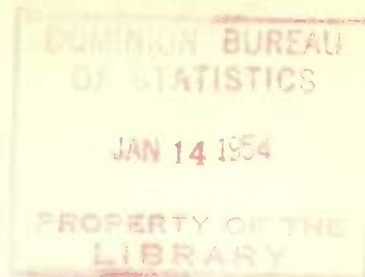


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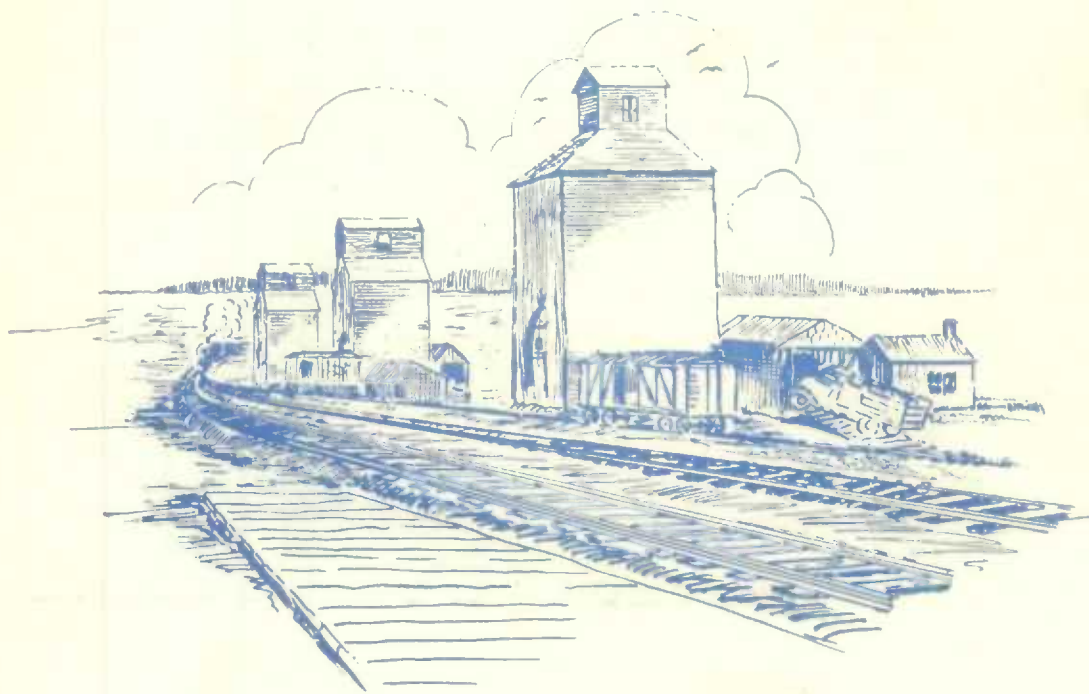
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CANADA

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

AGRICULTURE DIVISION

# THE WHEAT REVIEW



DECEMBER, 1953

EDMOND CLOUTIER, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.P.  
QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY  
OTTAWA, 1954



DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
Department of Trade and Commerce

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# THE WHEAT REVIEW

DECEMBER, 1953

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*Published by*  
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Minister of Trade and Commerce

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

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## WORLD WHEAT SITUATION

Current Supplies Latest available estimates indicate that supplies of wheat remaining on or about December 1, 1953 in the four major exporting countries for export and for carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 1,759.5 million bushels, some 28 per cent greater than the 1,373.1 million available a year ago. It is noted that the supplies shown for December 1 in the two Southern Hemisphere countries consisted only of the carryover at the end of their crop years. The supply data to appear in the January issue of this publication will include the new Argentine and Australian crops. Preliminary estimates of these new crops indicate that their combined total may amount to some 394.0 million bushels as against 473.1 million for the previous crops.

Supplies at December 1, 1953 (in millions of bushels) were held as follows, with last year's figures in brackets: United States, 937.4 (743.3); Canada, 713.9 (610.0); Argentina, 72.7 (1.8), and Australia, 35.5 (18.0). Estimates for both years include on-farm stocks as well as those in commercial positions.

Near-Record Breadgrain Crops Confirmed According to the December 14 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets, world breadgrain production in 1953-54 is still estimated at about 255 million short tons, on the basis of latest information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service. Though less than last year's record crop of 263 million tons of wheat and rye combined, the current crop is slightly above the previous high of 248 million tons in 1938-39. Some increase over the earlier wheat total published in Foreign Crops and Markets of September 28, 1953 is offset by a reduction in the estimated rye total. Increases from September wheat estimates are noted for North America, Europe, and Australia. These were, however, largely offset by reduced estimates for Argentine wheat and Eastern European rye.

For the current season, wheat represents 75 per cent and rye 25 per cent of the total world harvest of these breadgrains. World production of wheat is now estimated at 7,045 million bushels. This is about 20 million bushels above the earlier estimate, but is still about 3 per cent below the record 1952 crop. Production is smaller than last year's in each of the four principal wheat exporting countries. Large carryover stocks from the bumper crops of a year ago, however, bring export availabilities above those of last season.

World Wheat Trade in Post-War Period at High Level Total world trade in wheat (according to the U.S.D.A.) during the seven marketing years from 1945-46 through 1951-52 averaged slightly over 900 million bushels. For individual years of that period, the total ranged from a low of 760 million bushels in 1946-47 to an all-time high of over one billion in 1951-52.

Hours of Trading on Liverpool Wheat Futures Market From Monday to Friday, trading in Liverpool wheat "futures" will take place from 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., and another session will be held from 3 p.m. to 4.15 p.m. On Saturday there will be a single session from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. The unit of trading will be the cental of 100 lb. As in the past, only wheat which is passed by a grading committee will be deliverable on the contract, allowances not to exceed 3d. per cental for superiority or 1d. per cental for inferiority.

International Wheat Agreement Sales and Purchases for Crop Year 1953-54

Importing Countries	Guaranteed Quantities	Source				Total Purchases	Remainder 3/
		Canada 1/	Australia 2/	France 2/	U.S.A. 2/		
- thousand bushels -							
Austria .....	9,186	-	-	-	-	-	9,186
Belgium .....	23,883	7,085	-	-	470	7,555	16,328
Bolivia .....	4,042	695	-	-	304	999	3,043
Brazil .....	13,228	-	-	-	-	-	13,228
Ceylon .....	10,288	-	6,793	367	-	7,160	3,128
Costa Rica .....	1,286	351	-	-	440	791	495
Cuba .....	7,422	615	-	-	1,243	1,858	5,564
Denmark .....	1,837	-	-	-	-	-	1,837
Dominican Republic .	955	106	-	-	188	294	661
Ecuador .....	2,388	630	-	-	276	906	1,482
Egypt .....	14,697	-	-	-	1,888	1,888	12,809
El Salvador .....	735	115	-	-	239	354	381
Germany .....	55,116	6,657	660	-	1,666	8,983	46,133
Greece .....	12,860	-	-	-	-	-	12,860
Guatemala .....	1,286	108	-	-	412	520	766
Haiti .....	1,837	284	-	-	527	811	1,026
Honduras Republic ..	551	41	-	-	285	326	225
Iceland .....	404	91	-	-	39	130	274
India .....	36,744	-	336	-	-	336	36,408
Indonesia .....	6,246	5	1,370	-	217	1,592	4,654
Ireland .....	10,105	1,551	354	-	-	1,905	8,200
Israel .....	8,267	2,579	-	-	-	2,579	5,688
Italy .....	31,232	-	-	-	-	-	31,232
Japan .....	36,744	4,512	-	-	18,547	23,059	13,685
Jordan .....	2,940	-	-	-	-	-	2,940
Korea .....	1,470	-	-	-	-	-	1,470
Lebanon .....	2,756	-	-	-	-	-	2,756
Liberia .....	73	15	-	-	6	21	52
Mexico .....	14,697	-	-	-	386	386	14,311
Netherlands .....	24,802	3,793	-	-	4,139	7,932	16,870
New Zealand .....	5,879	-	1,471	-	-	1,471	4,408
Nicaragua .....	367	93	-	-	184	277	90
Norway .....	8,451	2,240	-	-	1,831	4,071	4,380
Panama .....	735	206	-	-	243	449	286
Peru .....	7,349	110	-	-	549	659	6,690
Philippines .....	8,672	1,751	1	-	1,086	2,838	5,834
Portugal .....	7,349	713	300	-	2,229	3,242	4,107
Saudi Arabia .....	2,572	-	-	-	905	905	1,667
Spain .....	9,186	-	-	-	7,919	7,919	1,267
Sweden .....	919	-	-	-	-	-	919
Switzerland .....	7,900	3,122	-	-	-	3,122	4,778
Union of S. Africa .	13,228	5,600	-	-	2,053	7,653	5,575
Vatican City .....	551	-	-	-	355	355	196
Venezuela .....	6,247	1,365	-	-	1,067	2,432	3,815
Yugoslavia .....	3,674	-	-	-	-	-	3,674
Totals .....	421,156	44,433	11,285	367	49,693	105,778	
Guaranteed Quantities (Exporting Countries)		163,231	48,000	367	209,558	421,156	
Balance .....		118,798	36,715	-	159,865	315,378	

1/ Canadian sales through December 15th, 1953.

2/ Sales recorded by International Wheat Council through December 11th, 1953.

3/ The quantities are the unfulfilled balances of the total guaranteed quantities for the year.



CANADIAN SITUATION

Selkirk Wheat In reply to an enquiry as to the availability of the new rust-resistant wheat, C.T. 186, Mr. Robert McCubbin (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture) made the following statement in the House of Commons on December 10:

"C.T. 186 wheat has now been licensed under the name "Selkirk". On the basis of milling and baking tests the board of grain commissioners has recognized this wheat as equal to Marquis wheat in quality and it will therefore be eligible for the top grades.

"The Department of Agriculture has approximately 130,000 bushels of Selkirk wheat available for sale. The price will be \$4.50 to \$5.00 per bushel depending on the grade and eligibility for registration. Farmers wishing to obtain some of this seed should write to A. B. Masson, laboratory of cereal breeding, 1000 Dominion Square building, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

"It is intended that sales of this seed will be made only to farmers living east of the third meridian in Saskatchewan and in the province of Manitoba."

It is noted that "Selkirk" was bred to resist the original strain of 15-B wheat rust. New strains of rust may eventually attack the new variety and further breeding work is already under way to produce other varieties which, it is hoped, will resist new races of rust that may yet appear.

Grain and Flour According to a press report, on January 6 a grain and flour mission will leave Vancouver by air. It will visit Japan, Mission to Hong Kong, the Philippines and southeast Asian countries. The Visit Far East mission will include: William Riddell, Winnipeg, Commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board; Dr. J. A. Anderson, Winnipeg, chief chemist of the Board of Grain Commissioners, and G. N. Vogel, Ottawa, chief of the trade department's grain division.

The mission will make special efforts to review the individual grain requirement of each market. Information gathered by the mission will help exporters in providing grain and flour that will best meet the demands and the taste of consumers in the countries visited.

The mission will spend 10 days in Japan, then move on to Hong Kong, Manila, Singapore, Djakarta, Colombo, Karachi, New Delhi and Bombay. In these cities, Canadian trade representatives have made arrangements for them to meet leading merchants and other purchasers of grain and flour.

