Mills reporting operations in March had a total rated milling capacity of 99,760 barrels and on the basis of a 26-day working period in the month 72.2 per cent of this was effective.

In the following table the record of production and exports of flour during the past ten years is shown together with statistics for the first eight months of the current crop year.

Production and Exports^{1/} of Wheat Flour
(barrels of 196 pounds)

| <u>Crop Year</u> | <u>Production</u> | <u>Exports</u> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1937-38 | 12,867,728 | 3,609,656 |
| 1938-39 | 15,197,297 | 4,604,245 |
| 1939-40 | 17,778,311 | 6,781,367 |
| 1940-41 | 19,575,833 | 10,288,827 |
| 1941-42 | 19,905,741 | 10,205,778 |
| 1942-43 | 23,590,516 | 12,575,215 |
| 1943-44 | 24,303,833 | 13,464,371 |
| 1944-45 | 24,634,905 | 13,923,832 |
| 1945-46 | 26,435,341 | 13,786,177 |
| 1946-47 | 28,518,602 | 17,660,109 |
| 1947-48 August | 2,412,394 | 1,545,784 |
| September | 2,481,189 | 1,292,628 |
| October | 2,531,104 | 1,582,906 |
| November | 2,159,483 | 1,197,563 |
| December | 1,691,610 | 1,091,555 |
| January | 1,889,350 | 991,226 |
| February | 1,799,279 | 769,667 |
| March | 1,871,781 | 1,099,129 |
| Total - 8 months | 16,836,190 | 9,570,458 |
| Same Period 1946-47 | 18,732,045 | 10,254,594 |

^{1/} Based on Customs returns.

THE UNITED STATES SITUATION

Winter Wheat Crop Estimate - The April 1 crop report released by the Crop Reporting Board on April 9, forecasts a 1948 winter wheat crop of 860,521,000 bushels on the basis of April 1 reported condition of the crop, moisture conditions to date and other factors affecting abandonment and yield per seeded acre. This current prospect compares with last year's record winter wheat crop of 1,067,970,000 bushels and the 10-year average of 688 million bushels. The indicated yield of 14.7 bushels per seeded acre is the lowest since 1943, and compares with 18.4 bushels last year and the average of 14.6 bushels. Anticipated loss of acreage from winter-killing is very low in all sections of the United States except the southern Great Plains. Because of the heavy loss indicated in that area abandonment and diversion for the United States is expected to be 12.6 per cent of the seeded acreage, compared with 5.7 per cent last year and a 10-year average of 12.4 per cent.

A larger acreage of winter wheat is in doubt as to final outcome than in any year since the spring of 1940. This acreage is in the southern half of the Great Plains from Kansas through Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico. Late November and December rains broke last fall's dry spell that lasted until past the usual date for completion of seeding. More than usual snow fell through the winter months, adding to the top soil moisture supply. The snow furnished protection from sub-normal winter temperatures for that area and kept wind damage to a minimum excepting in some sections of lighter soils with less moisture and snow protection. On sandy soils in New Mexico and in localized areas of Oklahoma and central and western Kansas winter wheat was damaged by high winds and soil-blowing in late March and the first few days of April. Even with the improved top soil moisture situation, however, the crop in the south-west still has to overcome the handicaps of a very late start, uneven stands resulting from very dry seed beds at planting and germination time, and less subsoil moisture than a year ago. In sections of Nebraska where wheat was seeded in dry soil last fall, prospects were improved by winter moisture. Colorado's moisture and growing situation continue favourable.

Wheat in the north and east-central States came through the winter in very good condition. Most of the crop was planted under very good conditions as to moisture and timeliness of planting, but late planted acreage made little growth before winter set in. There was good snow cover for protection from low temperatures. Wheat is greening up but is starting a little late, due to the cold spring.

Acreage planted to wheat in nearly all of the south Atlantic and south Central States was short of that intended early in the fall because of continuous rains and wet fields. But that which was planted came through the winter in good condition, moisture is ample, and although growth was retarded by the cold season wheat is making good growth now. Wheat is still dormant and mostly under snow in Montana and most of Idaho. In Washington and Oregon conditions are uniformly good but growth of wheat is backward because of the cold March. California's situation is the poorest in years because of the severe winter drought. Rainfall there since mid-March brought some relief, but came too late for any material recovery.

