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World Wheat Situation

As a new harvest develops in Australia and Argentina, adding more wheat to the grist, the story continues to be one of mounting wheat supplies. Unofficial estimates of the southern hemisphere crop promise to swell 1942 wheat production in Canada, the United States, Argentina and Australia to a total approaching two billion bushels.

Huge as this total may seem, it is not a high-water mark in wheat production by the "Big Four". They did even better in 1928, but there was then no important accumulation of old wheat and international trade was at its peak. The picture in 1942 is very different. Big crops have come on top of record stocks of old wheat and world trade during the crop year 1942-43 may be the smallest in almost half a century, assuming that the war continues.

An acute storage problem faces all four countries and farmers will probably be compelled by circumstances to store surplus wheat back on farms on a scale not hitherto experienced. The shipping situation will doubtless continue to operate against ocean movement of wheat, and Argentina and Australia may be expected to suffer to a greater extent than Canada and the United States because of the greater distances between them and prospective markets.

Canada and the United States have confirmed in recent official estimates supported by threshing returns, a combined 1942 wheat crop totalling 1,592 million bushels while Australia's new crop is estimated semi-officially at 145 millions and Argentina's at 198 million bushels by the trade there. This makes total production of 1,935 million bushels in the four countries compared with the 1,990 million bushels which they produced in 1928, but the picture changes sharply when the stocks of old wheat this year and in 1928 are introduced, and international trade in wheat is compared.

The carry-over stocks held by the "Big Four" in 1942 were more than four times greater than they were fourteen years ago, while crop production this year was only about 55 million bushels smaller than in 1928. It would not be a fair comparison to contrast world wheat trade in 1928-29 with prospective world trade in 1942-43, but it might be mentioned in passing that world shipments of wheat and wheat flour 14 years ago reached the record total of 946 million bushels of which 891 millions were contributed by the "Big Four", while estimates made for 1942-43 are less than one-third of this total, exclusive of what might be shipped to Russia in the event that shipping is available.

The position in other parts of the world shows little change from a month ago. Reliable data on European crops are difficult to obtain and current reports deal largely with the seeding of fall wheat and rye. It is believed that seeding is backward in the Balkans due to weather conditions and labour scarcity, while objectives in other sections of the continent have not yet been reached. Efforts are being made to increase wheat acreage by about 600,000 acres in the United Kingdom, or between 20 and 25 per cent over the area harvested in 1942, but while seeding is still proceeding the goal has not yet been reached.

Entry of the United Nations into the French North African colonies has some significance in the wheat situation. The wheat crop of Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco in 1939 was estimated at 100 million bushels and the average crop in the three war years has exceeded 80 million bushels. A large part of this crop has been shipped to France each year and may also have benefitted the Axis powers, but any surplus produced in 1943 should augment supplies for the Allied troops and make shipping space available for other supplies. The crop is now being seeded, unless war operations are interfering, and the harvest will take place between May and July next year.

Visible Supply of Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on November 26 amounted to 453,889,449 bushels compared with 452,901,084 a week earlier and 502,369,378 on the corresponding date last year. On the latest date the amount of wheat in Canadian positions was 435,179,691 bushels, the balance of 18,709,758 being in United States positions.

Farmers' Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Farmers' marketings of wheat in western Canada during the week ending November 26 amounted to 5,710,372 bushels as compared with 6,473,669 in the previous week. Marketings of coarse grains during the week were as follows, totals for the previous week being in brackets: oats, 2,575,942 (2,949,534) bushels; barley, 1,133,841 (1,392,053); rye 56,147 (67,704); flaxseed, 166,441 (482,820).

Flour Production in October

Flour production in October amounted to 1,851,062 barrels compared with 1,595,931 in the corresponding month last year. The total output for the three months ended October was 5,408,733 barrels as against 5,095,980 in the like period of the previous crop year. The percentage of output to capacity in October was 80.6 compared with 69.9.

Grains ground in Canadian mills in October are shown in bushels as follows, figures for October 1941 being in brackets: wheat, 8,233,257 (7,141,859); oats, 1,372,205 (2,248,609); corn, 203,566 (281,759); barley, 474,567 (237,061); buckwheat, 26,405 (17,283); and mixed grain, 2,772,999 (2,510,689).

Sales of Fertilizers in Canada

Increased use of fertilizer materials and of mixed fertilizers is indicated in a report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics covering the twelve months ended June this year. Sales during the year totalled 433,291 tons as compared with 324,201 tons in the previous twelve month period. Sales in the latest period consisted of 79,732 tons of fertilizer materials and 353,565 tons of mixtures.

Fur Farming in the Maritimes

The amount received by the fur farms of the three Maritime Provinces in 1941 from the sale of live animals and of pelts was \$1,043,813, a decrease from the preceding year of \$151,195. To the total amount, the sale of pelts contributed \$923,196, or 88 per cent, and the live animals sales \$120,617 or 12 per cent. Silver fox is the chief source of revenue with a total in 1941 for live animals and pelts sold of \$863,457, while mink is second with \$103,921, and the new type fox third with \$69,311. The revenue by provinces was as follows in 1941: Prince Edward Island, \$414,298; Nova Scotia, \$265,160; and New Brunswick, \$364,355.