Supply Position Weekly marketings of wheat by farmers in Western Canada ranging between 8.0 million and 12.1 million bushels for the four-week period ending December 16, 1953, have continued at a relatively uniform level. Deliveries of 12.1 million bushels for the week ending December 16 were the first weekly marketings in the 1953-54 crop year to exceed those for the comparable week of the preceding year since the week ending August 20. Total marketings of wheat (both old and new crop) for the August 1—December 16 period amounted to 190.7 million bushels as against 236.6 million for the corresponding period last year. Farmers in Saskatchewan marketed 117.6 million bushels, accounting

for some 62 per cent of the total, while Alberta and Manitoba farmers delivered 52.2 million and 20.9 million bushels, respectively. Grades of inspected wheat have remained at a high level, with some 50 per cent grading No. 2 Northern or better, as compared with 31 per cent a year ago.

### Canadian Wheat Supplies

Item	1952-53 <u>1/</u>	1953-54 <u>2/</u>
- million bushels -		
Carryover in North America at beginning of crop year (August 1) .....	217.2	362.7
New crop .....	687.9	614.0
Imports of wheat, August—October .....	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>
Total estimated supplies .....	905.1	976.7
Less estimated domestic requirements for crop year ...	156.8	160.0
Available for export and for carryover .....	748.3	816.7
Deduct:		
Overseas clearances of wheat as grain, August-November	105.7	85.7
Exports of Canadian wheat to U.S., August-November ..	12.5	2.6
Total exports of wheat .....	118.2	88.3
Exports of wheat flour in terms of wheat, August-November .....	20.0 <u>4/</u>	14.5
Total exports of wheat and wheat flour .....	138.3	102.8
Balance on December 1 for export and for carryover ...	610.0	713.9

1/ Subject to revision. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 50,000 bushels.

4/ Adjusted for time lag in returns made by Customs.

Visible supplies of wheat at December 16, two days after the closing of navigation for the 1953 season, totalled 348.8 million bushels. Supplies on approximately the same date in the two preceding crop years were 249.8 million and 220.8 million bushels, respectively. Stocks in country elevators were 185.1 million bushels as compared with 144.5 million in the same position in 1952 and 108.3 million bushels in 1951. Lakehead stocks of wheat at December 16 of the current crop year at 32.6 million bushels were well above the 11.2 million and 20.1 million bushels held in this position in 1952 and 1951, respectively. Stocks of 40.4 million bushels in Bay, Lake and Upper St. Lawrence ports were also considerably greater than the comparable stocks in 1952 (27.9 million bushels) and in 1951 (23.5 million). Some 18.9 million bushels of wheat were in "Storage Afloat" (Eastern Division) at December 16, 1953 as against none at all the preceding year, since lake navigation was still open at that date in 1952. Some 11.0 million bushels were in "Storage Afloat" at approximately the same date in 1951.

November Exports of  
Wheat and Flour Total  
24.4 Million Bushels

Total exports of Canadian wheat and wheat flour in terms of wheat during November 1953, amounted to 24.4 million bushels and, although representing a considerable decline from the high level of November 1952 when some 43.7

million bushels were exported, were relatively unchanged from those of October



1953 and compared quite favourably with the 1943-44—1952-53 November average of 28.3 million.

Exports of wheat as grain during the fourth month of the current crop year totalled 20.4 million bushels, a decrease of 9 per cent from those of the previous month. Total exports of wheat as grain during the August—November period of the 1953-54 crop year amounted to 88.3 million bushels as against 118.2 million for the same period of 1952-53. The United Kingdom received some 29.3 million bushels representing one-third of this year's shipments during the four months ending November 30, 1953. Other major markets for Canadian wheat during the period, with quantities in millions of bushels, were as follows: Japan, 15.9; The Federal Republic of Germany, 8.2; Belgium, 5.8; India, 4.3; Switzerland, 4.0; Spain, 3.4; United States 2.6 (of which 1.2 million bushels were for milling in bond); the Netherlands, 2.4; Union of South Africa, 2.2; Ireland, 1.6; Israel, 1.5; and Peru, 1.1. Preliminary Customs returns indicate that an additional 4.1 million bushels of wheat flour in terms of wheat, representing an increase of 20 per cent over those of the previous month, were exported during November 1953. The adjusted November, 1952 total stands at 5.6 million bushels. Total exports of wheat flour for the August—November period of the current crop year amounted to 14.5 million bushels as compared with the adjusted figure of 20.0 million for the same four months of the preceding crop year.

Wheat Shipments to Lakehead Restricted On December 22 the Canadian Wheat Board advised the trade that "in order to utilize Lakehead space to the best possible advantage the Board finds it necessary to place a definite restriction on the movement of wheat to that destination. Stocks of wheat now in store and enroute thereto are sufficient for requirements, while certain other grains, particularly oats and barley selected for malting purposes, are still required in volume to meet commitments or anticipated commitments at the opening of navigation.

"Effective immediately, the Board announces, therefore, that further shipments of wheat to the Lakehead from all stations are prohibited until further notice, except as follows:

"Shipments of wheat to the Lakehead may be made from any station in Manitoba and Saskatchewan where space is still required for a portion of the initial delivery quota of 3 bushels per specified acre, provided that no other grain is available for shipment from the station.

"....Shipments of wheat on regular mill orders or to destinations other than the Lakehead as authorized by the Board may be made from stations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan requiring space for existing quotas.

"....At stations where sufficient space is available or becomes available to accept delivery of the balance of the grain which producers are authorized to deliver under existing quotas, no shipments of any kind of grain to any destination are to be made until such time as this prohibition is lifted or special authority for a particular shipment is granted by the Board. Lists of stations in this category will be published from time to time, with the first list being issued this week."

(continued on Page 30)

Farmers' Marketings of Wheat in the Prairie Provinces, 1953-54

Week ending		Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	Total	Last Year
- bushels -						
August	6, 1953 .....	336,520	3,254,655	2,117,720	5,708,895	2,939,427
	13 .....	82,359	4,495,064	2,153,632	6,731,055	1,148,732
	20 .....	640,737	6,490,324	2,129,349	9,260,410	3,265,571
	27 .....	3,048,079	4,727,218	942,142	8,717,439	14,893,230
September	3 .....	2,627,036	4,252,468	1,061,372	7,940,876	14,263,191
	10 .....	1,035,827	3,688,233	1,449,063	6,173,123	14,273,008
	17 .....	845,786	6,361,789	2,446,556	9,654,131	12,496,130
	24 .....	1,055,854	8,743,712	3,935,369	13,734,935	14,104,065
	30 .....	1,149,984	7,782,544	3,568,464	12,500,992	25,013,654
October	7 .....	1,299,454	8,630,744	4,756,932	14,687,130	19,656,526
	14 .....	853,501	6,932,138	4,630,282	12,415,921	13,329,824
	21 .....	765,769	5,808,367	3,267,906	9,842,042	11,759,199
	28 .....	812,735	4,992,187	2,361,514	8,166,436	8,631,950
November	4 .....	836,330	4,377,068	2,296,868	7,510,266	11,675,236
	11 .....	826,645	4,844,511	2,904,327	8,575,483	12,445,961
	18 .....	955,562	6,521,873	2,744,250	10,221,685	12,310,246
	25 .....	701,283	6,585,799	2,132,679	9,419,761	12,444,752
December	2 .....	580,429	6,454,635	2,314,873	9,349,937	9,940,496
	9 .....	482,876	5,846,150	1,636,500	7,965,526	11,000,530
	16 .....	1,980,889	6,824,131	3,313,827	12,118,847	10,993,712
Totals .....		20,917,655	117,613,610	52,163,625	190,694,890	236,585,440

Lake Shipments The 1953 season of navigation closed December 14 with the clearing of the S.S. Mohawk Deer from Fort William-Port Arthur. The same vessel closed the 1952 season on December 18, 1952. The latest closing on record was December 24, 1923.

During the season just closed, 1,833 boats loaded grain at Fort William-Port Arthur compared with 1,804 vessels last year. The total cargo volume of 441.6 million bushels, although down slightly from the 1952 level of 450.8 millions, is still the fourth heaviest shipping season in Lakehead history. Wheat shipments at 208.9 million bushels, reflected a substantial drop from last season's volume of 246.1 million bushels, but still exceeded by a considerable margin both the average yearly lake wheat shipments since 1918 of 185.4 millions and the post-war (1946-1952) yearly volume of 171.0 millions. Individual totals of oats, barley and rye attained new peaks in 1953 with 98.2 million, 110.5 million and 17.7 million bushels, respectively. Shipments of flax amounted to 6.3 million bushels, slightly greater than the 6.1 millions loaded out last year, but still short of the record of 8.9 million bushels carried by vessel from the Lakehead in 1943.

Lake Shipments of Canadian Grain from Fort William-Port Arthur,  
Season of Navigation, 1943-1953

Year	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flaxseed	Total
- thousand bushels -						
1943 .....	246,159	39,407	44,034	5,439	8,876	343,915
1944 .....	304,249	80,011	56,343	8,156	7,205	455,964
1945 .....	344,406	84,928	45,186	4,828	4,384	483,732
1946 .....	147,431	56,006	30,777	3,771	2,185	240,170
1947 .....	167,334	46,860	29,827	9,909	2,465	256,395
1948 .....	133,422	37,611	33,564	6,809	8,353	219,759
1949 .....	164,195	44,074	35,635	12,583	8,490	264,976
1950 .....	137,048	27,358	26,762	7,219	3,502	201,889
1951 .....	201,424	58,325	48,332	7,014	2,194	317,288
1952 .....	246,093	92,704*	96,863*	9,089	6,058	450,808
1953 .....	208,922	98,173	110,501	17,677	6,283	441,557

\*Revised.



Visible Supply of Canadian Wheat, December 16, 1953, Compared with  
Approximately the same Date, 1951 and 1952

Position	1951	1952	1953
- thousand bushels -			
Country elevators - Manitoba .....	6,004	8,451	18,440
Saskatchewan .....	68,658	86,934	105,585
Alberta .....	33,603	49,096	61,088
Totals .....	108,264	144,480	185,112
Interior private and mill .....	4,806	5,350	6,139
Interior terminals .....	10,083	6,161	13,334
Vancouver-New Westminster .....	8,444	7,876	9,015
Victoria .....	-	-	320
Prince Rupert .....	746	-	419
Churchill .....	1,997	2,048	2,516
Fort William-Port Arthur .....	20,128	11,161	32,559
Storage Afloat .....	-	313	195
In transit rail (Western Division) .....	15,035	15,422	17,007
Bay, Lake and Upper St. Lawrence ports .....	23,504	27,897	40,377
Lower St. Lawrence and Maritime ports .....	7,822	6,604	18,301
In transit lake .....	-	15,786	-
Storage Afloat .....	10,955	-	18,892
In transit rail (Eastern Division) .....	2,497	2,298	3,468
United States ports .....	6,185	4,452	1,161
In transit U.S.A. .....	323	-	-
Totals .....	220,789	249,846	348,815

Grading of Wheat Inspected, August—November, 1953 with Comparisons

Grade	Crop Year		August—November			
	Average	1952-53	1952		1953	
	1947-48— 1951-52		per cent	cars	per cent	cars
1 Hard .....	1/	1/		48	0.1	-
1 Northern .....	12.2	7.1		7,093	7.5	6,886
2 Northern .....	29.9	31.7		21,757	23.0	31,166
3 Northern .....	13.7	17.4		18,129	19.2	13,902
4 Northern .....	6.0	9.6		11,762	12.4	4,827
5 Wheat .....	5.7	10.4		13,382	14.1	5,999
6 Wheat .....	3.3	2.8		4,922	5.2	1,048
Feed Wheat .....	0.6	0.4		731	0.8	113
Garnet .....	0.9	0.5		309	0.3	412
Amber Durum .....	3.2	1.7		2,626	2.8	3,157
Alberta Winter ...	0.5	0.1		197	0.2	132
Toughs 2/ 3/ .....	18.4	16.7		12,251	13.0	6,575
Damps 2/ 4/ .....	3.8	0.1		44	1/	13
Rejected 2/ .....	0.6	1.0		929	1.0	952
All Others .....	1.1	0.4		417	0.4	379
Totals .....	100.0	100.0		94,597	100.0	75,561