Stocks of Wheat April 1, 1948 - According to an official release of the Crop Reporting Board under date of April 23, nearly 478 million bushels of wheat remained in all storage positions on April 1, 1948, despite near-record disappearance since last harvest. Current wheat stocks are 55 per cent larger than a year ago and 44 per cent larger than on April 1, 1946. They were exceeded by April 1 stocks in the 5 years 1941 to 1945, but are larger than on any other April 1 since 1933. Disappearance since July 1, 1947, as computed from the supply of 1,449 million bushels, was 971 million bushels. For comparable July-March periods, only the disappearance of 1,055 million bushels from July 1945 through March 1946 exceeds the current quantity. For the January-March quarter disappearance was 319 million bushels, compared with 334 million in the same quarter of

1947 and 350 million bushels in 1946. In no other January-March quarter has disappearance exceeded 300 million bushels.

By positions, the current total includes stocks of 257 million bushels on farms, 73 million bushels in interior mills, elevators and warehouses and nearly 74 million bushels at merchant mills,—all of which are estimates of the Crop Reporting Board,—as well as 70 million bushels of commercial stocks at terminals, reported by the Grain Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration, and nearly 4 million bushels in transit, owned by Commodity Credit Corporation. Other C.C.C.-owned wheat is included in the estimates by positions. No estimate is made for other wheat in transit. Of the total stocks about 221 million bushels is in off-farm positions, compared with 169 million a year ago and 134 million on April 1, 1946.

Grain Export Goal Increase - In a review of the grain export program issued April 26, by the President's Cabinet Committee on World Food Programs it is indicated that the target for total grain exports for the crop year is being increased to 577 million bushels (including 482 million bushels of wheat and flour). The official release follows:

"Last September the Cabinet Food Committee estimated that, on the basis of the probabilities at that time, about 470 million bushels of grain would be available for export from the United States during 1947-48. At the same time, the Committee pointed out the need to save grain through every possible conservation measure in order to increase the availability for export (by as much as 100 million bushels if possible) to meet urgent needs abroad.

On February 5, the Secretary of Agriculture reviewed progress which was evident at that time in the grain program and raised the estimate or "promised goal" for the year's grain exports to 520 million bushels, of which 450 million bushels would be wheat and flour. He, at that time, held out the possibility of raising this goal still more if feeding of grain to live stock could be held down to the "low side of the probable range."

In a preliminary statement on April 10, in the absence of other members of the Cabinet Food Committee, the Secretary of Agriculture reported that allocations already established through May would provide for the export of slightly more than the previously promised 520 million bushels of grain for the entire year. He reported that it then appeared safe to raise the promised minimum for wheat and flour shipments (within the total grain program) to 466 million bushels, as compared with the previous goal of 450 million. At the same time he reported that coarse grain allocations already exceeded the original goal of 70 million bushels by about 20 million, or an established total of 90 million bushels. Adding this 90 million bushels of coarse grain to the newly established minimum of 466 million bushels of wheat and flour brought the total goal for the year to about 556 million bushels for all grain.

After reviewing the April 23 report of the Department of Agriculture on stocks of wheat in all storage positions, the Cabinet Committee now feels that it will be possible to increase grain exports during the remainder of the marketing year sufficiently to bring the total of all grain for the year to about 577 million bushels. This would be 7 million bushels more than the "target" which was recommended last fall by the Harriman Committee to the President, and about 5 million bushels above last year's record food grain export total.

It is now estimated that about 95 millions of coarse grain (corn, oats, etc.) will be exported during the year. This means that about 482 million bushels of wheat and flour would be exported to bring the total of all grains up to the 577 million bushel figure. This would be an increase of about 16 million bushels of wheat and flour over the minimum total previously estimated in the Secretary of Agriculture's statement of April 10. This increase would

be achieved through some increase in the previously announced allocations for May, and substantial allocations for June.

