

to the United States for feed purposes. In 1943-1944 exports of wheat reached a level of 44 million bushels as compared with an average of slightly over 200 million bushels during the first four years of the war. In 1944-1945 developments in the prosecution of the war resulted in the opening of the Mediterranean area and large quantities of Canadian wheat went to this theatre of war; with the invasion of France came the rapid liberation of Western Europe and again large quantities of Canadian wheat were called for. The end of the war in Europe revealed depleted reserves of foodstuffs. In an effort to do as much as possible for millions of people in Europe and in Asia who were in dire need, Canada made available the last of her wartime reserves of wheat and marketings from the 1945 crop. These were the broad factors involved which resulted in the Canadian carryover at July 31, 1946, being reduced to 70 million bushels and commercial stocks being reduced to 42 million bushels.

Within the framework of these events there were a number of important changes in policy. In September, 1943, the status of The Canadian Wheat Board was changed from that of a voluntary board to that of a monopoly, and the board's fixed initial price was increased to \$1.25 per bushel for Number One Northern wheat basis in store Fort William/Port Arthur or Vancouver. At the same time, the dominion government, through The Canadian Wheat Board, took over all unsold wheat stocks in Canada. These stocks became known as "Crown" wheat and were used for mutual aid purposes and for domestic use. Subsequently further supplies of wheat were purchased by the dominion government for Crown account. Late in 1945-46 the dominion government announced that, effective August 1, 1946, and retroactive to August 1, 1945, the board's fixed initial price would be \$1.35 per bushel for Number One Northern wheat basis in store Fort William/Port Arthur or Vancouver; this price guarantee extending to July 31, 1950. This decision in respect to the board's fixed initial price paralleled the announcement of the signing of a wheat contract between Canada and the United Kingdom.

Effective from August 1, 1943, the dominion government undertook guarantees in respect to the oats and barley equalization funds which were reflected in advance equalization payments to producers at the time of delivery.

In September, 1945, the dominion government placed a temporary limit on export prices for Canadian wheat. This limit (\$1.55 per bushel for Number One Northern in store Fort William/Port Arthur or Vancouver) remained in effect until July 31, 1946. This level was continued in the United Kingdom contract until July 31, 1948 and effective August 1, 1946, export prices to all other countries were allowed to rise to world levels in accordance with government policy as announced by Hon. J. A. MacKinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce on July 30, 1946.

During the period under review, payments to producers from 1940, 1941, 1942 and 1943 crop accounts were announced, and an additional payment of 10 cents per bushel was provided on 1945-46 deliveries from the 1945 crop account. These payments reflected the upward trend in export prices which commenced in the summer of 1943.

During the latter part of the war and the year following the war, the grain transportation problem was one of moving maximum quantities of grain to seaboard to meet urgent demand.

These were the more important objectives and the more important policies involved in board administration of the wheat situation in Canada for the years 1938-39 to 1945-46. While immense quantities of wheat were involved in these operations, the period ended with wheat stocks in Canada at minimum levels. The board regarded it as important that post-war wheat policy should not have to take into account carryovers of wheat from the wartime period.