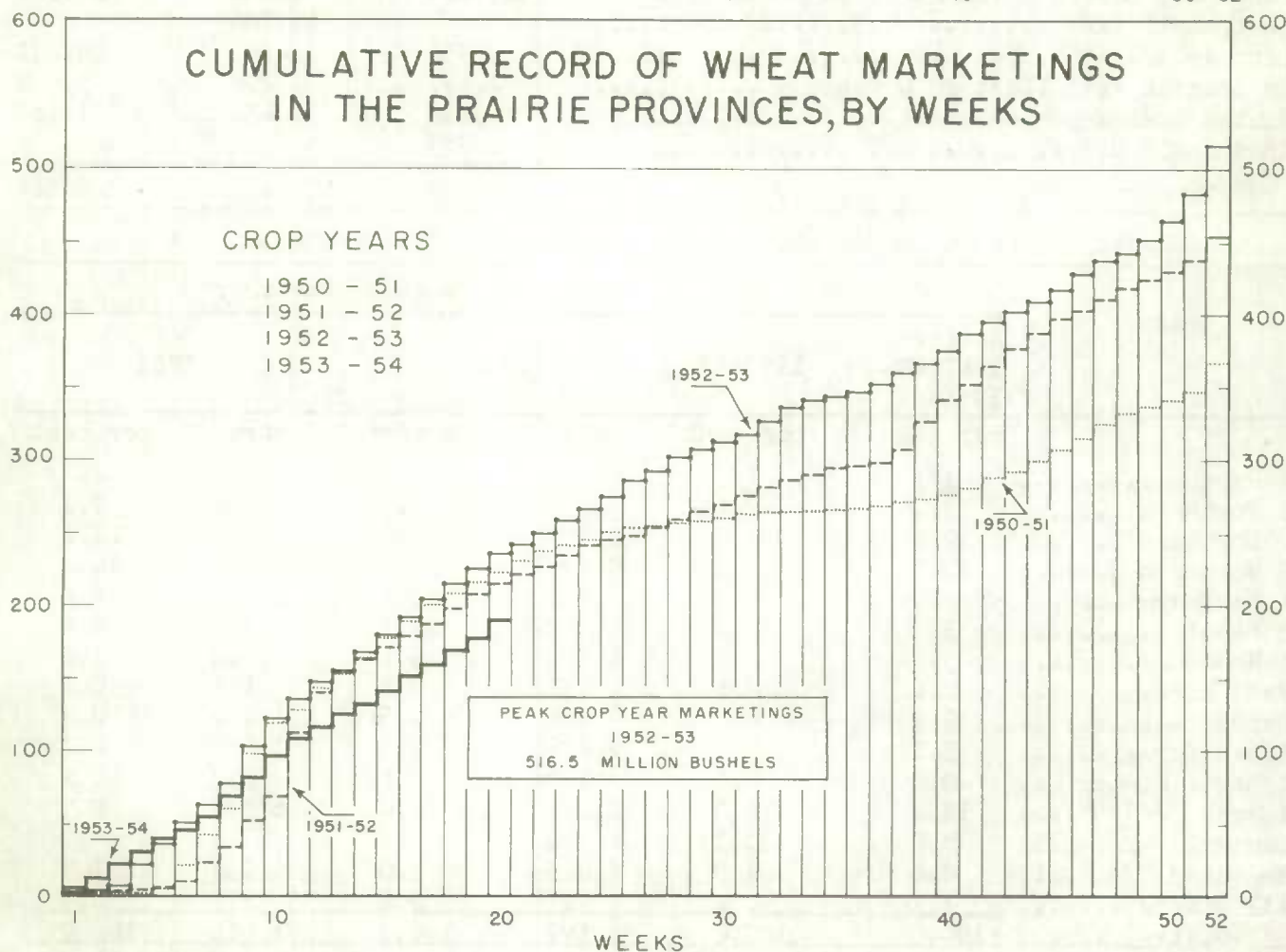
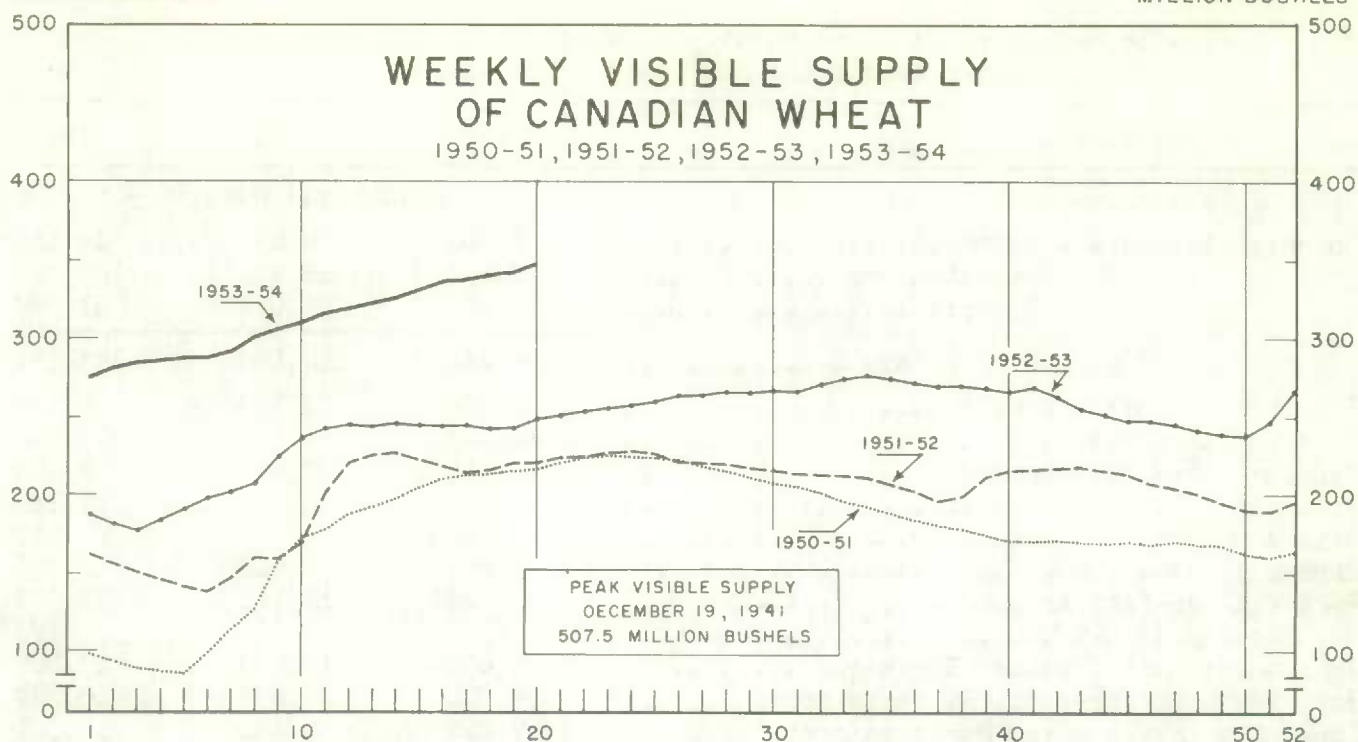
1/ Less than .05 per cent. 2/ All varieties and grades. 3/ Moisture content 14.9 to 17 per cent for durum, 14.6 to 17 per cent for all other varieties.

4/ Moisture content over 17 per cent.



MILLION BUSHEL

MILLION BUSHEL



(Data in both charts for crop years beginning August 1)

Wheat Shipments\* to the United States by Destination  
August 1 to December 16, 1953  
Compared with Approximately the Same Period 1951 and 1952

Destination	1951	1952	1953
- bushels -			
<u>By Vessel</u>			
Duluth—Superior .....	4,264,331	2,643,223	26,541
Milwaukee .....	298,326	-	-
Chicago .....	1,161,571	313,443	-
Huron .....	-	320,734	-
Erie .....	93,107	276,567	-
Buffalo .....	14,635,273	11,446,101	2,700,131
Oswego .....	514,005	1,102,391	-
Totals, Vessel .....	20,966,613	16,102,459	2,726,672
<u>By Rail</u>			
U.S.A. Seaboard Ports .....	315,000	-	7,348
Other U.S.A. Points .....	1,967,935	2,579,054	1,105,904
Totals, Rail .....	2,282,935	2,579,054	1,113,252
Totals, Shipments .....	23,249,548	18,681,513	3,839,924

\*Either for re-export or retention for domestic use.

Total shipments of wheat to the United States, either for re-export or retention for domestic use, from the beginning of the current crop year to December 16, amounted to 3.8 million bushels as against 18.7 million and the 23.2 million shipped during the comparable period of 1952 and 1951, respectively. The greater part of the 1.1 million bushels of wheat, shown as shipped by rail to other U.S.A. points during the August 1—December 16 period, was moved direct from Eastern Canadian farms to Buffalo. Some 29 per cent of this season's total to date was shipped by rail. Almost the entire vessel shipments of 2.7 million bushels were unloaded at Buffalo.

Rail Shipments of Wheat to Maritime Ports from Bay, Lake  
and Upper St. Lawrence Ports

Origin of Shipments	August 1, to November 30, 1952	August 1, to November 30, 1953
- bushels -		
Port McNicoll .....	-	150,000
Midland .....	-	267,900
Owen Sound .....	-	-
Sarnia .....	55,500	-
Walkerville .....	-	45,082
Totals .....	55,500	462,982

Rail shipments of wheat to Maritime ports from Bay, Lake and Upper St. Lawrence ports to November 30 of the current crop year amounted to 462,982 bushels, unchanged since September 30. Shipments during the same period a year ago totalled some 55,500 bushels.

Rail Shipments of Wheat from Fort William-Port Arthur, 1950-51—1953-54

Month	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54
- bushels -				
August .....	122,532	283,914	191,711	191,317
September .....	123,256	435,068	1,181,046	236,030
October .....	73,543	159,667	936,757	173,043
November .....	133,847	465,193	651,957	138,440
December .....	1,517,624	1,387,828	464,914	
January .....	4,394,047	5,839,567	6,550,958	
February .....	3,303,248	3,618,007	9,566,151	
March .....	3,476,161	1,564,586	6,285,944	
April .....	1,196,236	107,061	189,339	
May .....	462,676	132,496	216,046	
June .....	356,443	196,083	136,014	
July .....	199,603	113,827	223,687	
Totals .....	15,359,216	14,303,297	26,594,524	

Rail shipments of wheat from the Lakehead during November 1953, amounted to 138,440 bushels as compared with 173,043 bushels during the previous month. This year's November shipments, although slightly greater than those of November 1950, at 133,847 bushels, were well below the levels of 465,193 bushels and 651,957 bushels moved by rail from Fort William-Port Arthur during the same month of 1951 and 1952, respectively.

Distribution of the November, 1953 shipments of wheat from the Lakehead, by grade and destination, is shown in the table below. The bulk of this month's shipments went to destinations in Ontario and Quebec, with relatively small quantities going to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Some 24 per cent of the total shipments consisted of No. 5 wheat, while an additional 20 per cent was Amber Durum.