The Cabinet Committee reached its decision to increase the year's grain export goals after study of the reports on United States grain stocks, the needs of foreign claimants, and the facilities for handling and shipping the increased volume. It also gave careful consideration to the need to maintain safe carry-overs of wheat in this country. Best available estimates, on the basis of the stocks report and the probable domestic use of wheat during the rest of the marketing year, indicate that the proposed exports will leave a June 30 carry-over above the 150 million bushel minimum which is now required by legislation."

February Flour Production Down - The Bureau of the Census estimates that 21.0 million sacks of wheat flour were produced in February, 13 per cent less than the 24.2 million sacks produced in January, and 15 per cent less than the February 1947 output of 27.7 million sacks. The Bureau pointed out that much of the 13 per cent drop in production from January to February was probably due to the fact that many mills operated three days less in the latter month. Production was at the rate of 78 per cent of capacity in February as compared with 80 per cent in January.

Chicago and Minneapolis Cash Wheat - Cash wheat in Chicago during the period under review was a nominal affair with few actual sales and light receipts being absorbed under previous sales.

The cash wheat trading on the Minneapolis market was also light throughout the period. Receipts by weeks for the period March 26 to April 22 were: first week 657 cars; second week 712 cars; third week 829 cars; fourth week 900 cars, for a total of 3,098 cars. These offerings were being taken up by small Commodity Credit Corporation purchases and light but patchy demand from mills. Toward the close of the period some inquiry for wheat for shipment to Duluth and thence through the Lakes was noted.

The following are the daily cash prices by grades on the Chicago and Minneapolis markets.

| 1948 | Chicago - | | Minneapolis - | |
|---------|-----------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Grade | Price | Grade | Price |
| April 1 | None | | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 247 1/4 - 251 1/4 |
| 2 | None | | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 247 1/4 - 251 1/4 |
| 3 | None | | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 247 5/8 - 251 5/8 |
| 5 | None | | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 249 7/8 - 252 7/8 |
| 6 | None | | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 248 7/8 - 252 7/8 |
| 7 | None | | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 250 - 254 |
| 8 | 2 Hard | 254 1/2 | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 253 1/2 - 257 1/2 |
| 9 | None | | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 252 1/8 - 256 1/8 |
| 10 | 2 Red | 262-264 1/2 | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 252 1/2 - 257 1/2 |
| 12 | 2 Red | 263 | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 252 - 257 |
| 13 | 2 Red | 261 3/4 | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 253 3/8 - 258 3/8 |
| 14 | None | | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 255 1/2 - 260 1/2 |
| 15 | None | | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 257 1/2 - 262 1/2 |
| 16 | None | | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 254 1/4 - 259 1/4 |
| 17 | None | | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 255 - 260 |
| 19 | 2 Red | 262-262 1/4 | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 254 - 259 |
| 20 | 2 Hard | 258 1/2 | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 255 1/4 - 260 1/4 |
| 21 | 2 Red | 264 1/2 | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 254 - 259 |
| 22 | None | | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 248 1/4 - 253 1/4 |
| 23 | None | | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 243 1/2 - 248 1/2 |
| 24 | 3 Red | 250 | 1 Heavy Dark Nor. | 241 1/2 - 246 1/2 |

Chicago Wheat Futures -

The wheat market moved over narrow ranges throughout the entire period under review. Some gradual strengthening was noted during the first three weeks after which light losses were recorded. Comparatively light but consistent buying by the Commodity Credit Corporation of wheat for export tended to maintain a rather firm undertone to the market throughout the month. Some strength also was imparted to the market in the early weeks of the period by pessimistic reports of conditions in the south-west wheat belt, indicating that, unless moisture is received to break up hard crusted top soil, damage to new-crop wheat will result. Subsoil moisture tests conducted recently by Department of Agriculture officials indicate that conditions in this respect are fair to good. The "Stocks" report of the United States Department of Agriculture, issued April 23, showed stocks of wheat somewhat higher than anticipated despite near-record disappearance and this coupled with reports of rain in the south-west no doubt fostered the bearish tendency noted toward the close of the period.

