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STOCKS ON HAND AND QUALITY OF FIELD CROPS OF 1922.

Ottawa, April 14, 1923. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issued to-day a bulletin giving, in summary form, the total quantities of grain (wheat, oats, barley, rye and flaxseed) in Canada at the end of March; the stocks of agricultural products of 1922 remaining in farmers' hands at the same date; and the proportion of the crops of 1922 that proved to be of merchantable quality.

TOTAL STOCKS OF GRAIN IN CANADA.

Returns from elevators, flour mills, railway companies and crop correspondents show that on March 31, 1923, the quantity in Canada of wheat was 139,788,000 bushels, as compared with 114,986,000 bushels in 1922. The total for 1923 comprises 76,620,000 bushels in elevators and flour mills 54,771,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 8,397,000 bushels in transit. Of oats, the total in Canada on March 31, 1923, is estimated at 191,718,000 bushels, as compared with 175,610,000 bushels in 1922. The total for 1923 comprises 17,800,000 bushels in elevators and mills, 171,163,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 2,755,000 bushels in transit. The total quantity of barley in Canada on March 31, 1923, was 25,429,000 bushels, as compared with 21,554,000 bushels last year, the figures for 1923 comprising 7,339,000 bushels in elevators and mills, 17,836,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 254,000 bushels in transit. Of flaxseed, the total quantity in store on March 31, 1923, was 1,742,000 bushels, as compared with 2,188,000 bushels last year. This year's total includes 808,000 bushels in elevators, 837,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 97,000 bushels in transit. Of rye, the quantities in hand on March 31, 1923, were 9,835,000 bushels, as against 6,683,000 bushels last year, this year's total comprising 4,226,000 bushels in elevators and mills, 5,433,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 176,000 bushels in transit. For all these grains, excepting flaxseed, the quantities in Canada at the end of March, 1923, are more than they were a year ago.

STOCKS IN FARMERS' HANDS.

At the end of March, according to the reports of crop correspondents, 14 p.c. of the total wheat crop of 1922 remained in farmers' hands, this proportion representing 54,771,000 bushels out of the total estimated gross production of 399,786,400 bushels. The proportion of 14 p.c. is the same as in 1922, when the quantity was 41,649,000 bushels out of the total production in 1921 of 300,858,100 bushels. Of the other field crops the proportions and quantities estimated as remaining in farmers' hands on March 31, 1923, were, in bushels, as follows, last year's corresponding proportions and quantities being shown within brackets: Oats 35 p.c., or 171,163,000 (35 p.c., or 147,604,000); barley 25 p.c., or 17,836,000 (25 p.c., or 14,901,000); rye 17 p.c., or 5,433,000 (21 p.c., or 4,538,800); buckwheat 22 p.c., or 2,127,000 (20 p.c., or 1,661,000); corn for husking 22 p.c., or 3,054,000 (23 p.c., or 3,441,000); flaxseed 17 p.c., or 837,000 (15 p.c., or 618,000); potatoes 35 p.c., or 19,359,000 centals (37 p.c., or 23,606,000 centals); turnips, etc., 13 p.c., or 5,774,000 centals (11 p.c., or 4,492,000 centals); hay and clover 26 p.c., or 5,781,000 tons (18 p.c., or 2,025,000 tons).

MERCHANTABLE QUALITY OF CROPS, 1922.

Of the total estimated wheat crop of 1922, viz., 399,786,400 bushels, 98 p.c. is reported by crop correspondents as having proved of merchantable quality, the proportion representing 389,987,000

bushels. Last year's corresponding figures were 96 p.c., or 288,316,000 bushels out of 300,858,100 bushels. The proportion of 98 p.c. for 1922 is higher than in any previous year since these reports were instituted in 1909. In Saskatchewan, the proportion is even higher than the percentage for all Canada, being 99 p.c., or 247,665,000 bushels out of the total estimated crop of 250,167,000 bushels. Of the remaining crops the quantities and proportions merchantable are, in bushels, as follows, the previous year's corresponding figures being given within brackets: Oats 452,569,000, or 92 p.c. of 491,239,000 (367,871,000, or 86 p.c. of 426,232,900); barley 68,207,000, or 95 p.c. of 71,865,300 (54,684,000, or 92 p.c. of 59,709,100); rye 31,123,500, or 96 p.c. of 32,373,400 (20,903,000, or 97 p.c. of 21,455,260); buckwheat 8,633,000, or 89 p.c. of 9,701,200 (7,111,000, or 86 p.c. of 8,230,100); corn for husking 12,172,000, or 88 p.c. of 13,798,000 (13,739,000, or 92 p.c. of 14,904,000); flaxseed 4,752,000, or 95 p.c. of 5,008,500 (3,924,000, or 95 p.c. of 4,111,800); potatoes 45,908,000 centals, or 82 p.c. of 55,745,300 centals (53,641,000 centals, or 83 p.c. of 64,408,000 centals); turnips, etc., 38,383,000 centals, or 87 p.c. of 43,973,500 centals (33,311,000 centals, or 84 p.c. of 39,579,000 centals); hay and clover 13,130,000 tons, or 91 p.c. of 14,488,200 tons (9,930,000 tons, or 87 p.c. of 11,366,100 tons. The proportion of potatoes estimated by crop correspondents as lost through frost or rot during the past winter is 11 p.c., or 6,312,000 centals, the proportion last year being 8 p.c., and in 1920-21 16 p.c.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE WHEAT CROP OF 1922.

It has been shown that the merchantable crop of 1922 was 389,987,000 bushels. Deducting from this figure 11,994,000 bushels to represent loss in cleaning (3 p.c. of total crop of 399,786,000), and adding 16,013,000 bushels, the final estimate of the carry over from last year, and estimating 250,000 bushels for imports, we get 394,256,000 bushels as the net quantity available for distribution. Placing domestic requirements (seed, flour, carry over, etc.) at 100 million bushels, the indicated exportable surplus is 294,256,000 bushels. For the seven months ended March 31, 1923, the actual exports of wheat and flour were 198,944,000 bushels, leaving a balance of 95,312,000 bushels, the visible supply on March 31, 1923, being over 85 million bushels, in addition to 54,771,000 bushels estimated as in farmers' hands.

GENERAL CONDITIONS ON MARCH 31, 1923.

The winter has been a severe one, steady cold weather with an unusually large amount of snow almost everywhere. In most places fodder was sufficient, and live stock had come through the winter in good shape. The spring season is late in opening up; but a good supply of moisture is ensured owing to the heavy snows. Prices for most farm produce are still very discouraging.

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