Distribution of Rail Shipments of Wheat from Fort William-Port Arthur  
November, 1953

Grade	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.
- bushels -				
1 Northern .....	-	-	-	3,491
2 Northern .....	-	-	2,996	17,332
5 Wheat .....	-	-	27,667	5,000
6 Wheat .....	-	-	3,000	-
Amber Durum .....	-	-	4,779	22,500
All others .....	1,500	16,381	13,119	20,675
Totals .....	1,500	16,381	51,561	68,998



Freight Assistance Shipments Claims filed for payment up to November 30, 1953 indicate shipments of 2.8 million bushels of wheat from the Prairie Provinces to Eastern Canada and British Columbia under the freight assistance plan during the first quarter of the current crop year. During the same period of 1952 claims had been filed for some 3.4 million bushels, indicating, on the assumption of approximately the same rate of submission of claims during both this year and last, that the 1953 August—October wheat movements under the plan were somewhat below those in 1952. Revised data on shipments during the first three months of the 1952-53 crop year, based on claims submitted up to November 30, 1953, place the total for the period at 4.3 million bushels. The bulk of this year's August-October shipments went to destinations in Ontario and Quebec.

Provincial Distribution of Freight-Assisted Wheat Shipments,  
1953-54 and 1952-53

Month	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	B.C.	Total
- thousand bushels -								
August, 1953 .....	6	21	61	41	391	402	232	1,154
September .....	5	8	57	38	449	286	153	997
October .....	2	5	43	25	228	334	60	697
Totals <u>1/</u> .....	13	34	162	104	1,069	1,022	445	2,848
Same period 1952:								
Preliminary <u>2/</u> ..	25	56	189	144	1,421	1,295	269	3,399
Revised <u>1/</u> .....	35	64	211	161	1,589	1,447	744	4,251

Preliminary data on millfeed shipments under the freight assistance plan represent shipments of 79,418 tons during the August—October period of 1953. This total, based on claims filed up to November 30, 1953, will likely be subject to considerable upward revision with the filing of additional claims. Some indication of the possible size of the revision is given by the fact that by November 30, 1952 claims had been filed for only 106,052 tons out of a total of 137,326 tons shipped during the first quarter of 1952-53. As with freight-assisted wheat shipments, the bulk of the millfeed shipments during the period under review went to destinations in Ontario and Quebec.

Provincial Distribution of Freight-Assisted Millfeed Shipments,  
1953-54 and 1952-53

Province	August—October		
	1952		1953
	Preliminary <u>2/</u>	Revised <u>1/</u>	Preliminary <u>1/</u>
- tons -			
Newfoundland .....	731	1,132	468
Prince Edward Island .....	1,508	2,002	1,065
Nova Scotia .....	7,429	9,177	5,787
New Brunswick .....	7,426	9,020	5,023
Quebec .....	55,386	66,353	38,611
Ontario .....	29,021	37,074	20,107
British Columbia .....	4,551	12,568	8,357
Totals .....	106,052	137,326	79,418

1/ Based on claims filed up to November 30, 1953.

2/ Based on claims filed up to November 30, 1952.

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

Year and Month	Overseas Clearances of Canadian Wheat 1/	Exports of Canadian Wheat to U.S.A. for Domestic Use and Milling in Bond 2/	Customs Exports of Canadian Wheat Flour 3/	Total	Customs 4/ Exports of Wheat and Wheat Flour
- thousand bushels -					
<u>1951-52</u>					
August .....	16,921	2,240	2,581	21,742	27,182
September .....	16,726	2,376	3,151	22,253	22,161
October .....	23,764	3,830	3,851	31,445	24,212
November .....	29,830	5,687	4,033	39,550	34,671
December .....	12,075	4,701	3,683	20,459	37,347
January .....	14,382	1,620	3,407	19,409	18,523
February .....	16,010	2,574	4,180	22,764	18,472
March .....	15,876	1,215	5,354	22,445	21,904
April .....	16,657	3,342	4,389	24,387	30,516
May .....	35,550	2,725	5,735	44,010	38,138
June .....	33,770	4,554	6,101	44,425	40,894
July .....	34,478	3,818	4,639	42,935	44,782
Totals .....	266,039	38,683	51,103	355,825	358,803

1952-53

August .....	26,089	2,559	4,031	32,679	38,946
September .....	21,208	3,312	4,891	29,411	27,326
October .....	24,106	2,950	5,474	32,530	35,611
November .....	34,339	3,677	5,647	43,663	36,052
December .....	21,777	2,883	5,146	29,806	44,468
January .....	17,518	1,206	3,443	22,167	23,562
February .....	13,135	847	3,603	17,585	18,220
March .....	11,220	915	4,724	16,858	15,466
April .....	19,019	1,341	4,508	24,867	20,061
May .....	40,179	1,476	6,247	47,902	35,963
June .....	37,390	1,617	4,880	43,887	51,752
July .....	40,149	115	3,906	44,170	41,498
Totals .....	306,129	22,897	56,501	385,527	388,926

1953-54 5/

August .....	24,152	569	3,724	28,445	34,113
September .....	20,672	198	3,365	24,235	22,736
October .....	22,072	258	3,371	25,701	29,731
November .....	18,815	1,549	4,052	24,417	23,696
Totals .....	85,712	2,575	14,512	102,799	110,276

1/ Compiled by the Statistics Branch, Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada.

2/ Compiled by the Statistics Branch, Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada, from returns of Canadian elevator licensees and shippers and advice from American grain correspondents.

3/ Exports for crop years 1951-52 and 1952-53 revised to remove effect of time lag in the returns made by Customs.

4/ Unadjusted, as published by the International Trade Division, D.B.S.

5/ Subject to revision.

Exports of Canadian Wheat and Wheat Flour by Destination, 1953-54

Destination	August	November		August—November	
	Wheat Flour 1/2/	Wheat Flour 2/	Wheat 3/	Wheat Flour 2/	Wheat 3/
- bushels -					
<u>COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES</u>					
United Kingdom .....	982,701	1,296,265	5,343,276	4,255,573	29,315,527
<u>Africa</u>					
Gambia .....	-	1,026	-	9,738	-
Gold Coast .....	31,189	99,846	-	348,363	-
Nigeria .....	14,504	86,031	-	192,758	-
Sierra Leone .....	8,032	8,834	-	41,508	-
Union of South Africa .....	-	-	-	-	2,206,400
<u>Asia</u>					
Hong Kong .....	177,439	30,042	-	466,115	-
India .....	-	-	-	-	4,272,138
Malaya and Singapore .....	42,548	31,887	-	146,794	-
<u>Europe</u>					
Gibraltar .....	23,085	12,847	-	49,594	-
Malta .....	-	-	-	-	748,533
<u>North America</u>					
Bahamas .....	28,395	21,911	-	83,619	-
Barbados .....	45,081	48,209	-	154,431	833
Bermuda .....	17,464	14,162	-	38,286	-
British Honduras .....	10,152	8,298	-	21,321	-
Jamaica .....	185,279	161,262	1,440	651,757	1,490
Leeward and Windward Islands ....	98,240	81,535	-	289,638	-
Trinidad and Tobago .....	156,591	140,760	-	470,642	-
<u>South America</u>					
British Guiana .....	121,320	123,993	-	438,161	-
Totals, Commonwealth Countries .	1,942,020	2,166,908	5,344,716	7,658,298	36,544,921

FOREIGN COUNTRIES

<u>Africa</u>					
Azores and Madeira .....	2,344	13,833	-	21,672	-
Belgian Congo .....	64,840	81,675	-	304,268	-
Canary Islands .....	-	-	-	918	-
Egypt .....	-	-	-	4,599	-
French Africa .....	-	1,607	-	3,375	-
Liberia .....	630	940	-	2,583	-
Libya .....	1,494	-	112,000	-	205,333
Morocco .....	104,558	26,501	-	207,428	-
Portuguese Africa .....	238	5,607	-	6,133	113,493
Spanish Africa .....	-	8,842	-	8,842	-
<u>Asia</u>					
Arabia .....	77,162	-	-	83,677	-
Indonesia .....	-	40,406	-	40,406	-
Israel .....	1,544	-	260,770	1,544	1,498,398
Japan .....	176,940	195,259	4,213,659	500,778	15,864,247
Korea .....	541,278	-	-	953,046	-
Lebanon .....	15,444	5,539	-	43,947	-
Philippine Islands .....	466,312	439,142	-	1,737,405	-
Portuguese Asia .....	6,885	-	-	8,942	-
Syria .....	-	81	-	81	-
Thailand .....	50,859	2,655	-	126,171	-



Exports of Canadian Wheat and Wheat Flour by Destination, 1953-54

Destination	August	November		August—November	
	Wheat Flour 1 1/2/	Wheat Flour 2/	Wheat 3/	Wheat Flour 2/	Wheat 3/
FOREIGN COUNTRIES					
- bushels -					
<u>Europe</u>					
Austria .....	-	-	350,000	-	350,000
Belgium .....	-	-	961,466	-	5,800,598
Denmark .....	225	675	-	1,125	878,700*
France .....	-	504	68,795	504	68,795
Germany, Federal Republic of ...	41,746	60,750	2,860,727	158,665	8,223,408*
Greece .....	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland .....	7,268	19,206	-	73,165	-
Ireland .....	-	-	698,134	-	1,582,821
Italy .....	26,896	45,198	80,840	121,046	279,345
Netherlands .....	-	-	586,507	16,047	2,415,996
Norway .....	-	-	634,667	-	709,334
Portugal .....	9,328	2,088	-	12,906	-
Spain .....	-	-	-	-	3,424,966
Switzerland .....	-	-	1,633,257	-	3,963,650
Yugoslavia .....	4,936	1,377	-	11,255	-
<u>North America</u>					
Alaska .....	-	-	-	4	-
Costa Rica .....	22,896	32,283	-	120,852	6,667
Cuba .....	17,186	94,325	306,133	159,584	683,533
Dominican Republic .....	24,561	50,324	-	133,353	-
El Salvador .....	31,918	15,386	-	100,976	-
French West Indies .....	950	626	-	2,259	-
Guatemala .....	45,360	42,358	-	199,278	-
Haiti .....	22,896	82,012	-	178,582	-
Honduras .....	1,836	-	-	10,098	-
Mexico .....	-	-	-	459	-
Netherlands Antilles .....	11,088	33,908	-	59,072	-
Nicaragua .....	29,637	18,040	-	92,295	-
Panama .....	41,472	26,752	-	113,503	-
St. Pierre and Miquelon .....	3,222	1,975	-	5,602	-
United States					
Flour in terms of wheat .....	11,408	1,377	-	21,348	-
For milling in bond 4/ .....	-	-	705,679	-	1,154,527
For domestic use 4/ .....	-	-	843,720	-	1,420,050
Virgin Islands .....	-	2,295	-	4,590	-
<u>South America</u>					
Bolivia .....	-	5,062	-	8,194	846,120
Brazil .....	-	1,377	-	1,377	-
Colombia .....	71,960	75,605	125,015	235,319	499,561
Ecuador .....	-	19,966	245,898	23,638	639,728
Peru .....	5,733	-	332,580	8,716	1,106,844
Surinam .....	16,349	17,316	-	59,485	-
Venezuela .....	81,603	412,533	83	864,824	5,480
Totals, Foreign Countries ...	2,041,002	1,885,405	15,019,930	6,853,936	51,741,594
Totals, All Countries .....	3,983,022	4,052,313	20,364,646	14,512,234	88,286,515

1/ Adjusted to remove effect of time lag in the returns made by Customs.

