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JAS. J. SALMOND
President and General Manager

A. E. JENNINGS
Assistant General Manager

JOSEPH BLACK
Secretary

W. A. MCKAGUE
Editor

Movement of Canadian Grain Crop

**Fifty-Seven Per Cent. Went to Canadian Head of Great Lakes—Buffalo
Receives Eighteen Per Cent.—Small Quantities Imported from United States
—Western and Eastern Pools—Distribution of Flour Manufacturing**

A REPORT on the grain trade of Canada for the crop year ended August 31st, and to the close of navigation, 1918, has been issued by the Internal Trade Division of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada. The object is to show the movement of grain in Canada from the producer to the final markets. The report represents an enlargement on previous statistics and is the first attempt to deal with the subject comprehensively. The following general statement by R. H. Coats, Dominion Statistician, is given in the preface:—

"To simplify the marketing of Canadian grain, the country is divided into two main areas, the eastern and the western, the dividing line being at Port Arthur and Fort William, which localities are included in the western field. As representing the grain which is subject to movement during any year (the year covered by the report is the crop year ending August 31), the following items are taken: Current production and the quantity in store at the beginning of the crop year in country elevators and in terminal elevators at the head of the lakes. The statistics then illustrate the movements of this grain through the several channels until it is finally disposed of, either by shipment from the heads of the lakes, by rail from Fort William and Port Arthur, over the international border into the United States, or by water from Vancouver. Similarly in the eastern division, the current crop and the amount on hand in eastern elevators, together with the receipts from the west, are traced from stage to stage, either to local consumption or to export to the United States, the United Kingdom and other countries.

"The attempt has not been made to retain trace of the identity of the grain as it moves towards export. The plan has been adopted of looking upon the commerce of the western and eastern divisions as pools into and from which streams of grain flow. The size of these streams is shown, and the volume of grain at the chief market points, month by month.

"Starting with the western division, there is a certain amount of grain on hand at the beginning of the year, left over from the last season; to this is added the year's crop. Of this total stock of the year in the western pool a large part goes into commerce, although a portion is left for seed and feed. The portion used for seed can be estimated; the amount used for feed, etc., can be ascertained only by subtracting all other known quantities from the total year's pool. The portion that goes into commerce passes through country elevators or over railway loading-platforms. The former quantity is known pretty accurately; the latter, as yet, can only be estimated. It is possible to ascertain the amount of grain milled in the west and the amount shipped out of the division. This really constitutes the commercial grain of the west. It is known what part of that is inspected, what part goes through the interior terminal elevators at lake head, what part is exported into the United States and other countries from west of the Great Lakes, what part goes to United States lake ports from the terminals by water

and what part to the Canadian ports, and what part goes into the eastern division by rail.

"For the eastern division approximately the same facts are known; only here, in addition to the hold-over from the previous year and the crop of the current year, there are the large streams flowing in from the west already noted. This is treated as another pool of grain in the same manner as the western, the streams leading both in and out being traced, and the amount in the pool at the beginning and end of the period being measured.

"There are certain radical differences between the west and the east. In the east no record as to the amount of the commercial grain is available from inspections, nor from movement through country elevators. The only evidence as to the amount of strictly eastern commercial grain is found by subtracting the movements into the pool from the amount milled therein and the amount shipped out. In the case of rough grains, milling figures are lacking for the crop year as yet, although it is hoped to have them for next year. Another striking difference between the commerce of the two divisions is that whereas the bulk of the grain of the west moves through terminals, at lake head, the movement in the east is distributed through a number of centres. It has been possible to show the movement through these ports in considerable detail.

"One fact which it has been attempted to bring out clearly is the monthly utilization of the capacity of the various classes of elevators as shown in the data already currently published in the visible supplies in store. These data show the absence of that regular flow of traffic which will give the lowest costs for transportation and storage and at the same time ensure the highest price in the foreign grain markets.

"Many details have been included which it is thought will be of value to students of the trade; in succeeding annual reports it is hoped to improve upon these beginnings."

The movement of the 1918 crop is illustrated by the diagram reproduced on pages 28 and 29 of this issue. In explanation of this diagram the following statement is given:—

"It has been impossible to portray all the details of movement within the country and the expedient has been adopted of showing a pool for the western inspection division and another pool for the eastern inspection division, and showing the principal streams into and out of each of these pools for the year, also the movements through the chief grain centres of the country.

"The western pool, of course, is fed chiefly by the crop in the western division. This was computed for the crop year under discussion to be 212,612,000 bushels. There also was on hand at the beginning of the year, in accordance with the closest calculations available, some 5,267,000 bushels. The only other stream entering this pool is the small amount of 52,000 bushels entering from the United States. This makes a total flow into this pool during the year of 217,932,000 bushels. Of this, 169,104,000 bushels was used commercially, that is, shipped out of the division