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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
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STOCKS ON HAND AND QUALITY OF CROPS OF 1927

Ottawa, April 16, 1928, 4 p.m. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issued to-day a bulletin giving in summary form (1) the total quantities of grain (wheat, oats, barley, rye and flaxseed) in Canada at the end of March, 1928; (2) the stocks of agricultural products of 1927 remaining in farmers' hands at the same date; and (3) the proportion of the crops of 1927 estimated to be of merchantable quality. The bulletin also describes briefly the general conditions by provinces throughout Canada, as reported by crop correspondents on March 31, 1928, and presents calculations relating to the distribution of the wheat crop of 1927.

TOTAL STOCKS OF GRAIN IN CANADA

Returns from elevators, flour mills, railway companies, and crop correspondents show that on March 31, 1928 the quantity of wheat in Canada was 209,546,000 bushels, as compared with 174,382,000 on March 31, 1927. The total for 1928 comprises in round numbers 135,855,000 bushels in elevators, flour mills and afloat, 64,654,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 19,037,000 bushels in transit by rail. Of oats, the total quantity in Canada on March 31, 1928, is estimated at 179,238,000 bushels, as compared with 146,014,000 bushels in 1927, the total for 1928 comprises 13,712,000 bushels in elevators and mills, 161,875,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 3,671,000 bushels in transit by rail.

The total quantity of barley in Canada on March 31, 1928 was 32,119,000 bushels as compared with 34,379,000 bushels in 1927, the figures for 1928 comprising 8,512,000 bushels in elevators and flour mills, 22,175,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 1,432,000 bushels in transit by rail. Of flaxseed, the total quantity in store on March 31, 1928 was 3,834,000 bushels, as against 4,370,000 bushels in 1927, this year's total including 2,943,000 bushels in elevators, 718,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 173,000 bushels in transit by rail. The quantities of rye in Canada on March 31, 1928 were 7,644,000 bushels as compared with 5,838,000 bushels in 1927, the quantity for 1928 including 4,747,000 bushels in elevators and mills, 2,000,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 897,000 bushels in transit by rail.

STOCKS IN FARMERS' HANDS

At the end of March, according to the reports of crop correspondents 15 p.c. of the wheat crop for 1927 remained in farmers' hands, this proportion applied to the total estimated production of 440,024,700 bushels representing 64,654,000 bushels. In 1927, the percentage of 13 was reported which, for the 1926 crop of 407,136,000 bushels represented 50,955,000 bushels as remaining in farmers' hands on March 31, 1927. Of the other field crops, the proportions and quantities estimated as remaining in farmers' hands on March 31, 1928 were, in bushels, as follows: last year's corresponding percentages and quantities being shown within brackets: Oats 37 p.c., or 161,875,000 (34 p.c., or 129,992,000); barley 23 p.c., or 22,175,000 (22 p.c. or 22,496,000); rye 13 p.c., or 1,999,500 (12 p.c., or 1,476,300); buckwheat 20 p.c., or 2,138,000 (18 p.c., or 1,778,000); corn for husking 12 p.c., or 505,000 (21 p.c., or 1,677,000); flaxseed 15 p.c., or 718,000 (11 p.c., or 674,000); potatoes 30 p.c., or 13,842,000 cwt. (30 p.c., or 14,056,000 cwt.); turnips, etc. 11 p.c., or 4,128,000 cwt. (10 p.c., or 3,388,000 cwt.); hay and clover 29 p.c., or 4,957,000 tons (22 p.c., or 3,062,000 tons).

MERCHANTABLE QUALITY OF CROPS, 1927.

Of the total estimated wheat crop of 1927, viz., 440,024,700 bushels, 94 p.c. is reported by crop correspondents as having proved to be merchantable quality; this proportion representing 412,427,000 bushels. Last year's corresponding figures were 95 p.c., or 388,110,000 bushels out of 407,136,000 bushels. Of the remaining crops the quantities in bushels and proportions merchantable are as follows, last year's corresponding figures being given within brackets: Oats 381,351,000 or 87 p.c. of 439,712,700 (333,337,000, or 87 p.c. of 383,416,000); barley 90,027,000, or 93 p.c. of 96,938,000 (92,727,000, or 93 p.c. of 99,987,000); rye 14,210,400, or 95 p.c. of 14,950,600 (11,647,400 or 96 p.c. of 12,178,900); buckwheat 9,457,000, or 87 p.c. of

10,890,000 (8,285,000 or 84 p.c. of 9,832,000); corn for husking 2,758,000, or 65 p.c. of 4,262,000 (5,479,000, or 70 p.c. of 7,813,000); flaxseed 4,623,000 or 95 p.c. of 4,884,500 (5,586,000 or 93 p.c. of 5,994,700); potatoes 36,196,000 cwt. or 75 p.c. of 46,458,000 cwt. (38,147,000 cwt. or 81 p.c. of 46,937,000 cwt.); turnips, etc., 31,791,000, or 85 p.c. of 37,248,000 cwt. (28,577,000 cwt. or 83 p.c. of 34,235,000 cwt.); hay and clover 14,798,000 tons or 85 p.c. of 17,370,000 tons (12,094,000 or 65 p.c. of 14,058,000 tons). The proportion of potatoes estimated as lost through frost or rot during the past winter is 10 p.c. or 4,576,000 cwt. as compared with 13 p.c. or 5,871,000 cwt. in 1926-27.