2/ In terms of wheat equivalent. Source: Canadian Customs returns.

Conversion rate: 4 1/2 bushels of wheat equal 1 barrel of 196 pounds of wheat flour.

3/ Overseas clearances as reported by the Statistics Branch, Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada, for all countries except the United States. Subject to revision.

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

\*Due to adjustments in data on destinations, the October wheat export figures as published in the November issue of The Wheat Review should read: Denmark..... 576,300 bushels.  
Germany, Federal Republic of .. 3,769,981 bushels.

14.5  
88.3  
1028

Canadian Wheat Board Weekly Average Cash Wheat Prices  
Basis in Store Fort William—Port Arthur or Vancouver

Class and Grade	Week ending			
	Dec. 4	Dec. 11	Dec. 18	Dec. 25
- cents and eighths per bushel -				
<u>Initial Payment to Producers</u>				
1 Northern .....	140	140	140	140
2 Northern .....	137	137	137	137
3 Northern .....	134	134	134	134
4 Northern .....	126	126	126	126
5 Wheat .....	112	112	112	112
6 Wheat .....	106	106	106	106
Feed Wheat .....	100	100	100	100
1 C.W. Garnet .....	134	134	134	134
2 C.W. Garnet .....	131	131	131	131
1 Alberta Red Winter .....	137	137	137	137
2 Alberta Winter .....	134	134	134	134
1 C.W. Amber Durum .....	150	150	150	150
2 C.W. Amber Durum .....	147	147	147	147
3 C.W. Amber Durum .....	140	140	140	140
<u>International Wheat Agreement and Domestic Sales</u>				
1 Northern .....	188/6	188/5	188/1	188/1
2 Northern .....	184/6	184/5	184/1	184/1
3 Northern .....	180/6	180/5	180/1	180/1
4 Northern .....	175/6	175/5	175/1	175/1
5 Wheat .....	165	165	165	165
6 Wheat .....	163	163	163	163
Feed Wheat .....	161	161	161	161
1 C.W. Garnet .....	184/6	184/5	183/3	183/1
2 C.W. Garnet .....	180/6	180/5	179/3	179/1
3 C.W. Garnet .....	176/6	176/5	174/6	174/1
1 Alberta Red Winter .....	188/6	188/5	188/1	188/1
2 Alberta Winter .....	184/6	184/5	184/1	184/1
3 Alberta Winter .....	180/6	180/5	180/1	180/1
1 C.W. Amber Durum <u>1/</u> .....	199/7	199/5	199/1	199/1
2 C.W. Amber Durum <u>1/</u> .....	197/7	197/5	197/1	197/1
3 C.W. Amber Durum <u>1/</u> .....	196/7	196/5	196/1	196/1
<u>Export - Class II</u>				
1 Northern .....	188/6	188/5	188/1	188/1
2 Northern .....	184/6	184/5	184/1	184/1
3 Northern .....	180/6	180/5	180/1	180/1
4 Northern .....	175/6	175/5	175/1	175/1
5 Wheat .....	165	165	165	165
6 Wheat .....	163	163	163	163
Feed Wheat .....	161	161	161	161
1 C.W. Amber Durum .....	295	295	295	295
2 C.W. Amber Durum .....	293	293	293	293
3 C.W. Amber Durum .....	292	292	292	292

1/ Domestic Durums 10 cents higher.

# CANADIAN FLOUR MILLING SITUATION

**Production** The offtake of wheat flour reported by Canadian mills for November, 1953 amounted to some 1,867,000 barrels. Although this total represents somewhat of a decline from the 2,176,000 barrels produced in November, 1952, it was little changed from the October 1953 output of 1,909,000 barrels. The ten-year (1944-1953) average flour production for November was 2,157,000 barrels. Mills reporting operations during November, 1953 had a total rated capacity of 96,669 barrels, and on the basis of a 25-day working period 77.2 per cent of this rated capacity was effective.

Wheat milled for flour during the month amounted to 8.2 million bushels as compared with 9.8 million for the same month last year. Some 7.1 million bushels of the wheat milled for flour during November of the current crop year was Western Canadian spring wheat (other than Durum). Most of the balance consisted of Ontario winter wheat (799,000 bushels) and Durum wheat (152,000 bushels).

**Exports** According to preliminary Customs returns, exports of Canadian wheat flour during November, 1953 amounted to 900,514 barrels (4,052,000 bushels of wheat equivalent). Flour shipments during the month went to 55 countries and colonies, with the United Kingdom taking the largest amount, some 1.3 million bushels of wheat equivalent, representing 32 per cent of the total. Other countries receiving shipments during November of one hundred thousand bushels or greater, were as follows, in thousands of bushels: Philippine Islands (439); Venezuela (413); Japan (195); Jamaica (161); Trinidad and Tobago (141); British Guiana (124); and Gold Coast (100).

## Wheat Milled for Flour, and Production and Exports of Wheat Flour, Canada

Crop Year	Wheat Milled for Flour	Wheat Flour	
		Production	Exports <sup>1/</sup>
	- bushels -	- barrels of 196 pounds -	
1935-36-1939-40 average .....	67,845,114	15,002,781	4,899,970
1940-41-1944-45 average .....	99,704,638	22,402,166	12,091,605
1945-46 .....	118,074,774	26,435,341	14,470,177
1946-47 .....	127,775,176	28,588,456	16,896,233
1947-48 .....	109,822,011	24,159,696	13,661,573
1948-49 .....	90,896,984	20,379,997	10,687,561
1949-50 .....	90,082,917	20,259,200	10,151,090
1950-51 .....	106,748,343	23,630,180	12,426,996
1951-52 .....	104,494,021	22,842,441	11,356,288
1952-53 .....	106,785,642 <sup>2/</sup>	23,871,020 <sup>2/</sup>	12,555,714
1953-54 <sup>2/</sup>			
August .....	6,345,959	1,423,693	827,588
September .....	7,692,345	1,742,629	747,741
October .....	8,420,739	1,909,488	749,098
November .....	8,216,541	1,866,563	900,514
Totals .....	30,675,584	6,942,373	3,224,941
Same period 1952-53 (revised) .....	38,567,768	8,550,851	4,454,148

<sup>1/</sup> Based on Customs returns. Exports for the crop years 1945-46-1952-53 revised to remove effect of time lag in the returns made by Customs.

<sup>2/</sup> Subject to revision.



UNITED STATES SITUATION

Supply Position Due to an upward revision of some 5.3 million bushels in the 1953 crop estimate, total estimated domestic supplies of wheat in the United States for the current crop year, now stand at 1,730.8 million bushels. Imports of wheat during the July—November period amounted to 1.5 million bushels, bringing total estimated supplies to 1,732.3 million bushels. Anticipated domestic requirements at 700.0 million bushels were unchanged from a month ago, leaving some 1,032.3 million available for export and for carryover during the current crop year as compared with 868.4 million available during 1952-53.

United States Wheat Supplies

Item	1952-53	1953-54 <u>1/</u>
	- million bushels -	
Carryover at beginning of crop year (July 1) .....	255.7	562.3
New crop .....	1,291.4	1,168.5 <u>2/</u>
Total estimated domestic supplies .....	1,547.1	1,730.8
Imports of wheat for domestic use, July—November ...	13.3	1.5
Total estimated supplies <u>3/</u> .....	1,560.4	1,732.3
Less estimated domestic requirements for crop year <u>4/</u>	692.0	700.0
Available for export and for carryover .....	868.4	1,032.3
Deduct:		
Exports of wheat as grain, July—November .....	108.7	82.4
Exports of wheat flour and products in terms of		
wheat, July—November .....	16.4	12.5
Total exports of wheat, wheat flour and products	125.1	94.9
Balance on December 1 for export and for carryover ..	743.3	937.4

1/ Preliminary.

2/ December revised estimate.

3/ Excluding imports for December—June period.

4/ Includes allowances for shipments of United States wheat and wheat products to Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, Samoa, Virgin Islands and Wake Island.

These shipments are not included in exports as set out in the table.

Exports of wheat as grain during the July—November period of 1953 amounted to 82.4 million bushels, considerably below the 108.7 million exported during the same period a year ago. Exports of wheat flour and products in terms of wheat equivalent during the first five months of the current crop year totalled 12.5 million bushels compared with 16.4 million bushels exported during the comparable period of the preceding crop year. Total exports of wheat, wheat flour and products amounted to 94.9 million bushels as against the comparable total of 125.1 million a year ago. The balance remaining on December 1 for export and for carryover was estimated at 937.4 million bushels, exceeding by some 194.1 million the total available at the same date last year.

Acreage and  
Production of  
Winter Wheat  
1953-54

The following account of the acreage seeded to winter wheat in the fall of 1953 and a preliminary forecast of production in 1954 is taken from the report on winter wheat and rye released by the Crop Reporting Board on December 21.

"Winter wheat growers appear to have responded to the acreage allotment program by seeding only about 4 acres of winter wheat for every 5 acres seeded last year. Total seedings of winter wheat for all purposes in the fall of 1953 are estimated at 46,575,000 acres, 18 per cent or 10.3 million acres less than was seeded a year earlier. This is the smallest acreage of winter wheat seeded since 1943 and 9 per cent less than the 10-year average seedings. The estimate of seeded acreage includes more than a million acres seeded in excess of allotments in designated drought areas for use as a pasture and cover crop.

A 1954 winter wheat crop of 750 million bushels is indicated, based on conditions as of December 1, and other factors. A crop of this size would be 6 per cent less than 1942-1951 average production, and about one-sixth smaller than the 1953 crop of 878 million bushels.

As in the fall of 1952, summer and early fall precipitation in large sections of the country was below normal. However, October rainfall, even though below normal in nearly all sections of the country, was well above that in October 1952 when precipitation was the lowest on record for the United States. Relief from the drought in the important Great Plains winter wheat area came in October in Texas and Oklahoma, and in late October and November in Kansas and Nebraska—at least a month earlier than in 1952. As a result, progress of the crop to December 1 in most areas west of the Mississippi was better than in 1952.

While present prospects for the 1954 winter wheat crop are more favourable than a year ago, weather conditions between December 1 and the harvest time exert considerable influence on the final outturn of the crop. The current forecast of production assumes normal weather conditions for the remainder of the crop season. In the last 18 years, the average change in the United States production estimate from December 1 to harvest has been 122 million bushels. The maximum change was in 1953 when final production exceeded the December estimate by 266 million bushels. The next largest change was in 1951 when final production was nearly 253 million bushels below the December 1 estimate. The minimum change was in 1936 when the harvest exceeded the December estimate by 6 million bushels.

General drought conditions prevailed over most of the United States at the normal seeding time for winter wheat this fall. In some areas, farmers delayed seeding until soil moisture conditions improved. In most areas, however, soil moisture, even though limited, permitted seeding operations to proceed slowly. Rains in late October and November improved soil moisture supplies sufficiently to allow farmers to complete seeding about all of their full intended acreage of winter wheat.

In Kansas, the soil moisture situation was generally unfavourable at wheat seeding time and up to October 10 most of the acreage was seeded in dry soil. Precipitation since mid-October has been extremely beneficial and all wheat has now emerged. In Nebraska, winter wheat was seeded at about the usual date with soil moisture conditions favourable in the western part, but in some sections in the eastern half of the State wheat was seeded in dry soil. The soil moisture situation in Nebraska and Kansas is probably as favourable now as in any recent year.



