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WEEKLY SUMMARY OF THE WHEAT SITUATION

APRIL 6, 1939

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International Trade

World shipments for the week ending April 1, 1939 amounted to 12,513,000 bushels compared with 7,447,000 bushels in the previous week and 9,688,000 bushels in the corresponding week last year.

Cumulative world shipments from August 1, 1938 to April 1, 1939 were 385,000,000 bushels compared with 344,048,000 bushels for the same period in 1937-38.

Primary Movement

Receipts at country elevators for the week ending March 31, 1939 were 883,660 bushels as compared with the revised figures of 1,153,291 bushels for the previous week and 606,965 bushels for the corresponding week a year ago.

Revised cumulative receipts at country elevators from August 1, 1938 to March 31, 1939 were 267,070,602 bushels compared with 111,220,866 bushels in the same period in 1937-38.

Visible Supply

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on March 31, 1939 was 140,893,593 bushels compared with 142,251,112 bushels in the previous week and 44,508,510 bushels a year ago.

Export Clearances

Overseas export clearances of Canadian wheat for the week ending March 31, 1939 were 866,631 bushels, compared with 725,986 bushels for the previous week and 386,747 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 March 31, 1939 were 96,000 bushels as compared with 252,000 bushels for the previous week and nil for the corresponding week in 1938.

Cumulative overseas clearances plus United States imports of wheat from August 1, 1938 to March 31, 1939 were 96,481,450 bushels, compared with 58,375,435 bushels for the same period in 1937-38.

Prices

The Winnipeg cash closing price of No. 1 Northern on Tuesday, April 4, 1939 was 59 cents, showing a decrease of 1/4 of a cent from the previous Tuesday's close of 59 1/4 cents.

WORLD EVENTS

Owing to the fact that there are large supplies of wheat in the world's exporting countries and a poor demand by the importing countries together with favourable weather for the growing of winter wheat, operated against any upturns in the markets during the past week.

Political news is unsettling business and importers continued to buy to satisfy immediate needs, with insurances rates to Baltic ports increased.

The Canadian Wheat Board offers wheat every day at International prices, but due to subsidies in many countries these prices are out of line.

According to reports received from different European countries the world wheat crop in 1939 will not equal 1938. There are poor crop reports from France and Italy with winter damage in Belgium, Holland and Western Germany while Russian crop prospects are unfavourable for this time of the year. Crop conditions in other European countries are unpromising. Australia also reports a decreased seeded area owing to poor prices.

Broomhall's figures show that since August 1, 1938 the total shipments to all countries are as follows: To Europe 294,623,000 bushels compared with 280,497,000 bushels for the same period last year. To non-European countries 89,913,000 bushels against 63,540,000 bushels a year ago. The United Kingdom, France, Holland, Germany, Czechoslovakia and Italy took increased quantities while Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Scandinavia and other countries took reduced amounts.

United States

Based on private reports the estimate of the United States winter wheat crop is 539,000,000 bushels against 686,000,000 bushels a year ago.

Australia

Visible supply of wheat amounts to 56,496,000 bushels compared with 65,496,000 bushels last year. The shipments were higher last week. China is the country of destination of large quantities of Australian wheat and wheat flour. The world market is feeling the absence of Australian offers of wheat. This is due to the fact that Australia harvested a crop 37,000,000 bushels smaller than last year and exports for the four months were only 14,000,000 bushels lower. Some 35 per cent of this season's surplus was exported with China contracting for supplies until June.

Argentina

Owing to the changed policy of the Argentine government to move wheat to make way for corn larger shipments are anticipated. It is estimated that the Argentine Wheat Board holdings amount to 180,000,000 bushels. The Buenos Aires price is above the official minimum for May position but this is of little significance as Argentine wheat is selling f.o.b. Buenos Aires close to 44 cents a bushel, a subsidized price of 16 cents. United Kingdom bought further quantities of Rosafe at 59 cents a bushel.



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