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WEEKLY SUMMARY OF THE WHEAT SITUATION

MARCH 7, 1940



International Trade

World shipments for the week ending March 2, 1940 amounted to 7,230,000 bushels compared with 9,011,000 bushels in the previous week and 13,224,000 bushels in the corresponding week last year.

Cumulative world shipments from August 1, 1939 to March 2, 1940 were 263,421,000 bushels compared with 345,400,000 bushels for the same period in 1938-39.

Primary Movement

Primary receipts of wheat for the week ending March 1, 1940 were 1,273,105 bushels compared with the revised figure of 1,431,059 bushels for the previous week and 1,267,806 bushels for the corresponding week a year ago.

Revised cumulative receipts from August 1, 1939 to March 1, 1940 were 373,155,483 bushels compared with 262,408,022 bushels in the same period in 1938-39.

Visible Supply

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on March 1, 1940 was 319,845,204 bushels as compared with 325,767,681 bushels in the previous week and 146,694,963 bushels a year ago.

Export Clearances

Overseas export clearances of Canadian wheat for the week ending March 1, 1940 were 4,359,780 bushels, compared with 2,811,328 bushels for the previous week and 2,280,293 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 1, 1940 were 167,000 bushels as compared with 232,000 bushels for the previous week and 242,000 bushels for the corresponding week in 1939.

Cumulative overseas clearances plus United States imports of wheat from August 1, 1939 to March 1, 1940 were 90,708,065 bushels, compared with 91,100,764 bushels for the same period in 1938-39.

Prices

The Winnipeg cash closing price of No. 1 Northern on Tuesday, March 5, 1940 was 86 7/8 cents, showing an increase of one cent over the previous Tuesday's close of 85 7/8 cents.

WORLD EVENTS

1. Market Conditions

Price developments in North American markets have been relatively featureless over the past week. On Wednesday, February 28, the Winnipeg May future closed at 89 1/2 cents. A week later, on March 6, it closed at 89 3/8 cents. The Winnipeg May dipped on March 1 to a close of 88 1/2 cents, but this was mainly in reflection of developments at Chicago. The Chicago May future declined from \$1.03 1/2 (American funds) on February 28, to \$1.00 3/8 on March 1, but rallied again on March 5 and 6 to a close of \$1.03 3/8 for practically no loss over the week. Buenos Aires futures likewise were practically unchanged during the week.

2. Export Sales.

Since February 28 when the daily volume of export sales was reported at 5 million bushels, only a scattered business involving small lots has been reported.

3. United States Winter Crop Appraisals

On Friday, March 1, Mrs. Miller issued a private report on the condition of the winter wheat crop improvement in each of the four principal states as compared with their December 1 condition. Her late February condition figures followed by the official December 1 condition figures in brackets are given herewith: Texas 66, (47); Oklahoma 52 (34); Kansas 53 (35); Nebraska 50, (37). This report contributed to declines early in the March 1 trading session at Chicago.

On Wednesday, March 6, N. C. Murray ventured an estimate based on March 1 condition at 434 million bushels, compared with the government estimate of 399 millions at December 1. B. W. Snow declined to make a forecast but issued March 1 condition figures for Kansas and Nebraska which are considerably lower than Mrs. Miller's. Mr. Snow's condition figures are as follows: Kansas 40, (35); Nebraska 42(37). Mr. Snow adds that "local and trained observers are convinced that there has been no substantial improvement since December 1".

4. Roumanian Winter Wheat Acreage

On February 28, the International Institute reported the area sown to winter wheat in Roumania last autumn at 7,798,000 acres. This represents a 10 per cent reduction from previous season's winter wheat area of 8,649,000 acres.

5. Hungarian Crop Damage

On March 6, the International Institute cabled an official report from Hungary, confirming recent private reports of crop damage in that country. The official report states that the unusually cold weather has been unfavourable to agriculture, and that a thick, frozen snow-cover may seriously damage winter sowings in some districts.