In Texas and Oklahoma, above normal rainfall in October provided needed soil moisture for wheat seeding and germination. In Texas, soil moisture conditions in general are the best since 1947 — only in the southern Low Rolling Plains and northern Plateau counties was the lack of moisture checking the growth of wheat. In Oklahoma, moisture penetration is the best since the fall of 1944 and vegetative growth is excellent.

In eastern Washington, soil was dry at the beginning of the seeding season, but rains came early enough to stimulate seeding, so that by December 1 wheat was in good to excellent condition throughout the wheat area.

In Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan, seeding was delayed by dry soil. October and November precipitation, while less beneficial than farther west, aided the crop in these four States, but growth to December 1 was generally below average for the date.

The principal wheat areas of Colorado were dry, but October and November rains and snow have helped the condition of winter wheat, much of which was planted unusually early following August rains. Wheat is best in the north-east quarter of the State with conditions tapering off to the south and west. In Montana, most of the winter wheat acreage was seeded in dry soil at the normal dates and germinated under minimum moisture conditions, leaving some sections with spotted stands. Although conditions are quite similar to those of a year ago, stands and development of plants are considerably better than in December 1952.

The indicated yield of 16.1 bushels per seeded acre for the United States is 0.7 bushel above the 1953 crop yield and a half bushel above average. Current conditions indicate that 11.7 per cent of the acreage seeded this fall will not be harvested for grain, which is about average. Of the acreage seeded for the crop of 1953, 17.9 per cent was not harvested for grain."

1953 Wheat Crop  
Estimated at 1,169  
Million Bushels

In a report released December 17, the Crop Reporting Board stated that "Production of all wheat in 1953 was the fourth largest of record, exceeded only by the crops of 1947, 1948 and 1952. The estimated 1,169 million bushels harvested this year compares with 1,299 million bushels in 1952 and the average of 1,089 million bushels. The record all wheat crop of 1,359 million bushels was produced in 1947. Winter wheat production exceeded the average by 10 per cent. Early prospects for winter wheat were poor, largely because of dry weather over most of the Nation at usual seeding time in the fall of 1952. This was followed by a generally mild winter and early spring which along with improved soil moisture in most areas were beneficial to the crop. Spring wheat production in the Dakotas was curtailed by stem rust and late season dry weather, but this was offset by a larger than average spring wheat crop in the western States. The outturn of all spring wheat thus was about average. Production of wheat exceeded all previous records in Montana, Washington, Ohio, Idaho, Michigan and Oregon. The yield of all wheat for the U. S. was 17.3 bushels per acre harvested, 1.0 bushel below the 1952 yield, but 0.2 bushel above average.

The total of 78,741,000 acres seeded to wheat in the fall of 1952 and spring of 1953 was only slightly larger than the 78,337,000 acres seeded for the 1952 crop, but nearly one-eighth larger than average. Abandonment and diversion in 1953 amounted to 14.1 per cent of 11.1 million acres, compared with 9.5 per cent or 7.4 million acres not harvested for grain in 1952. Total acreage of wheat harvested for grain in 1953 was 67,608,000 acres, 5 per cent smaller than in 1952, but 6 per cent above average.



The crop of winter wheat in 1953 totalled 878 million bushels, a surprisingly large outturn considering the unfavourably dry conditions over practically the entire country at seeding time in the fall of 1952. The 1953 crop topped the average by 10 per cent or 80 million bushels, but was a sixth less than the record crop of 1,060 million bushels harvested in 1952. This year's crop was the fourth largest winter wheat crop on record.

An estimated 56,838,000 acres were seeded during the fall and early winter of 1952, slightly larger than seedings for the 1952 crop and 11 per cent more than average. Soil moisture was very short over most of the country at seeding time in the fall of 1952 and was almost completely lacking in some States. In several States, large acreages were seeded in the "dust" and the wheat did not germinate on much of this acreage until late November or December. Even where earlier germination was possible, stands were generally thin and plants poorly rooted prior to December 1. Top growth was very limited until spring in most sections and development of the crop depended mainly on current precipitation especially in the Great Plains area."

1953-54 Exports  
Expected to be  
Lower than  
Last Year

United States exports in 1953-54 will decline as a result of the generally abundant supplies in both exporting and importing areas. For the 1952-53 season, U. S. exports totalled about 317 million bushels. According to the latest data indications are that exports for the first five months of 1953-54 are at the annual rate of about 225 million bushels. The Wheat Situation points out, however, that ... There are, of course, some factors - unknown at present - that will have a bearing on total exports for the year. For example, the final outcome of December-January harvests in the Southern Hemisphere will influence the overseas demand for United States wheat. Production prospects for the Northern Hemisphere in the spring of 1954 also will have an important bearing on the total. Furthermore, the effects of Section 550 of Mutual Security Act of 1953 in increasing United States wheat exports are not definitely known at this time. This program provides for between \$100,000,000 and \$250,000,000 worth of United States surplus agricultural commodities to be sold overseas for foreign currencies. It also provides, among other things, that such sales do not displace, or substitute for, usual marketings of the United States and friendly countries.

Wheat and flour are included in the list of commodities eligible for purchase with foreign currencies under Section 550. However, considering the limitations under the Act, and the size of the appropriation, it would seem that wheat and flour exports under Section 550 will not be very large.

United States  
Offers C.C.C.  
Owned Wheat  
for Export

In an effort to expand wheat exports outside I.W.A., the Department of Agriculture announced on November 19, effective immediately, that the C.C.C. is offering to sell to the regular export trade a limited quantity of C.C.C.-owned wheat for export. This would be in addition to wheat moving under the Agreement program. Prices f.o.b., specified ports, will be announced at the same time each day that Agreement prices are announced by the United States Department of Agriculture. The price per bushel will not be less than the Wheat Agreement price. C.C.C. wheat also will be made available for export as flour.

Daily Cash Wheat Prices on the Kansas City and Minneapolis Markets

No. 2 Hard Winter, Kansas City			No. 1 Northern Spring, Minneapolis		
Date	Price		Date	Price	
	cents per bushel			cents per bushel	
December 1, 1953 .....	231	- 241 1/4	December 1, 1953 .....	239	1/8
2 .....	232 1/2	- 250 1/4	2 .....	239	3/4
3 .....	234 1/2	- 240 1/2	3 .....	239	5/8
4 .....	240	- 250 1/4	4 .....	239	1/2
7 .....	234 3/4	- 241 1/4	7 .....	240	
8 .....	234	- 250 1/2	8 .....	239	1/4
9 .....	231 1/4	- 236 3/4	9 .....	238	1/2
10 .....	231	- 249 1/4	10 .....	238	3/4
11 .....	229	- 234 1/2	11 .....	239	
14 .....	228 1/2	- 234 3/4	14 .....	237	
15 .....	227 3/4	- 247 1/2	15 .....	236	3/8
16 .....	234	- 234 1/2	16 .....	235	1/8
17 .....	228 1/4	- 235 1/4	17 .....	236	
18 .....	229		18 .....	238	1/8
21 .....	229	- 243 3/4	21 .....	238	
22 .....	228 1/2	- 248 1/4	22 .....	237	1/4
23 .....	230 1/2	- 251	23 .....	238	
24 .....	236	- 250 3/4	24 .....	240	1/2
25 .....	Christmas Day		25 .....	Christmas Day	
28 .....	233 1/2	- 244 3/4	28 .....	242	1/2
29 .....	234 1/2	- 253 1/2	29 .....	241	3/8
30 .....	233 1/2	- 240	30 .....	239	1/4
31 .....	232 3/4	- 238 1/4	31 .....	239	1/4

Chicago Wheat Futures, High Points of Closing

Date	December	March	May	July	September
	- cents and eighths per bushel -				
December 1, 1953 .....	201/3	206/6	206/6	197/3	199/2
2 .....	202/3	208	207/6	197/6	199/6
3 .....	203/2	208/1	207/5	198	200/1
4 .....	204/4	209/4	208/7	198/4	200/4
7 .....	206/6	211/4	210/2	200/6	202/6
8 .....	207/2	211/1	210/3	200/1	201/1
9 .....	205/5	208/6	208/1	197/6	199/4
10 .....	205/1	208/6	208/2	198/5	200/2
11 .....	205/1	208/7	208/2	197/7	199/6
14 .....	202/1	206/2	206/1	195/7	197/6
15 .....	203	206	206	196/7	198/7
16 .....	202/7	206/2	206	197/2	199/2
17 .....	201/4	205/1	205/6	197/3	199/3
18 .....	201	204	204/5	196/6	198/6
21 .....	201/4	204/3	204/5	196/2	198/5
22 .....		203/3	204/1	195/6	198
23 .....		204/2	204/3	195/5	197/7
24 .....		205/6	206/3	197/4	199/6
25 .....			Christmas Day		
28 .....		207/7	208/1	198/7	201
29 .....		207/5	207/5	199/2	201/4
30 .....		206/2	206/7	198/6	201
31 .....		206/6	207/1	199/6	202

ARGENTINE SITUATION

Supply Position      Disposition of Argentine wheat for the crop years 1951-52 and 1952-53 appears in the table below. The 154.8 million bushels available for export and for carryover during the crop year recently concluded exceeded by a wide margin the 5.6 million available during the preceding crop year and was due almost entirely to the relatively large 1952 crop of 277.9 million bushels. Exports of wheat and wheat flour in terms of grain during 1952-53 totalled 82.1 million bushels as against only 3.8 million exported in 1951-52. The balance remaining on December 1, 1953 for export and for carryover during the 1953-54 crop year was estimated at 72.8 million bushels in contrast to the 1.8 million a year ago.

Argentine Wheat Supplies

Item	1951-52	1952-53 <u>1/</u>
	- million bushels -	
Carryover at beginning of crop year (December 1) ...	18.4	1.8
New crop .....	75.3	277.9
Total estimated domestic supplies .....	93.7	279.7
Imports of wheat for domestic use .....	7.9 <u>2/</u>	-
Total estimated supplies .....	101.6	279.7
Less estimated domestic requirements for crop year .	96.0	124.9
Available for export and for carryover .....	5.6	154.8 <u>3/</u>
Deduct:		
Exports of wheat as grain, December—November .....	3.8	81.9
Exports of wheat flour in terms of wheat, December—November .....	<u>4/</u>	0.1
Total exports of wheat and wheat flour .....	3.8	82.1
Balance on December 1 for export and for carryover .	1.8	72.8

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Imported under barter arrangement in exchange for Argentine corn.

3/ It has been officially announced that 400,000 metric tons (14.7 million bushels) of wheat are to be stored from the 1952-53 crop to constitute a reserve.

4/ Less than 50,000 bushels.

The following account of the Argentine situation has been extracted from a report from Mr. W. F. Hillhouse, Agricultural Secretary, Canadian Embassy, Buenos Aires, under date of December 15, 1953, and is reproduced with the kind permission of the Trade Commissioner Service, Department of Trade and Commerce. Where practicable, conversions from Argentine to Canadian measures have been made for the convenience of our readers. Currency conversions have been made at the rate of 5 pesos to the United States dollar.



Weather and Crops There have been widespread generous rains in most of the grain growing zones during the past month which have materially helped most of the small grains to fill out in the head and have got the corn off to a wonderful start. In scattered areas in Buenos Aires, Santa Fé, Córdoba and Eva Perón some of the rain was accompanied by hail which did considerable damage in limited areas. During the past ten days continuing rains have hindered the wheat harvest and at the same time stimulated weed growth so that a considerable portion of the crop is being lost in the very high stubble which must be left if the crop is to be combined direct.

