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## The Canadian Wheat Situation

The prospects of the 1933 wheat crop begin to assume importance in the month of April when the preparation of land and seeding are begun. At this time, it is pertinent to review the data on preparation of land for the new crop and the moisture conditions throughout the spring wheat territory. On May 10, the 'Intentions to Plant' report will give the first indications of the extent of land planned for wheat production.

The annual estimates of summer-fallowing, new breaking and fall ploughing show a total area of 18,351,100 acres of land prepared for the 1933 crop of the Prairie Provinces. This figure compares with 19,668,200 acres previously prepared for the 1932 crop and 18,581,000 acres for the 1931 crop. Although there is no evident correlation between the area of previously-prepared land and succeeding wheat acreage, it is interesting to note that most of the decline in land prepared (compared with 1932) is in fall ploughing. The amount of summer-fallow increased to 12,989,200 acres, which is the largest figure on record. Manitoba has 1,732,000 acres of this total, Saskatchewan 7,257,200 acres, and Alberta 4,000,000 acres. The total summer-fallow in 1931 was 12,398,200 acres.

The amount of new breaking again declined slightly to a new low level of 471,900 acres compared with 502,000 acres in 1931 and 1,695,000 acres in the recent peak year, 1929.

Fall ploughing declined from 6,768,000 to 4,890,000 acres, most of the decrease being in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, since fall ploughing is a minor factor in Alberta cultural methods.

After the disappearance of the snow cover in the early spring, winter precipitation records revealed a slightly sub-normal condition for the West. The effect of winter precipitation on succeeding crop yield is limited and, in fact, a previous investigation of this detail (Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, September, 1930, p. 314) revealed that a minus correlation with yield existed. In other words, if other meteorological conditions were constant, winter precipitation showed an adverse influence on yield. The effect of April precipitation may also be deleterious to high yields since heavy rain and snow postpone the date of seeding. There is very evidently an optimum moisture requirement to permit seeding and to encourage germination; subsequent rainfall is the important factor.

Rain and snow have fallen much more abundantly and gonerally this spring than in the same period of 1932 and the soil was in a good condition to absorb the moisture.

## Wheat Imports by United Kingdom

March imports of wheat by the United Kingdom were sharply higher than in February and than in March last year. Imports last month amounted to 22,104,047 bushels compared with 14,219,327 in February and 18,736,359 in March a year ago. The supplying countries last month were as follows, the figures in brackets being those of March, 1932. Canada 8,864,414 (4,629,742), Australia 7,040,846 (6,719,522), Argentine 6,085,974 (6,864,172), United States nil (326,186), Russia nil (19,090), Other Countries 112,813 (117,647).

Imports of wheat into the United Kingdom during the eight months from August, 1932 to March, 1933, amounted to 134 million bushels compared with 159 million bushels for the same months in 1931-32. Out of total imports of 134 million bushels, Canada has supplied 75 million bushels or 56.2 per cent; Australia has supplied 26 million bushels or 19.5 per cent; the Argentine has supplied 16 million bushels or 11.6 per cent.

## Canadian Wheat Imports by France

Imports of Canadian wheat by France in 1932 amounted to 24,626,895 bushels. Excluding the imports from the French Colonies of Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco which amounted to 24,000,000 bushels and receive special tariff treatment, Canada supplied practically 50 per cent of the wheat imports by France from foreign countries. Imports from the Argentine amounted to 16,000,000 bushels and from the United States 8,000,000. Only 101,000 bushels were imported from Soviet Russia.

#### Raw Fur Production

Canada's raw fur production in 1931-2 showed an increase over the previous season, although the value, \$10,156,225 was less by about a million and a half dollars. All of the different kinds of fox, excepting white, increased in number, and larger numbers are also recorded for beaver, ermine, lynx, mink, raccoon and skunk. Muskrat records a small decrease. Average prices were lower than in the preceding season for all kinds of furs, excepting fisher and wild cat, which advanced slightly.

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The silver fox retains the place which it has held for the past three seasons a the most important of Canadian fur bearers, having a production valued at \$3,089,179, or 30 per cent of the total output of all kinds. Muskrat is second in importance with a total value of \$1,391,010. The only other kind of fur with a product valued at over a million dollars in 1931-32 is white fox - \$1,373,809.

## More than Half of Our People are Under 25

More than half of the people of Canada are under the age of 25. They numbered 5,331,991 at the census and those who were 25 or over totalled 5,044,795. The population was 10,376,786.

There were more persons of the age of ten years than any other age. The ten-yearolds numbered 232,180 and the babies of less than one year 202,688. The twenty-year-olds were 189,389 and the twenty-fives 165,922.

The ten-year-olds were 2.2 per cent of the total population and the twenty-fives 1.6 per cent.

There were 4,510,195 persons who had not reached the voting age of 21, so that there were 5,866,591 who had reached that arithmetical age of maturity.

