mistorical file Copy 23-0 2-1 Published by Authority of the Hon. H. H. Stevens, M.P. Minister of Trade and Commerce 22-002 no. 28 1931 DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE c. 1 DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS -CANADA 2,200 AGRICULTURAL BRANCH Dominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S.(Hon.), F.R.S.C. Chief, Agricultural Branch: T. W. Grindley, Ph.D. TOTAL STOCKS, QUANTITIES IN FARMERS' HANDS AND UNMERCHANTABLE, QUANTITY OF WHEAT FED, AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE 1930 WHEAT CROP. Ottawa, April 10, 1931, 4 plm. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issued to-day a bulletin giving in summary form (1) the total quantities of wheat, oats, barley, rye, and flaxseed in Canada at the end of March, 1931; (2) the stocks of agricultural products of 1930 remaining in farmers' hands at March 31, 1931; (3) the proportion of the crops of 1930 estimated by crop correspondents to be of unmerchantable quality; (4) the quantity of the 1930 wheat crop fed or to be fed to live stock and poultry in the crop season, as estimated by crop correspondents; (5) the distribution of the wheat crop of 1930; and (6) general conditions at the end of March.

TOTAL STOCKS OF GRAIN IN CANADA.

The total stocks of grain in Canada at March 31, 1931, are higher than in any previous year at the same date.

The returns received from elevators, flour mills, railway companies, and crop correspondents show that on March 31, 1931, the quantity of wheat in Canada was 275,190,987 bushels, considerably higher than the figure of 228,646,367 bushels on March 31, 1930. The total for March 31, 1931, as compared with the total for March 31, 1930, within brackets, is composed of 169,277,275 bushels (169,954,132 bushels) in elevators and afloat, 88,633,000 bushels (46,304,000 bushels) in farmers' hands and 7,280,712 bushels (4,358,494 bushels) in transit by rail. The wheat in flour mills is estimated at 10 million bushels for March 31,1931; the actual total at March 31, 1930, was 8,029,741 bushels.

The total quantity of oats in Canada on March 31, 1931, is estimated at 210,272,666 bushels, as compared with 105,666,003 bushels at the same date in 1930, the total for 1931 comprising 16,659,076 bushels in elevators and flour mills, 192,104,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 1,509,590 bushels in transit by rail.

The total quantity of barley in Canada on March 31, 1931, is estimated at 84,630,228 bushels, as compared with 44,865,123 bushels in 1930, this year's total including 27,000,991 bushels in elevators and flour mills, 57,042,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 587,237 bushels in transit by rail.

Of flaxseed, the total quantity in store on March 31, 1931, was 2,797,116 bushels, as against 1,221,706 bushels in 1930, this year's total including 2,059,528 bushels in elevators, 612,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 125,588 bushels in transit by rail.

The quantity of rye in Canada on March 31, 1931 was 20,773,585 bushels, as compared with 11,040,353 bushels in 1930, the total for 1931 being made up of 13,259,880 bushels in elevators and flour mills, 7,309,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 204,705 bushels in transit by rail.

A detailed tabulation of stocks is given on the last page of this report.

STOCKS IN FARMERS' HANDS

According to the reports of crop correspondents, 22 per cent of the 1930 wheat crop remained in farmers' hands at March 31, 1931. This proportion represents 88,633,000 bushels out of the estimated production of 397,872,000 bushels. Seed for the 1931 crop is included in the stocks in farmers' hands. Comparable figures for March 31, 1930, are 15 per cent and 46,304,000 bushels, and for March 31, 1929, 11 per cent and 64,164,000 bushels. The quantity remaining in farmers' hands this year is lower than expected because of farm disappearance as feed for live stock and poultry.