Although the rains came too late to save the wheat crop in certain sections of northwestern Buenos Aires and northern Córdoba, it is reported that many fields which were considered almost completely lost a month ago are in fact producing quite acceptable yields. Similarly fields of rye, barley and oats which had been heavily grazed are in some cases heading out much better than had been expected. However, production of these three grains is still expected to be much below that of last year.

Yields of both barley and wheat so far reported are higher than expected and specific weights are well above standard. Should the rains continue there may be some difficulty with tough and damp grain which would increase losses during the marketing year. The trade continues to be pessimistic regarding flaxseed production. The general rains have greatly improved pasture conditions during the past six weeks and most zones except Patagonia enter the summer in good condition.

1953-54 Wheat Crop During the past month regular widespread rains throughout most of the wheat zones have benefited the crop very noticeably. Harvesting is well under way in the northern zone although it has been hampered by somewhat unseasonal rains during the past ten days. All reports received to date indicate that the specific weights are excellent—80 to 83 kilos per hectolitre (64 to 66 pounds per bushel) against a standard of 78 (62). Furthermore, yields have been better than expected, in some cases exceeding those of last year. Since rains have been received where they were needed in most parts of the southern zone, with only limited hail damage reported in isolated areas, it has been deemed advisable to revise upwards our private estimate of production to 6,000,000 metric tons (220.5 million bushels).

On the basis of this estimate, and taking into consideration the carryover of 72.8 million bushels and estimated domestic disappearance of some 128.6 million, Argentina should have available for export and carryover this crop year (December 1, 1953—November 30, 1954) approximately 4.5 million tons (165.3 million bushels) of wheat. Of this quantity approximately 450,000 tons (16.5 million bushels) have reportedly been sold already and an additional 350,000 tons (12.9 million bushels) are committed under current trade agreements. In addition 400,000 tons (14.7 million bushels) have been proclaimed as a standing reserve and have been placed in sealed underground silos. If 500,000 tons (18.4 million bushels) are considered as a normal commercial reserve (on farms and in the pipeline) Argentina may be expected to have approximately 3 million tons (110.2 million bushels) of wheat freely available for export during the current crop year.

New Grain Marketing Regulations      The new regulations referred to in the October Review have been issued in detail and went into effect on November 20, 1953. Under the name "Justicialism in the Sale of Grains" these regulations establish four ways in which the grain farmer may sell his grain. These regulations tend to reduce the power and usefulness of the "acopiadores" (grain merchants), eliminate the "corredores" (grain brokers) and encourage the agrarian co-operatives.

The claim of the Government is that the new regulations will ensure a fair price, promptly paid. However, since only the National Board of Elevators and Grains will be grading the samples, since the farmers are not accustomed to dealing directly with the banks, since the co-operatives are not adequately staffed and since the producers' former sources of ready credit—the "corredores" and the "acopiadores"—will not be so available, there is much pessimism in the country and the trade that these regulations will require considerable revision. Once the harvest is in full swing it will be easier to assess their efficiency.

Facilities for 1953-54 Harvest Operations      Farmers have been assured by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of ample supplies of bags for the current harvest. Those who are not in possession of sufficient containers are advised to apply to the appropriate authority who will readily supply their needs. The same Ministry has announced that measures have been taken to ensure adequate supply of petrol both for the actual harvesting operations and for the subsequent transportation of the grain. The higher degree of mechanization this season, the anticipated increase in acreages coupled with the difficulties experienced last season in delivering the grain, through transport and labour problems, no doubt prompted the Ministry to adopt measures to augment fuel supply.

New Grain Elevators      The Ministers of Foreign Trade and of Public Works have inaugurated six grain elevators in the provinces of Córdoba and Santa Fé. The capacity of these total some 16,000 tons. The construction of a further 20 similar units is projected, some of which are already begun. Tenders are shortly to be called for the construction of underground silos.

Grain Sales      The Minister of Foreign Trade, in a speech on December 12, announced that despite the serious competition which had been encountered in the marketing of the 1952-53 crops, 7,240,000 metric tons—representing 83 per cent of the exportable surplus of the principal agricultural products—had been sold by November 30. Of these sales, the Minister stated, wheat accounted for 2,785,768 tons (102.4 million bushels), corn for 1,026,954 tons (40.4 million bushels), rye 855,551 tons (33.7 million bushels), barley 710,105 tons (32.6 million bushels), and oats 319,615 tons (20.7 million bushels).

Confronted with the difficulty of marketing the large surpluses at the prices originally fixed by I.A.P.I. last March, that entity announced that effective July 1 bids would be considered from exporters. This brought about increased sales but with prices falling as low as 303 pesos per ton (\$1.65 per bushel) f.o.b. for wheat on free dollar sales compared with the initial minimum of 430 pesos (\$2.34 per bushel). A similar trend occurred in other grains. Taking into account the enhanced producer prices, in the case of wheat 50 pesos



per 100 kilos (\$2.72 per bushel) heavy peso losses have been incurred by the State. The downward trend was reversed to some extent towards the end of November, and the following is a summary of recent sales:

Wheat sales in November totalled 85,000 tons (3,123,000 bushels) and the last sale that month was effected at 320 pesos per ton, f.o.b. for Belgian francs and florins and at 308 pesos per ton, f.o.b. for U.S. dollars. At the beginning of December two substantial sales were reported, one of 80,000 tons (2,939,000 bushels) at 325 pesos per ton, f.o.b. for Western German clearing dollars and another of 50,000 tons (1,837,000 bushels) for 327.50 pesos per ton for florins.

Grain Shipments November shipments of grain from Argentina totalled 608,621 metric tons, slightly less than the previous month and bringing the total for the crop year to 4,115,007 tons, four times those effected the previous season and 703,291 tons greater than in 1950-51. The latter increase is due to improved corn shipments this year, wheat falling slightly below the 1950-51 level. The following table sets out shipments since December 1, 1952 with comparative data for recent years:

Argentine Grain Shipments, December 1—November 30

Grain	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53
	- thousand bushels -		
Wheat .....	93,484	3,783	81,950
Corn 1/.....	10,213	23,730	39,893
Flax .....	7,521	1,560	390
Oats .....	6,532	4,308	10,538
Rye .....	6,985	5,128	9,046
Barley .....	6,375	5,884	21,538

1/ Corn crop year extends from April 1—March 31.

Brazil was Argentina's chief customer in the twelve month period ended November 30, 1953 receiving 1,089,855 tons of grain of which wheat comprised 1,034,010 tons (37,993,000 bushels). The United Kingdom followed with 850,173 tons made up of 399,714 tons (15,736,000 bushels) of corn, 236,567 tons (10,865,000 bushels) of barley and 213,892 tons (7,859,000 bushels) of wheat. Italy and The Netherlands received 530,716 tons and 365,469 tons of grain, respectively the former including 312,934 tons (11,498,000 bushels) of wheat, 97,369 tons (3,833,000 bushels) of corn and 91,011 tons (3,583,000 bushels) of rye. The Netherlands with 102,813 tons (4,722,000 bushels) of barley, received one-quarter of the total for this grain and 104,979 tons (4,133,000 bushels) of corn. Belgium and India occupied fifth and sixth place with 252,375 tons and 249,281 tons, respectively, the latter comprising solely wheat while Belgium received 108,320 tons (4,264,000 bushels) of corn.

Brazil continued to be the principal destination for wheat in November with 114,211 tons (4,197,000 bushels) followed by the United Kingdom receiving 73,536 tons (2,702,000 bushels). Shipments to Germany, Japan and Chile totalled 23,454 tons (862,000 bushels), 19,985 tons (734,000 bushels) and 16,700 tons (614,000 bushels), respectively. These countries still have substantial quantities outstanding under the wheat contracted in trade agreements



with Argentina. The Netherlands, Switzerland and Malta were the destinations of 11,166 tons (410,000 bushels), 10,261 tons (377,000 bushels) and 10,058 tons (370,000 bushels) of wheat in that order.

Corn shipments at 114,450 tons (4,506,000 bushels) during November showed an improvement which can be expected to be maintained until the high sales recorded last month are shipped. The United Kingdom was the principal customer receiving 35,415 tons (1,394,000 bushels) followed by Belgium and The Netherlands with 21,893 tons (862,000 bushels) and 20,410 tons (803,000 bushels), respectively.

The Netherlands took 11,300 tons (733,000 bushels) of the total oat shipments in November at 31,357 tons (2,033,000 bushels). The United Kingdom received 47,518 tons (2,182,000 bushels) of barley followed by The Netherlands and Belgium with 23,546 tons (1,081,000 bushels) and 23,110 tons (1,061,000 bushels) out of a total of 101,911 tons (4,681,000 bushels). Rye shipments last month totalled 74,564 tons (2,935,000 bushels) of which Italy received 34,993 tons (1,378,000 bushels) followed by The Netherlands and Belgium with 16,342 tons (643,000 bushels) and 13,250 tons (522,000 bushels), respectively.

The following table shows shipments of all grains in the first eleven months of 1953 with comparative data for recent years.

Argentine Grain Shipments, January—November, 1953

Destination	Wheat	Corn	Flax	Oats	Rye	Barley
			- thousand bushels -			
Austria .....	-	925	-	58	-	36
Barbados .....	-	4	-	-	-	-
Belgium .....	1,231	3,961	-	1,351	1,656	2,189
Bolivia .....	367	-	-	-	-	-
Brazil .....	37,993	1,951	-	267	-	100
Chile .....	2,622	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark .....	18	136	-	-	373	-
Finland .....	-	-	-	-	-	338
France .....	-	2,717	390	-	256	-
Germany .....	872	957	-	45	6	-
India .....	8,941	-	-	-	-	-
Israel .....	-	-	-	81	-	253
Italy .....	11,498	3,833	-	996	3,583	645
Japan .....	2,181	-	-	-	-	-
Korea .....	-	-	-	-	-	1,259
Malta .....	370	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands ..	1,878	4,133	-	3,714	1,941	4,722
Norway .....	-	-	-	-	945	-
Paraguay .....	1,322	-	-	-	-	-
Peru .....	2,393	-	-	-	-	-
South Africa..	641	6	-	-	-	-
Sweden .....	-	1,661	-	-	159	335
Switzerland ..	1,542	676	-	2,404	128	807
United Kingdom	7,859	15,616	-	-	-	10,558
United States..	-	-	-	1,491	-	-
Uruguay .....	-	-	-	130	-	-
Totals ..	81,731	36,575	390	10,538	9,046	21,240
Same period:						
1952 .....	2,265	22,018	1,025	2,837	4,453	5,287
1951 .....	88,532	10,067	6,648	5,402	6,985	6,190
1950 .....	95,644	30,972	4,287	24,116	6,782	4,211
1949 .....	62,691	38,396	-	10,002	6,856	8,630
1948 .....	73,289	89,313	-	4,972	5,437	28,916

URUGUAYAN SITUATION

Uruguayan Grain  
Estimates, 1953-54

The figures given in our last review can now be confirmed as the first official estimates on Uruguayan grain acreages as set out in the following table with comparative data including production statistics over recent years:

Acres Sown					
Grain	5-Year Average 1945-50	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53 <u>1/</u>	1953-54 <u>2/</u>
- thousand acres -					
Wheat .....	1,119	1,224	1,442	1,269	1,599
Flax .....	505	386	471	572	300
Oats .....	197	158	141	153	189
Barley .....	65	67	54	66	90
Rye .....	1	1	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>

1/ Provisional

2/ First official estimate.

