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World Wheat Situation

The curtain has risen on another year of vital food production and the seed drills are busy once again in the wheat fields of five continents. Spring weather developed slowly in Canada and the United States with consequent delay in field operations, but came earlier than usual to Europe where much work has already been done on the land. In Australia and Argentina where it is now the autumn season the new wheat crops are being planted for harvest at the end of 1943, or about six months later than the European and North American harvests.

In those areas where winter wheat is grown extensively, and this applies chiefly to Europe and the United States, the crops seeded last fall are sufficiently advanced for preliminary appraisal of their condition and prospective outturn. Current advices would seem to indicate that the position compared with 1942 is somewhat reversed this year and that Europe has the better prospects. The critical period still lies ahead, however, and weather conditions over the next three months will be the determining factor in the ultimate result.

A mild winter in Europe was followed by an early spring, and the crops of winter wheat appear to have suffered a minimum of winter damage. It is doubtful, however, if a full acreage was sown last fall, and this means continuance of favourable conditions not only for winter wheat but for the spring sown crops, if the acute shortages of bread grain are to be remedied this year. The peoples of Europe over the past two years have had the "staff of life" rationed out to them in ever diminishing amounts.

The position in North America is safeguarded to some extent by the existing stock piles of old wheat, but the rate of disappearance in the United States, in the light of present prospects for the new winter wheat crop, is such as to suggest a very considerable reduction in the carry-over a year or so from now. Present indications are for a carry-over of 650 million bushels of old wheat in the United States on July 1, 1943, but projections made into 1944, based on estimates of production this year and probable use of wheat for feed, alcohol and other domestic uses in 1943-44, point to a carry-over on July 1, 1944, of between 250 and 300 million bushels.

In Canada, present indications are that the carry-over on July 31, 1943, will not differ greatly from that of the United States, so that the two North American countries will have between them something in the neighborhood of $1\frac{1}{2}$ billion bushels of wheat on hand before the 1943 crops are added. It must be noted, however, that domestic disappearance of wheat in Canada is also greater than usual, and the surplus will be further reduced by purchases for United States consumption. The first of these sales to the United States has been made, and further business appears to hinge largely on the availability of transportation equipment. The initial purchase totals 7,250,000 bushels.

In recent years most of the Canadian wheat finding its way into the United States has been for milling in bond or furtherance to some other country. Only limited amounts have paid duty for human or animal feeding purposes. There was a time only a few years back, however, when very substantial importations of Canadian wheat were made, largely for human consumption in the United States. These occurred in years of poor crop production in the United States.

The duty rate on foreign wheat imported for human consumption in the United States is 42 cents per bushel, and for animal consumption it is 5 per cent ad valorem. The records show that in the crop year 1934-35 almost 15 million bushels of Canadian wheat paid duty, and in the two following years the importations were considerably larger. In 1935-36 more than 38 million bushels were imported, two-thirds of it for human consumption, while in the crop year 1936-37 more than 30 million bushels were bought of which some 27 million bushels paid the full duty of 42 cents per bushel. In those years the duty on wheat for animal feeding purposes was 10 per cent ad valorem.

Very little seeding of the new spring wheat crop has been done in western Canada to date. The late spring and the fact that much wheat that lay out all winter still had to be threshed, combined to hold up field work. It is now reported that threshing operations of the balance of the 1942 crop are proceeding rapidly, and the wheat is grading very satisfactorily in spite of having spent the winter in the fields under snow. April rainfall

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in the Prairie Provinces has been far below normal but the rains of last fall created excellent sub-soil moisture and conditions for germination of the seed are believed to be good.

Wheat acreage reduction will be further encouraged in Canada this year and a bonus of \$2 per acre will be paid for every acre that was in wheat in 1940 and has been turned to the production of other crops or summerfallowed in 1943. If the acreage objectives for the more essential crops are met, it will mean a reduction of between three and four million acres from the 1942 level of wheat acreage. Farmers' intentions will be made known in a report to be issued on May 10.