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

| <u>1948</u> | <u>May</u> | <u>July</u> | <u>September</u> | <u>December</u> |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|
| - cents and eighths per bushel - | | | | |
| April 1 | 244/6 | 231/6 | 230 | 229/6 |
| 2 | 244 | 232 | 229/4 | 229/6 |
| 3 | 245 | 234 | 231/6 | 232 |
| 5 | 246 | 234/6 | 232/2 | 232/4 |
| 6 | 245 | 233/4 | 231/4 | 232 |
| 7 | 245/4 | 234/2 | 232/6 | 233/4 |
| 8 | 249/2 | 236/6 | 234/4 | 234/6 |
| 9 | 247/4 | 235/4 | 233 | 233 |
| 10 | 250/4 | 238/6 | 237 | 236/7 |
| 12 | 249/2 | 236/6 | 235/2 | 235/2 |
| 13 | 250/2 | 239 | 236/6 | 237 |
| 14 | 251/4 | 240 | 237/6 | 237/6 |
| 15 | 252/2 | 241 | 239 | 239 |
| 16 | 248 | 236/6 | 234/2 | 234/2 |
| 17 | 251/4 | 241/2 | 238/4 | 238/6 |
| 19 | 250/6 | 239/4 | 237/4 | 237/4 |
| 20 | 252/6 | 241/4 | 239/6 | 239/6 |
| 21 | 253/2 | 242/6 | 240/6 | 240/6 |
| 22 | 248/4 | 237 | 234/4 | 234/6 |
| 23 | 241/6 | 230/6 | 228/4 | 228/4 |
| 24 | 241 | 231/6 | 229/6 | 229/4 |
| 26 | 238/6 | 229/6 | 228 | 228/2 |
| 27 | 240/6 | 231/2 | 230 | 230/2 |
| 28 | 245 | 233/2 | 232 | 232/2 |
| 29 | 247 | 234 | 232/2 | 232/2 |

On April 26 it was announced that the wheat and flour export goal was being raised to about 482 million bushels—an increase of some 16 million bushels over the previous minimum indicated on April 10. This announcement apparently had a bullish effect as advances were registered during the next three days, particularly in the nearby future.

THE ARGENTINE SITUATION

The following information on conditions in the Argentine is extracted from a report received in mid-April from Mr. W.B. McCullough, Commercial Secretary (Agriculture) at Buenos Aires. Argentine measures used in the report have been converted to Canadian measures, where possible, for the convenience of Canadian readers.

Corn Crop Conditions - Frequent rainfall in recent weeks has interrupted and caused some delay in harvesting the corn crop; however, reports continue favourable on its yield and quality. Trade circles estimate the current crop at 256 to 275 million bushels providing they have fine weather and there is sufficient labour to harvest the crop. Ploughing and sowing of grains for forage is proceeding, aided by recent rains which will provide sufficient soil moisture for germination and a good supply of reserve moisture. Many of the early sown fields are up and show strong even growth.

Corn Price - It was recently reported in the press that the price to be paid by the United Kingdom for the 50,076,000 bushels of corn to be acquired under the Andes Agreement is 36.50 pesos per 100 kilos or approximately \$2.76 per bushel. This is reported to approximate the price which the U.K. paid for Russian corn. It is reported in a cable received from the Argentine under date of April 26 that the new basic price to Argentine growers for corn is 14 pesos per 100 kilos or approximately \$1.06 per bushel.

Underground Silos to be Expanded - A recent government decree authorizes IAPI to invest up to ten million pesos in the repair, conditioning and lining with cement of the 1,474 underground silos already in use throughout the grain areas of the Provinces of Santa Fe, Buenos Aires and Cordoba which have a total capacity of 830,000 metric tons. The work will be carried out under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture. The new plans call for replacement of the formerly used covering of earth by a specially treated fabric which will facilitate storing and removal of the grain. These structures, which resemble huge swimming pools, are used for long term storage of the cereals purchased by IAPI and supplement rather than replace the granaries and grain elevators used for grain in transit.