Of the other field crops, the proportions and quantities estimated as remaining in farmers' hands on March 31, 1931, were, in bushels, as follows, last year's corresponding figures being given within brackets:

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PROPORTION OF THE 1930 CROPS UNMERCHANTABLE

Of the total estimated wheat crop of 1930, viz. 397.872.000 bushels, 1.1 p.c. or 4.302,000 bushels is reported by crop correspondents as having proved of unmerchantable quality. Of the remaining crops, the quantities, in bushels, and the proportions not merchantable are as follows: Oats 6.898,000 or 1.6 p.c. of 423,148,000; barley 1,997,000 or 1.5 p.c. of 135,160,200; rye 87,000 or 0.4 p.c. of 22,018,500; flaxseed 58,000 or 1.3 p.c. of 4,399,000; buckwheat 393,000 or 3.6 p.c. of 10,903,300; corn for husking 118,000 or 2 p.c. of 5,826,000; potatoes 3,210,000 cwt. or 6.7 p.c. or 48,241,000 cwt.; turnips, etc. 3,131,000 cwt. or 7.6 p.c. of 41,064,000 cwt.; hay and clover 242,000 tons or 1.5 p.c. of 16,397,000 tons. The proportion of potatoes estimated as lost through frost or rot during the past winter is 7 p.c. or 3,216,000 cwt., as corpared with 7 p.c. or 2,966,000 cwt. in 1929-30.

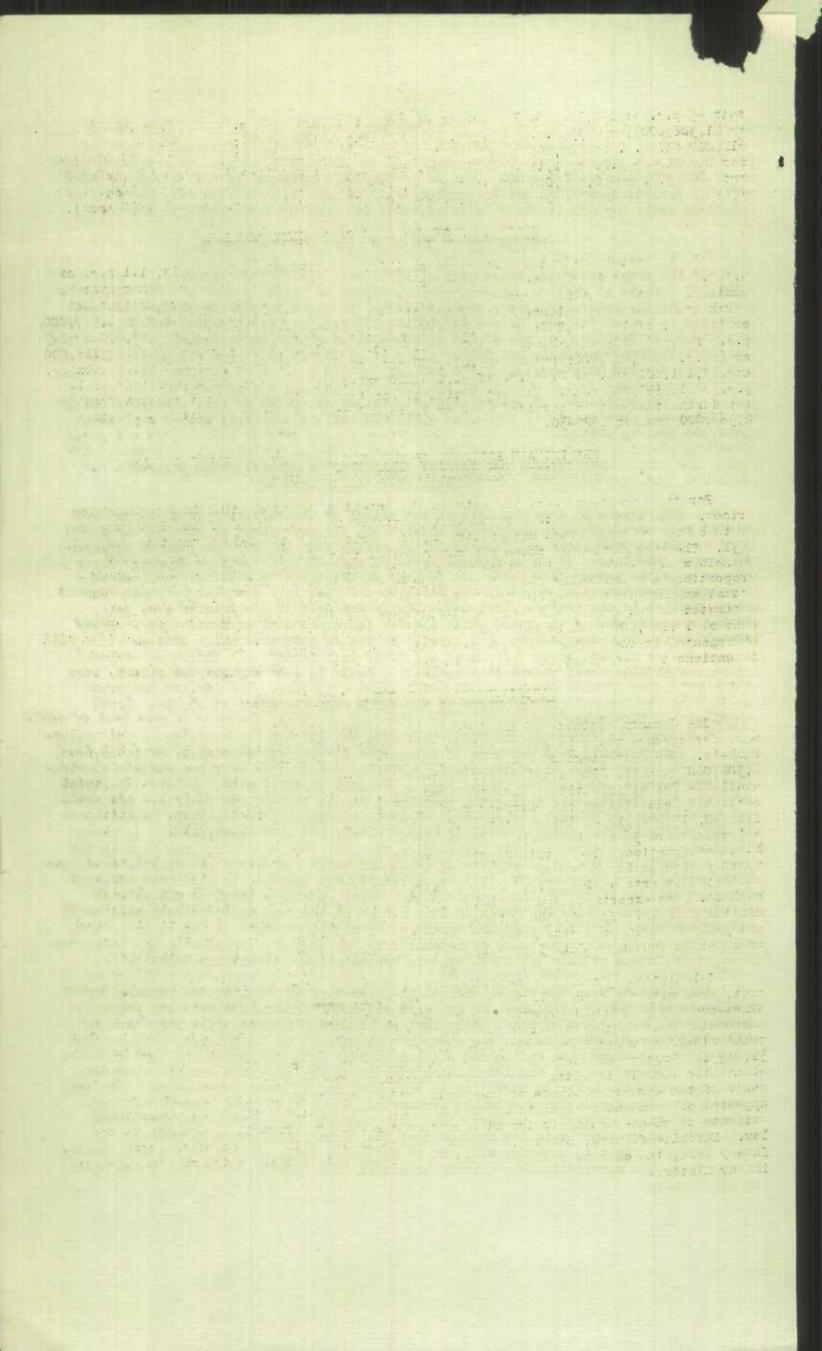
PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF THE EXTENT OF FEEDING WHEAT TO LIVE STOCK AND POULTRY, CROP SEASON 1930-31.