Seeding of spring wheat is progressing rapidly in the United States following a period of delay caused by flood conditions in the northwest States. Although farmers indicated only a small increase in acreage, when questioned on March 1, there is every likelihood that they will increase their spring wheat plantings in view of the change that has taken place in the United States wheat statistical position and the relaxation of restrictions on marketings recently announced by the Government.

There is nothing in the news from Argentina or Australia to indicate changes in wheat acreage for the 1943-44 harvest, although trade reports have contained a hint that some reduction will take place. The seeding period in both countries extends into June and even July in some regions, so that the acreage planted will not be known for some time yet.

European seeding has made good progress under excellent weather conditions and the latest advices on fall sown wheat are the most favourable since the war began, with the outlook in Germany itself reported to be quite promising. The neutral countries of Turkey and Spain both report much better wheat crop prospects than a year ago.

Visible Supply and Farmers' Marketings of Wheat

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on April 22 totalled 417,642,329 bushels, including 408,342,798 in Canadian positions and 91,299,531 bushels in United States positions. A week earlier stocks amounted to 418,995,023 bushels, while on the corresponding date last year visible stocks amounted to 441,871,056.

During the week ending April 22 farmers in western Canada marketed 4,231,269 bushels of wheat as compared with 2,532,645 bushels in the previous week. During the elapsed portion of the crop year marketings aggregated 18,533,229 bushels as compared with 180,390,244 in the like period of the previous crop year.

March Output of Central Electric Stations

Central electric stations produced 3,329,266,000 kilowatt hours during March as compared with 3,220,953,000 in March last year. This was a daily average of 107,396,000 kilowatt hours, the highest to date and was 1.2 per cent above the previous peak established in November, 1941. The index adjusted for seasonal variations and on the base 1935-39 at 146.5 was exceeded only by 146.6 for June, 1942. The large increase over last year's production was in Quebec where production rose 99,538,000 kilowatt hours or 5.6 per cent.

Consumption of firm power in Canada increased from 2,740,830,000 kilowatt hours in March last year to 2,968,931,000, and secondary power declined from 264,013,000 to 148,810,000 kilowatt hours. The daily average for primary power was a new high and the index number after adjustments for seasonal variations, also reached a new high at 200.2, or more than double the average for 1935-1939. Exports to the United States dropped from 216,110,000 kilowatt hours in March 1942 to 211,525,000, the decrease being all in secondary power.

Building Permits in March

The value of building permits issued by municipalities reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics was \$4,934,580 as compared with \$2,420,466 in the previous month and \$6,972,481 in the corresponding month last year. During the first three months of this year permits were issued to the value of \$10,899,375 as compared with \$17,810,943 in the corresponding period of last year. During March this year new construction of all types accounted for 77.7 per cent of the value of permits, while the percentage of new residential construction was 52.5.

March Production of Iron and Steel

Canada's March production of pig iron amounted to 160,101 net tons as compared with 167,116 in the corresponding month last year. The total in March this year included 128,458 tons of basic iron, 11,600 tons of foundry iron and 20,043 tons of malleable iron. Production of pig iron during the first quarter of 1943 amounted to 414,668 tons compared with 474,245 in the like period of last year.

Production of steel ingots and steel castings in March totalled 270,962 net tons compared with 265,903 in March of last year. Output in March this year included 254,207 tons of ingots and 16,755 tons of castings. During the first three months of this year production of steel ingots and castings totalled 723,558 tons compared with 767,640 in the corresponding period of 1942.

Output of ferro-alloys in March amounted to 18,611 net tons compared with 16,356 in the previous month and 20,261 in March, 1942. During the three months ended March, production totalled 50,298 tons compared with 55,623 a year ago.

Births, Deaths and Marriages in the Second Quarter of 1942

Live births in Canada during the second quarter of 1942 numbered 69,092, according to preliminary totals, giving an equivalent annual rate of 23.8 per 1,000 population as compared with 69,576 births and a rate of 24.3 for the second quarter of 1931. Still-births amounted to 1,848 or 26.8 per 1,000 live births as against 1,816 and a rate of 26.1. Deaths totalled 27,854 with a rate of 9.6 per 1,000 population as compared with 28,628 and a rate of 10.0. There were 36,500 marriages giving a rate of 12.6 as against 33,258 or a rate of 11.6 in the second quarter of 1941.