3/ Less than 500 acres.

Production				
Grain	5-Year Average 1945-50	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53 <u>1/</u>
- thousand bushels -				
Wheat .....	13,171	15,974	17,548	16,440
Flax .....	3,880	3,543	5,575	4,100
Oats .....	2,668	2,215	2,446	2,509
Barley .....	843	1,131	822	1,081
Rye .....	5	5	2	5

1/ Latest official estimate.

The wheat acreage at 647,386 hectares (1,599,000 acres) establishes a record and the trade is of the opinion that this might be raised to as high as 700,000 hectares (1,729,000 acres). The condition of the wheat and the initial outturns are excellent and they are confident of obtaining an all time record of not less than 700,000 metric tons (25.7 million bushels). Normal consumption needs and seed requirements are 320,000 tons (11.8 million bushels) and 60,000 tons (2.2 million bushels), respectively, leaving a minimum of 220,000 tons (8.1 million bushels) available for export. Brazil is committed to take 80,000 tons (4.0 million bushels) of wheat flour from Uruguay in 1954.

# AUSTRALIAN SITUATION

Supply Position      Disposition of the Australian wheat for the crop years 1952-53 and 1951-52 appears in the table below. Reflecting the considerably larger supplies available for export and for carryover during the crop year recently concluded of 137.2 million bushels, as against 99.6 million available the preceding year, exports of Australian wheat and flour in terms of wheat during 1952-53 amounted to 101.7 million bushels, some 25 per cent greater than the 81.6 million exported in 1951-52. The preliminary estimate places carry-over stocks at December 1, 1953 at 35.5 million bushels, virtually twice as great as the 18.0 million on hand at the close of the 1951-52 crop year.

Exports of wheat as grain during 1952-53 totalled 59.5 million bushels. The principal markets for this wheat, with quantities in millions of bushels, were as follows, the United Kingdom (17.9), India (14.0), New Zealand (6.9), Pakistan (4.9), Federal Republic of Germany (3.5), Rhodesia (2.2), Italy (2.1), Ireland (1.7), Japan (1.3), Cyprus (1.1), Sweden (1.1), and the Netherlands (1.1). Exports of wheat flour in terms of wheat during the crop year amounted to 42.2 million bushels. The major outlets for these exports with quantities in millions of bushels were, Ceylon (12.3), Malaya (6.2), the United Kingdom (5.9), Indonesia (5.4), India (3.8), Pacific Islands (1.7), and Mauritius (1.2).

## Australian Wheat Supplies

Item	1951-52 <u>1/</u>	1952-53 <u>2/</u>
- million bushels -		
Carryover, including flour as wheat, at beginning of crop year (December 1) .....	19.5 <u>3/</u>	18.0
New crop .....	161.4 <u>3/</u>	195.2
Total estimated supplies .....	180.9	213.2
Less estimated domestic requirements for crop year ...	81.3 <u>3/</u>	76.0 <u>3/</u>
Available for export and for carryover .....	99.6	137.2
Deduct:		
Exports of wheat as grain, December 1 to November 30.	46.2	59.5
Exports of wheat flour in terms of wheat, December 1 to November 30 .....	35.4	42.2
Total exports of wheat and wheat flour .....	81.6	101.7
Balance on December 1 for export and for carryover ...	18.0	35.5
<u>1/</u> Subject to revision. <u>2/</u> Preliminary. <u>3/</u> Revised.		

The following account of the Australian situation has been extracted from a report from Mr. R. W. Blake, Commercial Secretary for Canada, Melbourne, under date of December 22, 1953 and is reproduced with the kind permission of the Trade Commissioner Service, Department of Trade and Commerce. For the convenience of readers, currency conversions have been made at the rate of £1 equals \$2.1855 (Canadian), the quotation in effect on December 16, 1953.



Weather and Crops Favourable weather preceding harvest in the wheat areas of the Commonwealth has given prospects for good average yields in all States. The area sown to wheat for grain in Australia in 1953-54 is estimated by the Commonwealth Statistician at 10,210,000 acres, which is approximately the same as the area sown in 1952-53. Sowings in these two years are the lowest recorded for any peacetime year since 1925-26, and are 2,770,000 acres less than the average for the five years ended 1938-39. A post-war maximum of 13,880,000 acres was reached in 1947-48, but this was followed by a decline in each successive year until 1952-53. An increase in the area sown this year was expected but was not realised because of unfavourable seasonal conditions in some districts.

Official forecasts, based on conditions about the end of November, 1953 estimate the current crop at 173.5 million bushels, giving an average yield of 17 bushels per acre. This is 21.7 million bushels less than in 1952-53. Compared with the average production for the five years ended 1938-39 the 1953-54 forecast production is 19.2 million bushels higher. Details of the estimates and forecasts for each State are shown below:

<u>State</u>	<u>Estimated Area Sown million acres</u>	<u>Date of Forecast</u>	<u>Forecast Production million bu.</u>	<u>Average Yield Per Acre Sown bushels</u>
New South Wales .....	2.95	4.12.53	53.0	18.0
Victoria .....	2.40	8.12.53	46.0	19.2
Queensland .....	0.55	10.12.53	9.0	16.4
South Australia .....	1.50	7.12.53	27.0	18.0
West Australia .....	2.80	4.12.53	38.3	13.7
Tasmania .....	0.01	8.12.53	0.2	20.0
Total	10.21		173.5	17.0

Dry weather in the early part of the season reduced the area sown to wheat in Queensland that could be harvested for grain, and threatened the crop in parts of New South Wales, but seasonal conditions improved about half way through the season and good average crops are being harvested in those States. Growing conditions were backward in the southern States, but late rains have brought crops on and changed early prospects for well below average crops to crops that will give good average yields.

The grasshopper invasion did not do as much damage as feared, and an aerial spraying campaign conducted by the New South Wales and Victorian Departments of Agriculture before the grasshopper swarms reached the Victorian border has considerably lessened the risk to crops in Victoria.

Pastoral Conditions Pastoral conditions in the Commonwealth are generally fair, except in the Kimberleys, where a two-year old drought has been broken by patchy heavy falls of rain which, although alleviating the situation, have not been sufficient to afford anything more than a temporary relief. Dry weather in the middle of December, with very high temperatures, is spreading the danger from bush fires, and some damage to pastoral areas has already occurred in parts of New South Wales and Queensland. There is an urgent need for good rains in the tropical and central divisions of Queensland to start the growth of pastures and to replenish water supplies. Stock at many places in these parts were falling off, many of them being breeding stock, and there have been some losses, especially of lambs in the central areas.

Advance Payment for 1953-54 Wheat      The first advance on the 1953-54 wheat crop will be 10/- (\$1.09) a bushel (less freight) on a bulk basis, with an additional 4d. (4 cents) a bushel for bagged wheat. Western Australian growers would receive 2d. (2 cents) a bushel more than these rates, due to their freight advantage in being closer to the overseas markets. The advance would be paid on wheat delivered into No. 17 Pool, and the funds to enable the Wheat Board to make the payments would be provided under a Commonwealth guarantee. The advance is less than last year's 12/- (\$1.31) and less than growers expected. The Wheat Stabilisation Plan ended with the marketing of the 1952-53 crop, and balloting for a new Stabilisation Plan will not take place until early in the new year. This means that, at present, there is no Commonwealth guarantee on wheat, and the Government took this into consideration when fixing the rate.

Cost of Production      The cost of production of wheat in Australia for 1953-54 has been fixed at 12/7d. (\$1.38) a bushel bulk basis ports—an increase of 8d. (7 cents) a bushel over 1952-53. This price will operate for the season which commenced on December 1, 1953.

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Methods Used by the Wheat Board in Selling Wheat      The following explanation of the Board's method of selling wheat has been given by Mr. George McIvor, Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board:

In the actual selling of Canadian wheat, one of several methods may be followed. The Board itself may enter into contracts for the sale of Canadian wheat to overseas buyers. In addition to sales contracts made by the Board, shippers and exporters may originate export sales subject to Board confirmation. At this point I would like to indicate that in the handling of wheat from the producer to terminal market positions, in the forwarding of wheat from Fort William to eastern destinations and to seaboard, and in respect to selling wheat, the Board utilizes the services of existing agencies. In this way the Board takes advantage of the experience and services of elevator operators and shippers and exporters, and a very considerable scope is left to marketing agencies, co-operative or private, who have facilities, experience and the 'know-how' in the forwarding and merchandising of wheat. The over-all planning of the movement of wheat, the day-to-day pricing of wheat, and the selling of wheat for the domestic and export markets are, of course, the responsibility of The Canadian Wheat Board. In the marketing of oats and barley the Board sells these grains basis in store the Lakehead. In the process of selling we use the facilities of the futures market.

#### CALENDAR OF WHEAT EVENTS

- December 10      A new variety of wheat, resistant to the original strain of 15-B stem rust, and previously known as C.T. 186 is now licensed for distribution to farmers in Manitoba and Eastern Saskatchewan under the name of "Selkirk".
- 12      A grain and flour mission will leave Vancouver by air on January 6 with the objective of stepping up sales of Canadian grain in far Eastern markets during 1954. Personnel on the mission will include:



William Riddell, Winnipeg, Commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board; Dr. J. A. Anderson, Winnipeg, Chief Chemist of the Board of Grain Commissioners, and G. N. Vogel, Ottawa, Chief of the Trade Department's Grain Division.

- December 14     The 1953 season of navigation at the Head of the Great Lakes closed with the clearing of the S.S. Mohawk Deer from Fort William—Port Arthur.
- The area sown for the 1953-54 wheat crop in Australia is now estimated at 10,210,000 acres, while production is forecast at 173.5 million bushels, according to a cable received from the Commonwealth Statistician.
- 16     Wheat flour production during October, 1953, in the United States was estimated by the Bureau of the Census at 20,772,000 sacks, an average of 944,000 sacks per working day, compared with working-day averages of 926,000 during September, 1953 and 917,000 in October, 1952.
- 18     In its final report on the 1953 crops, the United States Department of Agriculture announced that wheat production was now placed at 1,168.5 million bushels. This represents an upward revision of some 5.3 million bushels from the previous estimate.
- 21     The Hon. Lionel Chevrier, Minister of Transport, announced that grain storage facilities in national harbours board elevators at the port of Churchill, Manitoba are going to be doubled. The capacity will be increased from 2.5 million to 5.0 million bushels and work on the expansion will begin in 1954. The increased storage space will make it possible to ship a maximum of 20 million bushels of grain through Churchill without increasing the number of loading berths and other shipping facilities. During the 1953 shipping season, 31 ships moved 10,784,000 bushels of grain to overseas ports from Churchill. The government decision to increase the elevator capacity at Churchill is in keeping with recommendations of the Canadian Wheat Board.
- 22     The acreage seeded to winter wheat for all purposes in the United States in the fall of 1953 was estimated at 46.6 million acres, 18 per cent below the 56.8 million seeded in the fall of 1952 and 9 per cent below the 1942—1951 average. Based on conditions at December 1, and other factors, yield per acre is placed at 16.1 bushels, compared with 15.4 from the 1953 crop and the 1942—1951 average of 15.6 bushels. The production estimate based on conditions at December 1, of 750,140,000 bushels compares with the 877,511,000 bushels from the crop of 1953 and the ten-year average of 797,237,000 bushels.
- 23     Marketings of wheat by farmers in Western Canada for the week ending December 23 amounted to 25.5 million bushels. As far as can be ascertained from delivery records, this is the heaviest weekly deliveries for this time of year in the history of Canadian grain operations.















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