Flour Production in 1947 - Final statistics reveal that during 1947, 100,500,000 bushels of wheat entered the Argentine mills to produce 21,735,000 barrels of 196 pounds* of flour and 826,756 of by-products, a yield of 70 and 30 per cent respectively. Compared with 1946 there has been an increase of 8.4 per cent in the amount of wheat ground, 7 per cent in the flour yield and 9.1 per cent in by-products. The Province of Buenos Aires produced 23.6 per cent of the total.

Chilean Debt for Wheat - According to a press despatch from Santiago, Chile's debt arising out of her purchases of Argentine grain in 1946 and 1947 amounts to \$48 million on which interest and amortization of \$3 million is due within thirty days. The purchases include 4.4 million bushels of wheat costing \$40,061,000, which is approximately \$9.10 per bushel. If this information is correct, it represents the highest price yet recorded for Argentine wheat.

* The editors have shown this flour production as barrels as this is the form with which Canadian readers are familiar.

Grain Shipments - Grain shipments continue to clear port at a satisfactory rate. Wheat is at present providing the bulk of exports, pending harvesting of the new corn crop. During the week ended April 8, 181,626 metric tons of grain were exported. Wheat made up the largest share with 88,711 metric tons or 3,260,000 bushels distributed as follows: Italy 1,021,000 bushels, Switzerland 984,000 bushels, Eire 634,000, Spain 196,000, Colombia 184,000, United Kingdom 170,000, Paraguay 37,000 and Brazil 34,000 bushels. Corn shipments aggregated 1,709,000 bushels of which 640,000 bushels went to the United Kingdom, 478,000 bushels to France, 434,000 to the Netherlands and 157,000 to Spain. Switzerland received 947,000 bushels of oats; 368,000 bushels of rye and 824,000 of barley were sent to various destinations.

Grain shipments for the first three months of the year are as follows:

| Country | Wheat | Corn | Oats | Barley |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| - bushels - | | | | |
| United Kingdom | 1,600,000 | 13,705,000 | - | 3,332,000 |
| Continent | 22,400,000 | 12,044,000 | 2,884,000 | 5,397,000 |
| Brazil | 5,000,000 | - | 555,000 | 34,000 |
| Other S.A. Republics ... | 1,500,000 | - | 90,000 | - |
| Others | 1,600,000 | 7,376,000 | - | 5,211,000 |
| T o t a l | 32,100,000 | 33,125,000 | 3,529,000 | 13,974,000 |
| Same Period 1947 | 12,900,000 | 11,415,000 | 2,672,000 | 5,292,000 |

Official Estimate of Argentine Crop - A cable received from the Argentine under date of April 26 states that the recently harvested wheat crop amounted to 7,454,780 metric tons (approximately 274 million bushels). This is considerably higher than earlier unofficial estimates. The cable also contained an estimate of the disposition of the 1947 wheat crop. Details are given below:

Supply and Disposition of Argentine Wheat

- bushels -

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1947 crop | 273,913,218 | |
| Old stocks on hand at beginning of crop year (Dec. 1) | 12,267,449 | |
| Total available supply | 286,180,667 | 286,180,667 |
| Deduct:- | | |
| Quantity pending last year's sales | 26,104,645 | |
| Trade Agreements | 80,467,827 | |
| Various sales | 11,545,296 | |
| Home Consumption | 106,555,570 | |
| Seed and Shrinkage | 36,743,300 | |
| New Sales to Brazil | 11,022,990 | |
| Total Disposition | | 272,439,628 |
| Net Surplus Unsold | | 13,741,039 |

THE AUSTRALIAN SITUATION

Australian Cable - The following cable was received in mid-April from the Canadian Trade Commissioner in Melbourne:

"Australian wheat stocks at April 3 totalled 151,913,000 bushels. Exports of wheat from March 6 to April 3 totalled 8,670,000 bushels principally to India and United Kingdom. Flour exports were 53,136 long tons principally to Ceylon, Malaya and Middle East. New wheat marketing legislation is being prepared for submission to Commonwealth Parliament which proposes to set up a new export marketing authority as means of giving effect to obligations assumed by Government under International Wheat Agreement."

