WEEKLY SUMMARY OF THE WHEAT SITUATION

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June 2, 1938

International Trade:

World shipments for the week ending May 28, 1938 amounted to 9,060,000 bushels compared with 8,021,000 bushels in the previous week and 11,960,000 bushels in the corresponding week last year.

Cumulative world shipments from August 1, 1937 to May 28, 1938 were 425,897,000 bushels compared with 520,976,000 bushels for the same period in 1936-37.

Primary Movement:

Receipts at country elevators and platform loadings for the week ending May 27, 1938 were 754,758 bushels, compared with 605,716 bushels in the previous week and 1,155,957 bushels in the corresponding week a year ago.

Cumulative receipts at country elevators and platform loadings from August 1, 1937 to May 27, 1938 were 118,364,891 bushels, compared with 158,213,830 bushels for the same period in 1936-37.

Visible Supply:

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on May 27, 1938 was 32,351,412 bushels, compared with 36,019,493 bushels in the previous week, and 58,088,044 bushels a year ago.

Export Clearances:

Overseas export clearances of Canadian wheat for the week ending May 27, 1938 were 2,819,443 bushels, compared with 1,590,580 bushels for the previous week and 2,632,553 bushels for the corresponding week a year ago.

Imports of Canadian wheat into the United States for consumption and milling in bond for the week ending May 27, 1938 were 18,000 bushels compared with 13,000 bushels for the previous week and 298,000 bushels for the corresponding week in 1937.

Cumulative overseas clearances plus United States imports of wheat from August 1, 1937 to May 27, 1938 were 66,252,005 bushels, compared with 164,702,118 bushels for the same period in 1936-37.

Prices:

The Winnipeg cash closing price of No. 1 Northern on Tuesday, May 31, 1938 was \$1.13 3/8 showing an increase of 2 1/4 cents over the previous Wednesday's close of \$1.11 1/8.

1. Prairie Wheat Crop Prospects

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The following is the summary of the telegraphic crop report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on May 31:

Wheat seeding in the Prairie Provinces is practically completed. The 1938 crop went into the ground under generally more favourable conditions than prevailed in the spring of 1937, but a continuance of adequate precipitation in the 1937 drought areas is essential if present stands are to be maintained. Heavy infestations of wireworms have damaged crops in Saskatchewan. Some wireworm damage was reported in Alberta. Hatching of grasshoppers has been delayed in Manitoba, but in south-eastern and north-western Saskatchewan, hatchings have been heavy. Soil drifting has been reported in south-central and northern Saskatchewan and in northern Alberta. Coarse grain seeding has progressed well in Manitoba and in southern and central Alberta, and will be completed this week. Pastures and hay crops in Manitoba and southern Alberta are in good condition, and are improving in Saskatchewan. Rain is badly needed in northern Alberta where lack of moisture has retarded growth and delayed seeding operations.

2. European Crop Prospects

During the past week there was some frost damage in the north and east of Russia. In the south conditions are still very favourable. Conditions remain good in the Danubian countries. Abundant rains have fallen in Germany, but temperatures are low and growth is backward. Conditions elsewhere are unchanged, with low yields indicated in Italy, Portugal and Greece.

3. Italian Purchases

On May 30 and 31, Italy took eight wheat cargoes, seven being furnished by Australia, and one by the United States.

4. Greek Imports

Broomhall reported on May 27 that owing to the unfavourable prospects for the wheat crop in Greece this year, the government has decided to import 5,200,000 bushels of which 1,480,000 will be purchased from Canada. Later, these purchases were coupled with plans for a security reserve of wheat.