For the purpose of securing data on the extent of wheat-feeding in a year of low prices, crop correspondents were asked to estimate the percentage of the 1930 crop fed or to be fed to live stock and poultry in the period from the 1930 harvest to July 31, 1931. The compilation of these returns revealed that 10.5 per cent or 42,919,000 bushels would be fed to live stock and poultry during the crop season. The highest proportions are naturally found in the Maritime and Eastern Provinces, with the highest actual amounts in the Prairie Provinces. Nearly one-half of the Ontario crop is estimated as fed during the year, while Alberta correspondents estimate that 12.9 per cent or 17,144,000 bushels have been or will be fed in that province. This question will be repeated at the end of the crop year and since many factors can influence farmers' intentions to feed wheat the present estimate should be regarded as preliminary.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE WHEAT CROP OF 1930.

The January estimate of the 1930 wheat crop was 397,872,000 bushels. A fair allowance for dockage would be 2 per cent on deliveries of 310 million bushels or 6 200,000 bushels. The percentage not merchantable justifies a reduction of 1.1 per cent or 1,302,000 bushels. These deductions leave a net crop of 387,370,000 bushels. The total available for distribution during the crop year, August 1, 1930, to July 31, 1931, is secured by addition of the carry-over of wheat in Canada at July 31, 1930, amounting to 111,692,519 bushels — giving a total of approximately 499 million bushels. Necessary allowances are 36 million bushels for seeding the 1931 crop and 44 million bushels for human consumption. The total exports of wheat and wheat flour from Canada for the sevenmenth period ending February 28, 1931, were 168,288,434 bushels, to which may be added estimated exports of 14,750,000 bushels during March, making a total of 183,038,434 bushels. The exports in the remaining four months of the crop year are estimated at 78 million bushels. Thus if the entire amount of 43 million bushels is fed to live stock and poultry during the crop year, as estimated by our crop correspondents, the carryover of wheat in Canada at July 31, 1931, will be approximately 115 million bushels.

Calculations from the stocks on hand at March 31 (vin. 275,190,987 bushels) reveal that, even with the usual allowances for seed and human consumption and with the above allowance for subsequent exports, there must be extensive farm disappearance in the succeeding four months to reduce the carryover at July 31 to 115 million bushels. Out total stocks of wheat have fallen 224 million bushels from the harvest of 1930 to March 31, 1931. Exports account for 183 million bushels of the reduction and the remaining 41 million bushels is little more than is accounted for by human consumption. On the basis of the January estimate of wheat production, about 13 million bushels have disappeared on farms as feed up to March 31. This suggests that either the preliminary estimate of wheat-feeding is too high or that the January production estimate is too low. Definite figures, however, will not be available until the end of the crop season. In any case, the carryover seems certain to exceed that of 1930 which was the largest in our history.



GENERAL CONDITIONS AT THE END OF MARCH

Throughout practically the whole of Canada the winter has been mild and favourable for the wintering of live stock. In the Maritimes and Eastern Provinces, a good snow covering has helped the hay and winter crops. In the Prairie Provinces, there has been little snowfall so that live stock have been wintered in the open. The top soil is dry and subject to drifting. While conducive to early seeding, such conditions require early precipitation for the new crop. British Columbia conditions are generally hopeful for the 1931 crops.