Wheat and Flour Shipments, December 1, 1947 to April 3, 1948 - The following table sets out Australian Wheat Board shipments for the two-week period March 13 to April 3, the total since December 1, 1947 and the total for the same period last year:

| | Wheat (thousand bushels) | | | Flour (long tons 2,240 lb.) | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| | March 13- April 3 | Total to April 3 | Total to same date last year | March 13- April 3 | Total to April 3 | Total to same date last year |
| United Kingdom | 1,373 | 8,859 | - | - | 8,751 | 15,933 |
| New Zealand | 45 | 1,623 | 2,086 | - | - | 3,800 |
| India | 2,136 | 9,301 | 1,197 | - | 39 | 807 |
| Ceylon | - | - | - | 8,959 | 89,275 | 46,450 |
| Malaya | - | - | - | 450 | 31,000 | 74,538 |
| France | - | 1,610 | - | - | 3,600 | - |
| Eire | 353 | 1,708 | - | - | - | - |
| Shanghai | - | - | - | - | - | 18,159 |
| Hong Kong | - | - | - | - | 9,408 | - |
| Middle East | - | 687 | - | - | 36,102 | 8,672 |
| Rhodesia | - | 430 | 339 | - | - | - |
| South Africa | - | - | - | - | 368 | 50 |
| Mauritius | - | - | - | - | 16,859 | 22,791 |
| Pacific Islands ... | - | - | - | 1,996 | 7,290 | 7,762 |
| Ships' Stores | - | - | - | 51 | 644 | 983 |
| Royal Navy | - | 2 | 2 | - | 116 | 489 |
| Royal Dutch Navy .. | - | - | - | - | - | 1,607 |
| Burma | - | 148 | - | - | 3,918 | - |
| Tahiti | - | - | - | - | 1,492 | 1,786 |
| Phillipines | - | - | - | - | - | 509 |
| Timor | - | - | - | - | - | 140 |
| Persian Gulf | 105 | 461 | - | - | 30 | - |
| China | - | - | - | - | - | 9 |
| Nyasaland | - | - | - | - | 90 | - |
| Port. E. Africa ... | - | - | - | - | 1,000 | - |
| Indo-China | - | - | - | - | 1,500 | - |
| New Caledonia | - | - | - | - | 974 | - |
| Zanzibar | - | 7 | - | - | - | - |
| Trinidad | - | 2 | - | - | 175 | - |
| Egypt | - | - | - | - | 21,697 | 7,916 |
| Italy | - | 306 | - | - | 2,248 | - |
| Lebanon | - | 366 | - | - | - | - |
| Iraq | - | 672 | - | - | - | - |
| Trans-Jordan | - | 353 | - | - | - | - |
| Fr. North Africa .. | - | 1,653 | - | - | - | - |
| Sweden | 248 | 248 | - | - | - | - |
| Palestine | - | - | - | - | 24,162 | - |
| British Guiana | - | - | - | - | 1,200 | - |
| T o t a l | 4,260 | 28,436 | 3,624 | 11,456 | 261,938 | 212,401 |

Quality of Australian Wheat - The following statement concerning Australian wheat is extracted from the Agricultural News Letter issued by the Office of the Australian High Commissioner, Ottawa.

Dr. Kent-Jones, British world authority on wheat, flour and baking problems, who visited Australia in 1947 to investigate local problems, has now submitted an interesting report on the quality of some of the wheats that gained prizes at the Sydney Royal Agricultural Show that year.

After analyzing these wheats and determining the stability and strength of their flour, Dr. Kent-Jones said that some of them were better than top-grade Manitoba wheat.

Cailloux, Charter, Yalta and Gabo were found to be exceptionally strong wheats, with well-balanced doughs. In English blends these wheats, said Dr. Kent-Jones, would be more useful than top-grade Manitoba and would carry weaker wheats better than the Canadian types.

Dr. Kent-Jones said that all samples were of exceptionally good appearance, and that New South Wales was to be congratulated on being able to produce wheats of this type regularly and in quantity.