November Cost of Living Index

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost of living index on the base 1935-1939=100 advanced from 117.8 on October 1 to 118.6 on November 2. This index has recorded a wartime increase of 17.7 per cent. The November increase was entirely due to a rise in the food index from 129.8 for October to 132.4 for November. Beef, oranges, butter, potatoes, lard and lemons were mainly responsible for this movement in the food group, although several additional small scattered increases were also recorded. Other group indexes remained unchanged as follows: rentals 111.3, fuel and light 112.8, clothing 120.1, furnishings 117.8, miscellaneous 107.1.

Wholesale Prices in November

Wholesale prices fluctuated narrowly in November as indicated by a weekly index spread of only 0.1 points for 30 industrial materials. On the base 1926-100 the composite index closed the month at 95.0 for a net increase of 0.1. Among sub-groups the manufacturing series of 13 items eased 0.1 to 82.6, while the food group of five items advanced 0.6 to 87.3, reflecting an appreciable gain for steers and a minor increase for hogs. The stable group of 12 price series registered no change, holding at 114.4 throughout the month.

Indexes of Wholesale Sales in November

The dollar volume of business transacted by wholesale merchants remained unchanged in October this year compared with last, according to indexes compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The general unadjusted index of sales on the base 1935-1939=100 stands at 170.7 for October compared with 177.9 for the previous month. Sales for the first ten months of this year stand 10 per cent above the corresponding period of 1941.

Production of Gold in September

Canada's production of gold in September was recorded at 374,056 fine ounces as compared with 402,867 in the previous month and 445,085 in the corresponding month last year. The output during the nine months ended September aggregated 3,692,415 ounces as compared with 4,005,205 in the corresponding period of 1941.

Sales of Manufactured and Natural Gas

Sales of manufactured gas by distributing companies in Canada totalled 1,557,093 M cubic feet during September, while the total for the nine months ended September was 13,924,272 M cubic feet. Over half of the total for September, or 840,263 M cubic feet was for domestic use, other than for house heating; 432,516 M was for industrial use;

259,808 M for commercial use; 14,290 M for house heating and 10,216 M for other uses.

Sales of natural gas during September amounted to 1,443,880 M cubic feet, of which 585,845 M was for domestic use, 556,598 M for industrial use, 250,769 for commercial use, and 50,668 M for other uses. The total sold during the nine months ended September was 21,719,459 M cubic feet.

Production of Crude Petroleum in September

The production of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in Canada during September totalled 826,866 barrels compared with 870,108 in the previous month and 878,782 in the corresponding month last year. The total during the nine months ended September was 7,806,046 barrels compared with 7,499,477 in the like period of 1941.

Natural Gas Production in September

Production of natural gas in September amounted to 2,882,467,000 cubic feet as compared with 2,295,309,000 in the previous month and 2,446,539,000 in the same months last year. During the first nine months of this year production totalled 30,850,037,000 cubic feet as compared with 27,728,401,000 in the like period of 1941.

Output of Leading Mineral Products

The output of Canada's leading mineral products during the nine months ending September was as follows, with figures for the like period of 1941 in brackets; cement, 7,044,327 (6,281,340) barrels; clay products, \$4,650,022 (\$4,772,718); coal, 13,897,242 (12,679,416) tons; feldspar, 16,721 (15,566) tons; gold, 3,692,415 (4,005,205) fine ounces; gypsum, 488,016 (1,116,847) tons; lime, 660,322 (623,027) tons; natural gas, 30,850,037 (27,728,401) M cubic feet; petroleum, 7,806,046 (7,499,477) barrels; commercial salt, 228,538 (207,504) tons; silver, 14,625,639 (15,299,811) fine ounces.

Output of Central Electric Stations

The output of central electric stations in October amounted to 3,166,186,000 kilowatt hours compared with 3,140,317,000 in October last year, a gain of 25,869,000 kilowatt hours. There was an increase in firm or primary power of 213,580,000 kilowatt hours, but a decrease in secondary power output of 187,711,000 kilowatt hours. Total production during the ten months ended October was 30,680,557,000 kilowatt hours compared with 27,040,578,000 in the like period of 1941.

Indexes of Country General Store Sales

Country general store sales averaged 17 per cent higher in October this year than last according to reports received from 600 of these general merchandise stores located in the smaller towns and rural areas. All regions of the country reported gains ranging from one per cent for the northern part of Ontario to 36 per cent for the southern part of Saskatchewan. Sales in Ontario increased by eight per cent; British Columbia, 10 per cent; Quebec, 11 per cent; the Maritime Provinces, 12 per cent; Manitoba and Alberta, 28 per cent and Saskatchewan, 31 per cent. Sales during the 10 months ended October averaged 13.7 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of last year.

