

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
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STOCKS ON HAND AND QUALITY OF FIELD CROPS OF 1923.

Ottawa, April 14, 1924, 4.30 p.m.- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issued to-day a bulletin giving in summary form and subject to final revision the total quantities of grain (wheat, oats, barley, rye and flaxseed) in Canada at the end of March; the stocks of agricultural products of 1923 remaining in farmers' hands at the same date; and the proportion of the crops of 1923 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, 1924, the quantity in Canada of wheat was 202,493,000 bushels, as compared with 139,788,000 bushels in 1923. The total for 1924 comprises 117,539,000 bushels in elevators and flour mills, 70,755,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 14,149,000 bushels in transit. Of oats the total in Canada on March 31, 1924, is estimated at 283,516,000 bushels, as compared with 191,718,000 bushels in 1923. The total for 1924 comprises 32,412,000 bushels in elevators and mills, 248,363,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 2,741,000 bushels in transit. The total quantity of barley in Canada on March 31, 1924, was 30,119,000 bushels, as compared with 25,429,000 bushels in 1923, the figures for 1924 comprising 5,391,000 bushels in elevators and mills, 21,492,000 bushels in farmers' hands, and 3,236,000 bushels in transit. Of flaxseed the total quantity in store on March 31, 1924, was 4,265,000 bushels, as against 1,742,000 bushels last year, this year's total including 1,755,000 bushels in elevators, 2,397,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 113,000 bushels in transit. Of rye the quantities in hand on March 31, 1924, were 8,526,000 bushels, as against 9,825,000 bushels last year, this year's total comprising 3,504,000 bushels in elevators and mills, 4,468,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 554,000 bushels in transit. For all these grains, excepting rye, the quantities in Canada at the end of March 1924, are greater than they were a year ago.

Stocks in Farmers' Hands.

At the end of March, according to the reports of crop correspondents, 15 p.c. of the total wheat crop of 1923 remained in farmers' hands, this proportion representing 70,755,000 bushels out of the total estimated gross production of 474,199,000 bushels. In 1923 the proportion remaining in farmers' hands was 14 p.c., or 54,771,000 bushels out of 399,786,400 bushels, the total production of 1922. Of the other field crops the proportions and quantities estimated as remaining in farmers' hands on March 31, 1924, were in bushels as follows, last year's corresponding proportions and quantities being shown within brackets: Oats 44 p.c., or 248,363,000 (35 p.c., or 171,163,000); barley 28 p.c., or 21,492,000 (25 p.c., or 17,836,000); rye 19 p.c., or 4,467,600 (17 p.c., or 5,433,000); buckwheat 20 p.c., or 1,949,000 (22 p.c., or 2,127,000); corn for husking 18 p.c., or 2,427,000 (22 p.c., or 3,054,000); flaxseed 34 p.c., or 2,397,400 (17 p.c., or 837,000); potatoes 34 p.c., or 19,002,000 cwt. (35 p.c., or 19,359,000 cwt.); turnips, etc. 12 p.c., or 4,550,600 cwt. (13 p.c., or 5,774,000 cwt.); hay and clover 26 p.c., or 3,894,000 tons (26 p.c., or 3,781,000 tons).

Merchantable Quality of Crops, 1923.

Of the total estimated wheat crop of 1923, viz., 474,199,000 bushels, 96 p.c. is reported by crop correspondents as having proved of merchantable quality, the proportion representing 454,804,000 bushels. Last year's corresponding figures were 98 p.c., or 389,987 bushels out of 399,786,400 bushels. Of the remaining crops the quantities and proportions merchantable are, in bushels, as follows, last year's corresponding figures being given within brackets: Oats 535,767,000, or 95 p.c. of 563,997,500 (452,469,000, or 92 p.c. of 491,269,000); barley 72,703,000, or 94 p.c. of 76,997,800 (68,207,000, or 95 p.c. of 71,865,300); rye 22,123,500 or 95 p.c. of 23,231,800 (31,103,500 or 96 p.c. of 32,373,400); buckwheat 8,494,000, or 87 p.c. of 9,743,700 (8,633,000, or 89 p.c. of 9,701,200); corn for husking 10,795,000, or 79 p.c. of 13,608,000 (12,172,000, or 88 p.c. of 13,798,000); flaxseed 6,370,700, or 96 p.c. of 7,139,500 (4,752,000, or 95 p.c. of 5,008,500); potatoes 47,243,000 cwt., or 85 p.c. of 55,497,000 cwt. (45,908,000 cwt., or 82 p.c. of 55,745,300 cwt.); turnips, etc. 32,412,000 cwt., or 85 p.c. of 38,116,500 cwt. (38,383,000 cwt., or 87 p.c. of 43,973,500 cwt.); hay and clover 13,621,000 tons, or 92 p.c. of 14,844,900 tons (13,130,000 tons, or 91 p.c. of 14,488,200 tons). The proportion of potatoes estimated by crop correspondents as lost through frost or rot during the past winter is 8 p.c., or 4,416,000 cwt. as compared with 11 p.c., or 6,312,000 cwt. in 1922-23 and 8 p.c., or 4,953,000 cwt. in 1921-22.

Distribution of the Wheat Crop of 1923.

As shown above, the merchantable wheat crop of 1923 was 454,804,000 bushels. Deducting from this figure 13,968,000 bushels to represent loss in cleaning (4 p.c. of total crop of 474,199,000 bushels), adding 11,750,000 bushels the "carry over" from the previous crop year and estimating 675,000 bushels for imports, we get 448,261,000 bushels as the net quantity available for distribution. Placing domestic requirements at 100 million bushels, the indicated exportable surplus is 348,261,000 bushels. For the seven months ended March 31, 1924, the actual exports of wheat and flour were 229,039,000 bushels, leaving a balance of 119,222,000 bushels. The visible supply on March 31, 1924, was 131,738,000 in addition to 70,755,000 bushels estimated as in farmers' hands. The visible supply of 131,738,000 bushels is sufficient after counting 25 million bushels as food for the five months April 1 to August 31 to allow of the further exportation of about 107 million bushels. This would make the total exportable surplus to be 336 million bushels, without counting the surplus in farmers' hands after providing for seed.

General Conditions on March 31, 1924.

The winter has been fine and mild. Live stock are in good condition. Fodder was plentiful. Markets for live stock are poor, except for heavy horses, good milch cows and sheep.

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