In Australia, bakers were pleased with the quality of flour being milled from Gabo, a variety bred by Professor W. L. Waterhouse of Sydney University.

A small quantity of flour, milled from Gabo grown in the Forbes (central New South Wales) district, was used to produce bread for show purposes. In open competition, the Gabo bread gained a State championship, two first, nine second and seven third prizes. Gabo had never previously been baked commercially, and this was the first time on record that flour from a single wheat had been used to produce bread for show purposes.

CROP CONDITIONS IN FRANCE

Bread Grain Condition Excellent - The condition of winter-sown grain in France is reported to be excellent. According to the April 26 issue of "Foreign Crops and Markets" the acreage in breadgrains this year will be considerably larger than in 1947, when unusually heavy winter-kill sharply reduced the acreage for harvest. Very little damage to this year's crop resulted from the cold weather during late February. With the exception of that period, the winter was unusually mild.

The area seeded to wheat as of April 1 was 10.4 million acres, compared with last year's harvested area, estimated at 9.2 million acres. Further spring sowings, which are being made under favourable conditions, may bring the total wheat acreage to about 10.8 million acres. At that level, however, it would still be about 15 per cent below the 1935-39 average.

The rye acreage on April 1 was placed at 1.2 million acres, slightly above the harvested acreage in 1947. Rainfall was considerably below normal during February and March. If the deficiency should continue through April, the situation would become serious, though soil moisture reserves are reported abundant at present.



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April

CALENDAR OF WHEAT EVENTS

- 1 All 36 countries participating in the International Wheat Agreement have now signed the agreement.
The guaranteed fixed price for millable wheat to United Kingdom farmers is 20s 1d per cwt. (\$2.17 per bushel) ex farm, April delivery. May price is to remain unchanged from the April.
- 3 President Truman today signed the United States Foreign Aid Bill involving \$6,098,000,000 aid to Europe and Asia.
- 7 Paul G. Hoffman was today appointed Administrator for Economic Cooperation under the European Recovery Program. Congress voted \$5,300,000,000 for this phase of the Marshall Aid Plan.
- 8 The Rt. Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture) replying to questions in the House of Commons stated that the Government had decided to extend the period over which the terms of the order in council providing for the payment of freight on feed grain moving out of the Prairie Provinces to the East and to British Columbia applies. This assistance is to be extended from the previous cut-off date, July 31, 1948 to July 31, 1949.
By order in council the Minister of Agriculture is authorized to pay the sum of \$5.50 per ton (formerly \$4.50 per ton) in payment of freight assistance on western grains and millfeeds when the destination is within the Montreal Freight Rate Zone. Adjustments in the amount of assistance have also been made where the destination is outside this zone.
- 9 Winter wheat production estimate of the United States is now forecast at 861 million bushels. This figure is 22 million bushels above the December 1 forecast.
- 16 Sixteen sovereign states and western Germany pooled their recovery efforts today in a new Organization for European Economic Cooperation with the purpose of coordinating reconstruction moves and to assure the efficient distribution of United States aid under the \$5,300,000,000 European Recovery Program.
- 20 The Dominion Bureau of Statistics today issued its report on stocks of Canadian grain in all positions at March 31, 1948. This report indicates that total stocks of Canadian wheat in all North American positions on March 31, 1948 were 209.6 million bushels of which 2.4 million bushels were held in the United States and 116 million bushels on farms. The remainder, 91.2 million bushels, was held in country elevators, various commercial positions, in transit or at lake or seaboard ports. The same report indicates that 33.7 million bushels will be fed to live stock and poultry during the present crop year compared with 40.8 million bushels used for this purpose during 1946-47—these figures do not include wheat shipped from one province to another and used for feed, as for example, wheat moved under the Federal Freight Assistance Policy.
- 21 Trade reports indicate that harvesting of India's wheat crop is making good progress in the earlier districts, and although there have been reports of some rust damage, private reports estimate production at 376 million bushels, compared with last year's production of 292 million bushels.
- 22 According to press reports tentative estimated values of Canadian commodities required by European Recovery Program recipients in the first fifteen months of operation add up to about \$1,600,000,000.