Sales of New Motor Vehicles in October

Sales of 304 new passenger cars valued at \$418,781 were made in Canada during October. Volume was the lowest yet recorded and represents a falling off of 92 per cent in both number and value below the 3,861 units which sold for \$5,246,866 in the same month last year. There were 16,829 new passenger models sold for \$23,209,400 in the first ten months of this year, a reduction of more than 75 per cent below the 76,384 vehicles which retailed for \$98,988,853 in the corresponding period of 1941.

Commercial vehicle sales also fell to a new level as 85 units were retailed for \$272,799, down 95 per cent in number and 90 per cent in retail value below the 1,847 new trucks and buses which sold for \$2,601,859 in October, 1941. The average decline over the ten-month period was 59 per cent in number and 53 per cent in dollar value.

Bank Debits to Individual Accounts in October

The amount of cheques cashed in thirty-two clearing centres of Canada was \$4,073,000,000 in October against \$3,627,000,000 in the same month last year, a gain of 12.3 per cent. Total debits during the ten months of 1942 were \$36,365,000,000 against \$32,130,000,000 in the like period of 1941, the gain being slightly more than 13 per cent.

Gains were shown in each of the five economic areas in October, totals being as follows with those for the like month of 1941 in brackets: Maritime Provinces,

\$97,460,681 (\$84,257,755); Quebec, \$1,144,156,474 (\$1,016,012,956); Ontario, \$1,906,969,630 (\$1,660,563,248); Prairie Provinces, \$670,821,384 (\$648,224,704); British Columbia, \$253,982,368 (\$218,118,224).

Racial Origin and Religion of the Population of Manitoba

The population of the province of Manitoba in 1941 was 729,744 as compared with 700,139 in 1931. Racial origins of the inhabitants were as follows in 1941 with figures for 1931 in brackets: English, 168,917 (172,992); Scottish, 109,619 (112,326); Ukrainian, 89,762 (73,606); Irish, 76,156 (77,559); French, 52,996 (47,039); German, 41,479 (38,078); Netherland, 39,204 (24,957); Polish, 36,550 (40,243); Scandinavian, 32,620 (31,397); Jewish, 18,879 (19,341); Indian and Eskimo, 15,474 (15,479); Belgian, 6,715 (6,323); Russian, 6,571 (11,573); Austrian, 4,719 (8,858); Czech and Slovak, 3,702 (2,396); Hungarian, 2,418 (1,955); Italian, 2,482 (2,379); Finnish, 808 (1,013); Roumanian, 1,438 (2,087); Chinese, 1,248 (1,732).

The following was the breakdown by religious denominations, 1931 figures being in brackets: Roman Catholic, 203,259 (189,693); United Church of Canada, 194,001 (176,240); Anglican, 125,076 (128,385); Lutheran, 48,213 (46,892); Presbyterian, 43,073 (55,720); Mennonite, 39,336 (30,352); Greek Orthodox, 20,777 (15,774); Jewish, 18,715 (19,193); Baptist, 13,267 (13,483); Pentecostal, 5,020 (3,441); Adventist, 1,059 (897); Brethren and United Brethren, 638 (698); Confucian and Buddhist, 777 (793); Christian, 661 (367); Church of Christ Disciples, 1,326 (1,136); Christian Science, 1,623 (1,797); Evangelical Association, 1,253 (307); International Bible Students, 966 (2,316); Mormon, 364 (228); Protestant, 708 (1,479); Salvation Army, 1,886 (2,266); no religion, 1,335 (2,629).

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Domestic Sales of Asphalt Roofing, October (10 cents).
2. Production of Asphalt Roofing, October (10 cents).
3. Population of Manitoba by Religion, 1941 (10 cents).
4. Sales of New Motor Vehicles, October (10 cents).
5. Fur Farms of the Maritime Provinces (10 cents).
6. Milling Statistics, October (10 cents).
7. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
8. Conjugal condition, Population of Manitoba, 1941 (10 cents).
9. Sales of Fertilizers during the year ended June 30, 1942 (10 cents).
10. Sales of Manufactured and Natural Gas, September, (10 cents).
11. Indexes of Country General Store Sales, October (10 cents).
12. Population of Manitoba by Racial Origin, 1941 (10 cents).
13. Alberta - School attendance and years of schooling, 1941 (10 cents).
14. Gold production, September (10 cents).
15. Civil Aviation, August (10 cents).
16. Output of Central Electric Stations, October (10 cents).
17. Canada's Leading Mineral Products, September (10 cents).
18. Monthly indexes of wholesale sales, October (10 cents).
19. Lasts, Trees and Wooden Shoefindings, 1941 (10 cents).
20. Price Movements, November (10 cents).
21. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Canadian Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Principal Cities, December 1 (10 cents).
22. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
23. Alberta - Immigration and Citizenship, 1941 Census (10 cents).
24. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, September; and Gasoline Sales, August (10 cents).
25. The Woodenware Industry, 1941 (10 cents).
26. Bank Debits to Individual Accounts, October (10 cents).

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