Racial Origin of the Population of British Columbia in 1941

According to a report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics the racial origin of the population of the Province of British Columbia was as follows in 1941, corresponding figures for 1931 being in brackets: English, 321,948(272,502); Irish, 83,460(71,612); Scottish, 152,677(135,038); French, 21,876(15,028); Austrian, 4,624(3,891); Belgian, 1,930(1,597); Czech and Slovak, 3,816(2,756); Finnish, 6,332(6,858); German, 22,407(16,986); Hungarian, 2,893(1,313); Italian, 15,292(12,254); Jewish, 3,350(2,743); Netherland, 12,737(6,234); Polish, 8,744(4,599); Roumanian, 1,455(1,162); Russian, 16,474(10,398); Scandinavian, 41,560(33,854); Ukrainian, 7,563(2,583); Chinese, 18,619(27,139); Japanese, 22,096(22,205); Indian and Eskimo, 24,882(24,599); Total Population, 817,861(694,263).

Animal Products of Ontario Farms in 1940

The total value of Animal Products of farms in Ontario in 1940 shows a decrease of 0.3 per cent compared with 1930, according to a preliminary bulletin released this week by the Census Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The value amounted to \$82,594,857 compared with \$82,885,637 in 1930. The following figures show the production and value of various products, 1930 figures in brackets: milk production 5,792,075,613(4,767,726,779) pounds; value of milk production \$65,617,637(\$62,150,064); egg production 79,565,811(71,908,531) dozen; value of production, \$15,738,626(\$19,606,949); wool production, 2,546,934(4,020,142) pounds; value of production \$637,722(\$440,072); honey and wax, \$600,872(\$688,552); production 6,648,879(6,015,799) pounds. The figures for honey and wax do not include the production and value from plots of land which are not classed as farms.

Indexes of Country General Store Sales

Country general store sales averaged 13 per cent higher in March this year than last according to reports received from over 600 general merchandise stores located in the smaller towns and rural areas. All regions of the country reported gains ranging from 2 per cent in southern Saskatchewan to 21 per cent for the Maritime Provinces. Sales increases recorded in Saskatchewan as a whole were 6 per cent; Ontario 11 per cent; Quebec and Alberta, 12 per cent; British Columbia, 16 per cent and Manitoba 18 per cent.

Railway Revenues in January

Canadian railways earned \$50,679,477 during January. This was 11.6 per cent above the corresponding total for 1942 of \$45,421,897, but was considerably below the December revenues of \$63,593,113, the highest monthly total on record. Operating expenses increased over January 1942 by \$6,034,940 or 17.2 per cent, maintenance of way and structures being up by 50.4 per cent. The operating income was reduced from \$7,788,800 to \$6,190,328. Although freight revenues increased by 5.3 per cent, freight traffic measured in revenue ton miles decreased by 4.3 per cent. Passenger traffic continued to increase, being 45.1 per cent heavier than in January 1942. The number of employees increased from 135,319 to 151,933, and the pay roll increased from \$21,357,602 to \$24,755,546.

Canadian Lumber Industry in 1941

Production of sawn lumber in Canada in 1941 was the highest ever recorded. It amounted to 4,941,084 M feet board measure, exceeding the previous record of 4,918,202 M feet produced in 1911. Lumber sawn in 1941 was valued at \$129,287,703; this was exceeded only in 1920 when the average price of lumber was abnormally high, the production of 4,298,804 M feet having been valued at \$168,171,987 in that year.

As compared with 1940, the 1941 production of lumber represents increases of 6.7 per cent in total volume and 21.9 per cent in total value over the 4,629,052 M feet valued at \$105,991,217 reported the previous year. The average value of sawn lumber of all kinds increased from \$22.90 in 1940 to \$26.17 in 1941.

