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Minister of Trade and CommerceDEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
AGRICULTURAL BRANCHDominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S. (Hon.), F.R.S.C.
Chief, Agricultural Branch: F. J. Horning, B.A., F.S.S.STOCKS ON HAND AND QUALITY OF CROPS OF 1928.

Ottawa, April 16, 1929, 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, 1929; (2) the stocks of agricultural products of 1928 remaining in farmers' hands at the same date; and (3) the proportion of the crops of 1928 estimated to be of merchantable quality. The bulletin also describes briefly the general conditions throughout Canada as reported by crop correspondents on March 31, 1929, and presents calculations relating to the distribution of the wheat crop of 1928.

TOTAL STOCKS OF GRAIN IN CANADA

Returns from elevators, flour mills, railway companies and crop correspondents show that on March 31, 1929, the quantity of wheat in Canada was 244,423,005 bushels, as compared with 226,271,847 bushels on March 31, 1928. The total for 1929 comprises in round numbers 171,290,526 bushels in elevators, flour mills and afloat, 60,517,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 12,615,479 bushels in transit by rail. Of oats, the total quantity in Canada on March 31, 1929, is estimated at 188,071,243 bushels, as compared with 179,817,809 bushels in 1928, the total for 1929 comprising 24,955,306 bushels in elevators and flour mills, 160,416,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 2,699,937 bushels in transit by rail.

The total quantity of barley in Canada on March 31, 1929, was 49,455,935 bushels as compared with 32,124,126 bushels in 1928, the figures for 1929 comprising 18,381,627 bushels in elevators and flour mills, 29,084,000 bushels in farmers' hands and 1,990,308 bushels in transit by rail. Of flaxseed, the total quantity in store on March 31, 1929, was 1,718,824 bushels, as against 3,834,404 bushels in 1928, this year's total including 1,292,922 bushels in elevators, 328,700 bushels in farmers' hands and 97,202 bushels in transit by rail. The quantity of rye in Canada on March 31, 1929, was 6,648,145 bushels as compared with 7,645,903 bushels in 1928, the quantity for 1929 including 4,428,469 bushels in elevators and mills, 1,443,200 bushels in farmers' hands and 776,476 bushels in transit by rail.

STOCKS IN FARMERS' HANDS

At the end of March, according to the reports of crop correspondents, 11 p.c. of the wheat crop of 1928 remained in farmers' hands, this proportion applied to the total estimated production of 533,571,700 bushels representing 60,517,000 bushels. In 1928, the percentage of 15 was reported, which for the 1927 crop of 479,665,000 bushels, represented 69,807,000 bushels as remaining in farmers' hands on March 31, 1928. Of the other field crops, the proportions and quantities estimated as remaining in farmers' hands on March 31, 1929, were, in bushels, as follows, last year's corresponding percentages and quantities being shown within brackets: Oats 35 p.c., or 160,416,000 (37 p.c., or 161,875,000); barley 21 p.c., or 29,084,000 (23 p.c., or 22,175,000); rye 10 p.c., or 1,443,200 (13 p.c., or 1,999,500); buckwheat 18 p.c., or 2,016,000 (20 p.c., or 2,138,000); corn for husking 11 p.c., or 558,000 (12 p.c., or 505,000); flaxseed 9 p.c., or 328,700 (15 p.c., or 718,000); potatoes 35 p.c., or 17,516,000 cwt. (30 p.c., or 13,842,000 cwt.); turnips, etc. 12 p.c., or 5,080,000 cwt. (11 p.c., or 4,128,000 cwt.); hay and clover 25 p.c., or 4,055,000 tons (29 p.c., or 4,957,000 tons).

MERCHANTABLE QUALITY OF CROPS, 1928.

Of the total estimated wheat crop of 1928, viz. 533,571,700 bushels, 95 p.c. is reported by crop correspondents as having proved to be of merchantable quality, this proportion representing 505,718,000 bushels. Last year's corresponding figures were 94 p.c., or 449,689,000 bushels out of a total crop of 479,665,000 bushels. Of the remaining crops, the quantities in bushels and proportions merchantable are as follows, last year's figures being given within brackets: Oats 407,039,000, or 90 p.c. of 452,153,000 (381,351,000 or 87 p.c. of 439,712,700); barley 129,083,000 or 95 p.c. of 136,391,400 (122,027,000 or 93 p.c. of 96,938,000); rye 14,092,600 or 96 p.c. of 14,617,700 (14,210,400 or 95 p.c. of 14,950,600); buckwheat 9,356,000 or 86 p.c. of 10,899,300 (8,457,000 or 87 p.c. of 10,890,000); corn for husking 3,999,000 or 76 p.c. of 5,241,000 (2,768,000 or 65 p.c. of 4,262,000); flaxseed 3,349,000 or 93 p.c. of 3,614,400 (4,623,000 or 95 p.c. of 4,884,600); potatoes 39,874,000 cwt. or 79 p.c. of 50,195,000 cwt.

