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STOCKS OF CANADIAN GRAIN AT MARCH 31, 1956 1/

Total stocks of the five major Canadian grains in all North American positions as at March 31, 1956 were estimated at 1,219.9 million bushels, compared with 1,029.7 million in 1955, 1,299.9 million in 1954 and the record 1,353.4 million on hand in 1943. The ten-year (1946-55) average March 31 stocks for the five grains was 762.5 million bushels. This year's March 31 stocks, in millions of bushels, with last year's totals and the ten-year (1946-55) averages, respectively, in brackets, were estimated as follows: wheat, 751.6 (621.2, 399.2); oats, 238.1 (200.9, 213.6); barley, 197.3 (175.7, 129.0); rye, 24.7 (25.4, 13.4); and flaxseed, 8.1 (6.5, 6.6). Data for these estimates were obtained from the Bureau's annual March 31 survey of grain held on farms, from mill returns, and from information supplied by the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada relative to grain in commercial positions at the close of business on March 28.

Wheat and Rye Total stocks of Canadian wheat at March 31, 1956, were estimated at 751.6 million bushels, compared with 621.2 million on the same date in 1955 and the record 762.4 million in 1943. An estimated 403.8 million bushels, representing 53.7 per cent of the total, were held on farms. Of the 347.9 million bushels in off-farm positions, 200.5 million were in country elevators. Rye stocks at 24.7 million bushels, were below both last year's 25.4 million and the 1954 record holdings of 26.0 million. Of the 1956 rye stocks, some 69 per cent was on farms.

Oats, Barley and Flaxseed March-end stocks of oats, estimated at 238.1 million exceeded both last year's 200.9 million and the ten-year average of 213.6 million, but were far below the record 393.5 million on hand in 1943. Barley stocks at 197.3 million bushels were above the 1955 level of 175.7 million but still well below the 1954 record stocks of 227.2 million. Average barley stocks at March 31 for the 1946-55 period were 129.0 million bushels. Stocks of flaxseed at 8.1 million were above both last year's 6.5 million and the ten-year average of 6.6 million but were considerably lower than the record holdings in 1949 of 14.3 million. The proportions of oats, barley and flaxseed stocks held on farms as at March 31 were estimated at 89.6, 74.4 and 54.3 per cent respectively.

Farm Stocks Total farm-held stocks of the five major grains at March 31, 1956 were estimated at 785.3 million bushels, compared with 593.0 million in 1955, 835.2 million in 1954 and the record 843.1 million in 1943. Average farm stocks for the 1946-55 period were 486.7 million bushels. This year's March 31 farm stocks of grains in millions of bushels, with last year's totals and the ten-year averages, respectively, in brackets, were estimated as follows: wheat, 403.8 (286.0, 204.0); oats, 213.4 (170.4, 182.8); barley, 146.8 (119.0, 90.6); rye, 17.0 (14.6, 7.0); and flaxseed, 4.4 (2.9, 2.3).

1/ Excluding Newfoundland for which data are not available.

Prepared in the Crops Section, Agriculture Division

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Farm stocks of each of the five grains were larger than both the 1955 level and the ten-year average. Farm stocks of wheat at 403.8 million exceeded by a small margin the previous record holdings of 401.7 million in 1954. Flaxseed stocks on farms, at 4.4 million, also exceeded the previous high of 4.1 million established in 1953. However, farm stocks of oats, barley and rye were 148.7, 23.0 and 2.5 million bushels, respectively, below their previous record levels. Four-fifths of all farm-held stocks of oats and 97 per cent or more of farm stocks of each of the other four grains were located in the Prairie Provinces. Distribution of farm stocks in millions of bushels, for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, respectively, was estimated as follows: wheat, 24.0, 255.0 and 117.0; oats, 26.0, 90.0 and 57.0; barley, 22.0, 67.0 and 54.0; rye, 1.3, 10.7 and 4.8; and flaxseed, 0.7, 3.0 and 0.6.

Stocks of Canadian Grain at March 31, 1956

The following data on stocks of Canadian grain in Canada and the United States as of March 31, 1956 have been compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the Statistics Branch of the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada. Stocks of grain on farms are estimated from reports of the Bureau's crop correspondents while those in mill bins are estimated from monthly returns made by mill operators to the Bureau. Stocks in all other positions are those reported by the Board of Grain Commissioners as visible stocks at the close of business on March 28, 1956. It should be noted that the statistics on total stocks as presented in this report differ from the weekly visible stocks figures at March 28 by the inclusion of stocks on farms and in mill bins.

Position	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flaxseed
- thousand bushels -					
In Canada					
On farms .....	403,760	213,400	146,800	17,000	4,350
Country elevators .....	200,541	17,752	28,510	3,373	1,067
Interior private and mill elevators.	6,346	572	1,792	39	60
Interior terminal elevators .....	13,790	15	535	27	6
Vancouver-New Westminster elevators.	10,217	60	2,187	26	133
Victoria elevator .....	745	-	1	-	-
Prince Rupert elevator .....	37	-	769	-	-
Churchill elevator .....	4,206	30	-	-	114
Fort William-Port Arthur elevators .	52,406	2,789	12,706	2,348	1,744
Storage afloat .....	8,505	-	-	-	-
In transit - rail .....	14,777	2,487	2,921	577	293
Eastern elevators .....	33,078	743	957	1,265	356
Eastern mills (mill bins only) .....	2,694	216	130	6	-
Western mills (mill bins only) .....	402	66	22	8	-
Totals in Canada <u>1/</u> .....	751,503	238,131	197,329	24,670	8,123
In United States .....	117	-	-	-	-
Totals, Canadian Grain in Canada and United States, March 31, 1956 <u>1/</u> ...	751,620	238,131	197,329	24,670	8,123
<u>Comparative Stocks, March 31, 1955 <u>2/</u></u>					
In Canada .....	621,214	199,999	175,128	24,239	6,485
In United States .....	36	911	605	1,122	-
Totals in Canada and United States ..	621,249	200,911	175,733	25,361	6,485
1946-1955 average .....	399,848	213,633	129,042	13,366	6,571

1/ Subject to revision.

2/ Revised.