There were increases in both quantity and value for all the principal products of the Canadian lumber industry except lath and ties, which decreased in quantity but increased in value and plywood which decreased in both quantity and value. As a result the gross value of production of this industrial group increased from \$133,905,384 in 1940 to \$163,412,292 in 1941.

Department Store Sales in March

The value of Canadian department store sales in March was three per cent greater than in the corresponding month last year and 25 per cent above February sales. Unadjusted indexes of sales on the base 1935-1939=100 stood at 145.5 for March, 116.2 for February and 141.2 for March last year. The average gain in sales for the first quarter of this year over the same period of last year was 1.5 per cent.

Stone Quarrying Industry in 1941

The gross value of all varieties of stone produced in Canada during 1941 totalled \$8,000,684 compared with \$7,398,959 in 1940. Comprising the tonnage shipped in 1941 were 600,922 tons of granite valued at \$1,498,786; 7,151,049 tons of limestone at \$6,057,727; 17,649 tons of marble at \$126,081; 169,885 tons of sandstone at \$305,528 and 1,296 tons of slate worth \$12,562. Of the total value of domestic stone sold in 1941, shipments from Quebec accounted for 45.1 per cent; Ontario, 41.0 per cent, and British Columbia 5.1 per cent. The number of firms included in the stone quarrying industry in 1941 totalled 457.

Racial Origin of the Population of Quebec

According to a report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics the racial origin of the population of the Province of Quebec in 1941 was as follows, figures for 1931 being in brackets: English, 249,548(234,739); Irish, 109,894(108,312); Scottish, 90,582(87,300); French, 2,695,032(2,270,059); Austrian, 1,511(2,032); Belgian, 4,182(4,321); Finnish, 2,043(2,973); German, 8,880(10,616); Hungarian, 4,134(4,018); Italian, 28,051(24,845); Jewish, 66,277(60,087); Netherlands, 2,645(1,824); Polish, 10,036(9,534); Roumanian, 2,397(3,068); Russian, 3,433(3,574); Scandinavian, 4,840(4,932); Ukrainian, 8,006(4,340); Chinese, 2,378(2,750); Japanese, 48(43); Indian and Eskimo, 13,641(13,471).

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings for the week ended April 24 amounted to 60,647 cars as compared with 66,912 in the previous week and 63,802 in the corresponding week last year. After adjustment the index number on the base 1935-1939 stood at 140.0 compared with 142.6 in the previous week and 136.2 in the same week last year.

Due mainly to heavier grain loading the total for the western division increased from 19,584 in 1942 to 21,577 cars, but in the eastern division the total declined from 44,218 to 39,070 cars, the Good Friday holiday this year undoubtedly being the main factor in the decrease.

Reports Issued This Week

1. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 2. Racial Origin of the Population of Quebec, 1941 (10 cents).
 3. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 4. The Stone Industry in Canada, 1941 (50 cents).
 5. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (\$1.00 per year).
 6. Census of Agriculture, Bulletin No. 49 (10 cents).
 7. Population of British Columbia by Racial Origin, 1941 (10 cents).
 8. Preliminary Report on the Pack of Canned Fruits and Vegetables, 1942 (25 cents).
 9. Building Permits, March (10 cents).
 10. Preliminary Report on Births, Deaths and Marriages in Second Quarter
of 1942 (25 cents).
 11. Preliminary Report on the Lumber Industry, 1941 (35 cents).
 12. Production of Iron and Steel, March (10 cents).
 13. Operating Revenues, Expenses & Statistics of Railways, January (10 cents).
 14. Bank Debits to Individual Accounts, March (10 cents).
 15. Department Store Sales, March (10 cents).
 16. Central Electric Stations, March (10 cents).
 17. Census Bulletin No. A-2, Conjugal Condition of Quebec (10 cents).
 18. Miscellaneous Non-Ferrous Metal Products Industry, 1941 (15 cents).
 19. Bridge Building and Structural Steel Work Industry, 1941 (25 cents).
 20. Monthly Indexes of Country General Store Sales, March (10 cents).
 21. Production of Concentrated Milk, March (10 cents).
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