(36,196,000 cwt. or 78 p.c. of 46,453,000 cwt.); turnips, etc. 38,158,000 cwt. or 87 p.c. of 43,623,000 cwt. (31,791,000 cwt. or 85 p.c. of 37,248,000 cwt.); hay and clover 14,209,000 tons or 86 p.c. of 16,515,000 tons (14,798,000 tons or 85 p.c. of 17,370,000 tons). The proportion of potatoes estimated as lost through frost or rot during the past winter is 11 p.c. or 5,317,000 cwt., as compared with 10 p.c. or 4,576,000 cwt. in 1927-28.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE WHEAT CROP OF 1928.

From the gross crop of 1928, viz. 533,572,000 bushels should be deducted 43,861,000 bushels to represent loss in cleaning (3 p.c.) and grain not merchantable (5 p.c.). This makes the net crop to be 489,711,000 bushels. Adding the carryover on August 1, 1928, viz. 76,484,000 bushels and estimated imports of say 500,000 bushels, the total available for distribution during the crop year August 1, 1928 to July 31, 1929, becomes 566,695,000 bushels. Of this amount 42 million bushels may be allowed for seed, 44 million bushels for food and for a carryover on August 1, 1929, say 75 million bushels. Thus we obtain 405,695,000 bushels as the quantity available for export during the year. From August 1, 1928 to March 31, 1929, the exports of wheat and flour are estimated at 310,000,000 bushels; so that apparently there remains about 95,695,000 bushels for export during the remaining four months of the current crop year.

The stocks in Canada on March 31, 1929, are as reported above, 244,423,000 bushels. Deducting 42 million bushels for seed, 15 million bushels as food requirements for the next four months and allowing 75 million bushels as carryover, the balance exportable is 112,423,000 bushels or approximately 16,728,000 more than the quantity calculated from the estimate of production. Final marketing figures will not be available, of course, until after July 31, the close of the crop year.

GENERAL CONDITIONS AT THE END OF MARCH

Atlantic Provinces.— The winter has been mild, much similar to last year, with the result that live stock are in good condition. There is plenty of feed on hand. Potatoes are very plentiful, but, as there is no market for them, farmers have been compelled to feed them to stock. Draft horses, good fresh cows and beef cattle are much in demand, as well as young pigs. In some instances, prices have advanced from last year. Prospects are for an early spring.

Quebec.— All live stock are in good condition. The winter has been quite favourable. There is plenty of feed on hand except in a few districts. Prevailing prices are high for all classes of stock. Pure bred animals, which are in good demand, are rather scarce. The outlook for the hog market has improved. Seed grain will have to be purchased in many cases. Potatoes have not kept well, and prices are low with a poor market. On the whole, prospects are bright.

Ontario.— Reports from all over the province state that live stock are generally in good condition, with a few exceptions due to a scarcity of feed. While rough feed is quite plentiful, large quantities of grain feed have had to be purchased. Northern Ontario reports an especially favourable winter with prospects of an early spring. Many horses are being imported from the West, although local stock is quite in demand and bringing good prices. The hog market is looking better. Fall wheat and clovers are reported to have wintered well.

Manitoba.— Despite a severe winter, live stock are reported to be in the best of condition. Feed has been plentiful and there is sufficient to last until grass is available. There is a good supply of hay on hand but little sale for it. Prices for all classes of live stock are good, those for swine having improved this spring, especially in the case of pure-bred sows. There have been fairly heavy shipments of hogs in some localities. On account of the comparatively small amount of snow during the winter, the land has been drying rapidly and some field work has already begun. Prospects are very promising.

Saskatchewan.— After an exceptionally favourable fall, fairly constant cold weather, beginning in January and continuing throughout February, necessitated heavier feeding of live stock. But as feed was plentiful in most districts, animals generally are coming out of winter quarters in good condition. The horse market is not particularly keen, but prices of cattle are encouraging with a good demand for milch cows. Sheep prices have generally been satisfactory and there has been an improvement in hog prices.

Alberta.— On the whole, the season is well advanced. There is little moisture in the soil, in fact less than the average amount. Plenty of fodder and grain is on hand. Heavy draft horses, especially young stock, are bringing good prices. A good market exists for milch cows. Hog prices have greatly improved this spring. The general outlook, is quite favourable.

British Columbia.- Snowfall has been extremely light during the winter. Precipitation during the late summer and fall of 1928, was also very light and soil moisture conditions are therefore none too satisfactory. In spite of severe winter conditions, fruit trees have suffered practically no injury. Alfalfa has also wintered well. All live stock came through winter in good condition. There is a good demand for dairy and beef cattle, sheep and swine, but no demand for horses. Prices for dairy and beef cattle and sheep remain steady and good. Prices of swine are only fair.

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