GENERAL CONDITIONS AT THE END OF MARCH

Atlantic Provinces.- The mild winter has kept livestock in a satisfactory condition. Fodder has been plentiful in most localities but has had to be purchased in others at a comparatively high price. Live stock prices have been maintained at a good figure especially for milch cows. Prices of swine alone have not shown advances. The outlook for this class is encouraging with a fair market in Nova Scotia particularly. Seed grain is somewhat scarce. Potatoes have kept well and are bringing good prices.

Quebec.- Although the winter has been severe, livestock are in good condition excepting lambs which are suffering from the cold spring weather. Horses are bringing fair prices, while milch cows are scarce and high priced. There is a demand for butcher cattle. Swine prices are none too satisfactory. The potato crop was poor in many districts, and of an inferior quality. Fodder is plentiful especially hay but there is hardly any sale for this. Some seed grain will have to be purchased. Spring operations will be somewhat held up owing to the heavy snowfall this past winter.

Ontario.- Reports from every part of the province state that livestock have come through the winter in good shape. There has been plenty of feed of all kinds except in northern Ontario where oats were scarce owing to the prevalence of rust last fall. This has necessitated heavy purchases of mill feed at a high price. Seed grain is also scarce and many farmers will have to purchase their seed from outside sources. Horses and cattle are commanding good prices with an active market but the supply of the former is short. Sheep are also bringing satisfactory returns. Swine prices are low with a dull market. In the south and western parts of the province, the open winter season has somewhat damaged the winter wheat and clover crops. On the whole, however, the outlook is promising.

Manitoba.- Livestock are reported to be in good condition owing to generally favourable weather during the latter part of the winter. However, horses have suffered somewhat owing to the scarcity of feed oats which have had in some cases, to be brought into the province. It is likely that some seed oats will also be shipped in. The stock of swine has also been lowered on account of these conditions. While prices vary in different parts of the province, there have been favourable increases except for swine. Heavy draft horses and good milch cows as well as other cattle are demanding a good figure. Roughage appears to be plentiful. The farmers in many cases are prepared for an early start in spring work and the outlook is promising.

Saskatchewan.- Severe weather previous to the New Year was followed by more favourable weather which resulted in a saving in feed. Livestock, in general, are coming out of winter quarters in fairly good condition, although some report thin horses in those districts where the rust on oats was bad. Prices of cattle have been very good. Sheep prices have been steady but the prices on hogs have not been attractive.

Alberta.- Owing to poor crop conditions last fall, some of the wheat crop was left standing and is now being threshed. Weather conditions at present are good and the outlook is promising. Livestock have wintered well. Range horses are in good condition in spite of a hard winter. Prices are reported as improving for all kinds except for swine. Horses are bringing as high as \$350 for a heavy draft team and milch cows as much as \$85 a piece. There is plenty of grain and fodder for feed. An early spring is anticipated. The moisture supply is abundant so that altogether, prospects are very hopeful.

British Columbia.- Prospects for maximum yields of all field crops are practically assured for 1928 because splendid moisture and climatic conditions have followed a good winter and spring work advancing rapidly. Fruit trees in all districts came through winter in very satisfactory shape, and present prospects are

that there will be a satisfactory crop of apples as well as stone fruits. All live-stock in fairly good condition. Not demand for horses. Good demand for dairy cattle at somewhat enhancing values. Sheep in good demand and prices remaining stable. Market for beef cattle very good with satisfactory prices. Demand for swine good but price low.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE WHEAT CROP OF 1927.

From the gross crop of 1927, viz. 440,024,700 bushels should be deducted 40,797,700 bushels to represent loss in cleaning (3 p.c.) and grain not merchantable (6 p.c.). This makes the net crop to be 399,227,000 bushels. Adding the carryover on August 1, 1927, viz. 47,839,000 bushels and estimated imports of say 500,000 bushels, the total available for distribution during the crop year August 1, 1927, to July 31, 1928, becomes 447,566,000 bush. Of this amount, 40 million bushels may be allowed for seed, 42 million bushels for food and, for a carryover on August 1, 1928, say 50 million bushels. Thus we obtain 315,566,000 bushels as the quantity available for export during the year. From August 1, 1927, to March 31, 1928, the exports of wheat and flour are estimated at 225,000,000 bushels; so that apparently there remains about 90,566,000 bushels for export during the remaining four months of the current crop year.

The stocks in Canada on March 31, 1928, are as reported above 219,545,847 bushels. Deducting 40 million bushels for seed, 14 million bushels as food requirements for the next four months and allowing 50 million bushels as carryover, the balance exportable is 115,545,847 bushels, or approximately 25 million bushels more than the quantity calculated from the estimate of production.

It may be pointed out, however, that the Bureau's estimate of January showed a decrease of 18,716,300 bushels from its preliminary estimate published in September last. This is partially accounted for by the fact that the crop has proved very low grade. Doubtless considerable quantities of wheat earlier thought to be unmerchantable, have not proved a total loss. It will further be remembered that the Bureau's September estimate was, at the time, subjected to much adverse criticism as being too high. Possibly the judgment of the crop correspondents of the Bureau may have been somewhat influenced by such comments in their subsequent revisions of the September figures.

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