More than half of the potential electorate or to be more accurate, thos who had reached the voting age of 21, were 40 and under. Those unler 40 numberes' 2,905,376, those actually 40 were 154,186, and those over 40 totalled 2,827,029.

Of those of voting age who were under 40 the men numbered 1,506,148 and the women 1,399,228. Of those just 40 the men numbered 81,176 and the women 73,010. Of those over 40 the men numbered 1,508,592 and the women 1,298,437.

The number of persons who had passed the allotted span was 324,697 or 3.1 per cent of the population, those who had passed sixty 850,428 or 8.1 per cent, those who had passed fifty 1,706,134 or 16.4 per cent, and those who had gone beyond forty 2,937,444 or 28.3 per cent. Those who had reached an age beyond twenty-five were 5,121,024 or 49.9 per cent.

The longevity of women is a much discussed question. It was not until they had reached the octogenerian age that the number of women living oxceeded the men. There were 7,601 women of 80 and 7,013 men. The excess of old women over old men then continued. At the age of 90 there were 1,053 women and but 726 men. There were 89 women over the century mark and 74 men.

## Canada's Forest Resources

The latest available estimate places Canada's forest resources at 267,733 million cubic feet of standing timber which is capable of yielding 448,255 million feet board measure of sawn lumber and 1,528,767 thousand cords of pulpwood, ties, poles and other smaller materials.

An estimate has also been made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics of the extent to which our forests are being depleted annually. Total forest production in 1931 involved the cutting of 2,306,143,706 cubic feet of standing timber. This constitutes only the annual depletion for use and to it must be added the volume of material annually destroyed by fire, which exceeds 230,000,000 cubic feet of merchantable timber and the young growth cubic feet so that the annual drain on our forest resources is considerably more than 3,236,000,000 cubic feet. A total depletion of 3,236,000,000 cubic feet per annum does not necessarily imply that our total resources of 267,733,000,000 cubic feet are reduced by that amount every year and that the supply will therefore be exhausted in eighty-three years. There is a steady increase in volume taking place in all healthy stands of timber due to annual growth. By the application of scientific forest management this annual growth can be stimulated and could be made to take place over our entire area of potential forest land. If all the land in Canada which is better suited for the growing of timber than for any other purpose were under intensive forest management on a sustained yield basis, it would furnish enough timber and forest products annually in perpetuity to supply the needs of a much larger population than we have at present with a sufficient surplus for profitable exportation.

There is reason to believe that in time the loss due to forest fires will be reduced to a minimum as the general public realizes the necessity of precaution. Ninety per cent of forest fires are due to human carelessness. Scientific methods of controlling insect and fungus damage are being rapidly developed and in time the depletion will consist almost entirely of material cut for use.

## Value and Volume of Standing Timber

Quebec heads the provinces for value and volume of forest production and also leads in the quantity production of pulpwood, square timber, fencing materials and miscellaneous products. It comes second on the list of provinces for the production of logs, firewood and wood for distillation and third for poles.

Ontario is the se d most important province on the list for total value and volume of production. It leads in firewood and wood for distillation. It takes second place in the production of ties, pulpwood, and poles and third place for logs, bolts, square timber and miscellaneous products.

British Columbia comes third on the list, leading in the production of logs, bolts, hewn ties and poles. This province comes second on the list for round mining timber and third for rails.

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia come next in order being important producers of pulpwood, firewood and logs. Nova Scotia is the most important producer of round mining timber among the provinces.

Production in Alberta and Saskatchewan is made up chiefly of firewood, ties, logs and fencing materials. In Manitoba, firewood, pulpwood, logs, ties and fencing materials head the list. In Prince Edward Island, firewood, logs and fencing materials are the most important forest products.

## Wheat Export Clearances

Wheat clearances during the week ending April 14 totalled 2,135,460 bushels compared with 2,099,052 in the previous week and 3,076,274 in the corresponding week of 1932. Clearances by ports were as follows, the figures in brackets being those of a year ago:

Week ending April 14: Vancouver 1,426,555 (2,579,158), Montreal 160 [nil), Halifax 162,000 (nil), Saint John 52,745 (11,116), United States Atlantic Seaboard ports 494,000 (486,000), Total 2,135,460 (3,076,274).

Thirty-seven weeks ending April 14: Vancouver 77,540,980 (52,245,686), Montreal 45,168,086 (25,061,238), United States ports 20,463,000 (23,629,000), Sorel 11,073,265 (4,601,722), Saint John 6,864,873 (2,017,008), Churchill 2,736,030 (554,769), Halifax 1,474,552 (45,189), Quebec 1,217,904 (120,248), Victoria 1,166,721 (nil), Prince Rupert 677,813 (nil), Total 168,383,224 (108,264,860).

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