Maritime Provinces. All classes of live stock came through the winter in fine condition with plentiful supplies of feed of all kinds. There has been a good covering of snow throughout the winter and with gradual thawing and little runsoff, there should be sufficient moisture for some time. There is little frost in the ground and the prospects are for an early spring!

Quebec. All live stock are reported as having wintered well. There is still a considerable amount of snow on the fields. The ground is not frozen to any extent owing to the ample snow covering, so that prospects for grasses and clovers are good! There is practically no ice on the fields which is the usual thing at this time. Low lands are still under water, but the higher lands are quite dry. The prospects for 1931 are quite favourable.

Ontario. The condition of all live stock is the very best owing to moderate winter weather and plentiful supply of fodder. The winter wheat as well as clover is in good condition. There is little frost in the ground and some farmers are preparing to work on the land. The supply of moisture varies and rain would be welcome. Quite a number of early lambs are reported and there have been few losses. Alfalfa has come through the winter in much better condition than in the last few years as there has been practically no heaving. Some districts have a plentiful supply of seed oats, barley and alfalfa. Well-drained clay land is in splendid shape for seeding. Heavy draught horses are selling at good prices, as well as pure-bred dairy cattle.

Manitoba. With a plentiful supply of cheap feed throughout the winter, live stock have come through the winter in first class condition. The weather has been quite mild for the most part. There is still considerable frost at nights. Local snowflurries were experienced during the last week of March: There is a good deal of soil-drifting reported especially on last year's fallow.

Saskatchewan. The open winter has resulted in a considerable saving of feed, especially in the districts where drought was most severe last year and where a shortage of feed existed. Live stock are generally reported in fairly good condition. In the southern and central districts the reserve of soil moisture is generally low and abundant rains will be required for the new crop and to prevent soil-drifting. Conditions in the north, however, with respect to soil moisture are more favourable.

Alberta.- The mild winter, as well as the large supplies of feed, helped to bring live stock of all classes through in fairly good condition. The land has been practically bare of snow most of the winter. There is little top-soil moisture so that copious rains will be needed for the crop and to prevent soil-drifting which has already started. Wells and creeks are reported to be very dry.

Eritish Columbia. The winter has been one of the mildest on record with snowfall considerably below normal. Soil conditions are excellent at present owing to heavy rains during February and March with little or no frost in the ground. Very little surface run-off has occurred owing to light snowfall. Prospects are that later there will be a scarcity of water for irrigation purposes. Fall wheat and rye are in good condition.

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STOCKS OF GRAIN IN CANADA AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR MARCH 31, 1931.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has collected and compiled data showing complete stocks of grain in Canada at the close of the Fiscal The quantities in flour mills are estimated on the basis of holdings at the end of February.

	WHEAT Bush.	OATS Bush.	BARLEY Bush.	FLAXSEED Bush.	RYE Bush.	TOTAL Bush.
Public and Private Terminal Elevators, Fort William and Fort Arthur and afloat Interior Private and Mfg. Elevators Interior Terminal Elevators, Western Division Vancouver Terminal and Private Elevators Victoria Elevator Prince Rupert Private Elevator Country Elevators, Western Division Public Elevators in the East and afloat In Transit - Railways In Flour Mills - Estimated In Farmers' Hands	51,417,557 6,441,976 4,665,974 12,458,932 933,422 1,166,474 76,391,715 15,801,225 7,280,712 10,000,000 88,633,000	3,929,089 1,133,173 267,810 129,026 284 7,836,724 1,762,970 1,509,590 1,600,000 192,104,000	14,799,128 1,934,667 41,254 99 - 3,632,926 6,392,917 587,237 200,000 57,042,000	1,137,875 64,646 141 892 - 855,974 125,588 612,000	8,183,970 65,821 4,257 14,274 2,190,515 2,771,043 204,705 30,000 7,309,000	79,467,619 9,640,283 4,979,436 12,603,223 933,422 1,166,758 90,907,854 26,728,155 9,707,832 11,830,000 345,700,000
T O T A L S, 1931	275,190,987	210,272,666	84,630,228	2,797,116	20,773,585	593,664,582
1930	228,646,367	105,666,003	44,865,123	1,221,706	11,040,353	391,439,552

