

WEEKLY BULLETIN

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World Wheat Situation

Although the wheat harvest is becoming quite general in both Argentina and Australia, there appears to be no significant change in the total supplies available for export by the "Big Four". The first official estimate of the Argentine wheat crop places total production at about 165.7 million bushels as compared with 150.1 million bushels a year ago and the average crop of 240 million bushels for the 10-year period 1932-41. As yet there is no official estimate of Australian wheat production for this year, but latest cabled advices suggest a crop of approximately 125 million bushels, which, while more than twice as large as the 1944 crop of 51.9 million bushels, is substantially below the 1932-41 average of 162 million bushels.

While moisture supplies have been adequate in the major grain growing areas of Argentina, drought conditions in the western sections have served to provide extremely variable yields ranging all the way from three to 24 bushels per acre. As a result, the first estimate was somewhat below earlier expectations. Total supplies of old and new wheat for the coming year are currently estimated at some 215.7 million bushels, about 110 million bushels less than the total supplies available on January 1, 1945.

Domestic disappearance estimates for Argentina in 1946 range up to 125 million bushels or more. That, of course, will depend upon the amount required for livestock feeding and fuel purposes. However, assuming a home consumption of 110 million bushels, supplies available for export and carry-over will be a little over 100 million bushels. Up to the end of November 1945 approximately 90 million had been exported from Argentina with almost 40 million bushels destined for the United Kingdom and the continent. In the event that the 1946 wheat requirements of the other South American countries remain at their 1945 level, it is now estimated that some 50 million will be available for Europe during the coming year.

Australian wheat supplies will allow very little for European exports in 1946. A small wheat acreage combined with irregular rainfall has resulted in a below-average crop this year. Old wheat stocks have been reduced almost to the vanishing point owing to the extremely small crop in 1944 and the heavy rate of disappearance during the ensuing year. Estimates of domestic consumption in 1946 vary considerably and will depend in large measure upon the size of the livestock feeding program and pasturage conditions. A domestic disappearance of 90 million bushels would leave 45 million bushels for export and carry-over in 1946.

Contributing almost equal amounts, Canada and the United States are estimated to be in a position to provide about 650 million bushels of wheat for export during the current season. Limitations on the present rate of export from North America seem to be available transportation and loading and unloading facilities.

In contrast to the estimated supplies of wheat available in each of the four major exporting countries, can be placed the United States Department of Agriculture's estimated world wheat requirements of 750 to 800 million bushels. In the event that minimum requirements could be met it is estimated that the volume of international trade would be the largest in 15 years. However, it is questionable whether full requirements can be met.

Reports coming from the continent reveal conditions as being extremely variable. Some areas, particularly France, are in urgent need of moisture and in these instances fall seeded acreages have been materially reduced. As a result, extensive spring plantings will be necessary in order to meet 1946 acreage goals. Other sections, however, have benefited from timely rains over the past few weeks and crops are entering the winter in good condition.

Although the United Kingdom is urging farmers to grow as much wheat as possible for next year, wheat plantings to date have been disappointing and there is some doubt as to whether the acreage will reach the desired goal next year. One factor which apparently has discouraged many farmers has been the reduction in the wheat acreage bonus for 1946.

Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on December 13 aggregated 197,379,040 bushels as compared with 368,568,587 on the corresponding date of last year, a decrease of 46.4 per cent. Visible stocks in Canadian positions totalled 161,833,655 bushels as compared with 322,695,860, and in United States positions, 35,545,385 bushels as compared with 45,872,727.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended December 13 amounted to 3,787,947 bushels as compared with 4,957,763 in the preceding week. During the elapsed portion of the present crop year which commenced August 1, deliveries of wheat from farms totalled 164,335,039 bushels as compared with 206,271,280 in the similar period of the crop year 1944-45.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended December 13, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 3,317,284 (1,600,306) bushels; barley, 939,215 (1,058,088); rye, 20,290 (31,236); flaxseed, 48,643 (56,046).

Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales in November

New and used vehicles financed in Canada during November totalled 2,264 units with a financed value of \$1,202,277, down two per cent in number, but 14 per cent greater in amount of financing compared with 2,304 units financed to the extent of \$1,056,042 in November, 1944. November 1945 totals included 342 new vehicles financed for \$441,651.

Used vehicle financing declined seven per cent in number and three per cent in amount of financing. There were 1,922 units financed for \$760,626 in November 1945, and 2,076 transactions involving \$787,456 in the same month of last year. Results for individual sections of the country varied widely. Declines of 33 per cent in British Columbia and 11 per cent in Ontario contrasted with gains reported for all other regions.

The number of new vehicles financed in the first 11 months of the present year was 3,365, whereas only 2,152 new vehicles were financed in the similar period of last year. The cumulative totals for used vehicle financing were 22,835 this year and 29,229 in 1944.

Production of Copper in October

The Canadian production of new copper in October amounted to 35,171,852 pounds as compared with 35,023,084 in the preceding month and 42,039,927 in the corresponding month of last year. During the first 10 months of the current year, 410,780,182 pounds were produced as compared with 457,434,778 in the similar period of 1944.

Nickel Production in October

Nickel production in Canada in October was recorded at 17,244,911 pounds as compared with 16,506,248 in September, and 21,819,119 in October, 1944. During the first 10 months of this year, 215,436,273 pounds were produced as compared with 230,571,230 pounds in the corresponding period of the preceding year.

Births, Deaths and Marriages in October

Births registered in cities, towns and villages of Canada with a population of 10,000 and over numbered 11,998 in October, deaths 5,019, and marriages 5,841, as compared with 10,997 births, 4,561 deaths and 4,799 marriages in October last year, showing increases of nine, 10 and 22 per cent, respectively, for births, deaths and marriages.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended December 15 totalled 70,045 cars as compared with 72,678 cars in the preceding week and 67,632 cars in the corresponding week of last year. Loadings in the eastern division increased from 39,795 cars in 1944 to 43,840, but in the western division the total declined from 27,837 to 26,205 cars.

Loadings of grain declined from 9,902 cars in 1944 to 8,064 cars, live stock from 3,009 to 2,728 cars, and automobiles, trucks and parts from 1,232 to 777 cars. Hay and straw advanced from 516 to 1,006 cars, coal from 6,436 to 7,013 cars, sand, gravel, etc. from 1,443 to 2,415 cars, wood pulp and paper from 3,187 to 3,624 cars, and merchandise, L.C.L., from 13,951 to 15,919 cars.

Reports Issued

1. Registrations of Births, Deaths and Marriages, October (10 cents).
 2. Copper and Nickel Production, October (10 cents).
 3. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
 4. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
 5. Monthly Review of Business Statistics, November (10 cents).
 6. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
 7. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, November (10 cents).
 8. Flour Mills in Canada, 1945 (\$1.00).
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