

successful prosecution of the war. No one in Canada, and certainly not the wheat producers of the prairie provinces, suggest that anything should be done in respect to wheat which will in any way limit the capacity of this government to meet the immediate responsibilities and burdens of the war.

In connection with the second point we have had to carefully examine the possibilities of moving our wheat into export trade. Under existing conditions, export markets for Canadian wheat are definitely limited; that is inevitable in the present phase of the war. Our principal market last year was, and this year will be the United Kingdom, and in forecasting our export possibilities we can only see in sight the immediate requirements of the British isles, and rather small exports to other countries.

The government has kept in mind at all times, in addition to these immediate considerations, the more general responsibility which Canada must assume in respect to providing adequate reserves of wheat for the United Kingdom, and our allies and against possible contingencies. At the end of last July Canada had a carryover of 480 million bushels of wheat in all positions, the largest year-end stock of wheat ever held by this

country. We expect to have about 400 million bushels of wheat on hand at the end of the present crop year, or when the 1942 crop is ready for harvest. The government believes that this stock of wheat constitutes an adequate reserve of Canadian wheat, and does not feel that Canada can be called upon to maintain wartime reserves in excess of this amount. If we maintain a reserve in these proportions we are doing all that can be expected of us at this stage of the war. In addition to the reserves of wheat which we shall hold in Canada on July 31st next, the United States will have the largest carryover in its history—slightly over 600 million bushels—and it is estimated that Argentina and Australia will hold stocks of 360 million bushels. At the end of next July, the four chief wheat exporting countries will have a carryover of 1,300,000,000 bushels of wheat in addition to the surpluses which may arise from 1942 production. In the face of this situation there should be no anxiety as to the supplies of wheat available in normally exporting countries, and in particular in Canada and the United States.

With permission, Mr. Speaker, I would like to place on Hansard a table showing the carryovers of the four chief exporting countries from July 31, 1938 to 1942.

July 31 each year	Canada ¹	United States ²	Argentina ²	Australia ²	Total
1938.....	25	153	72	50	300
1939.....	103	252	230	50	635
1940.....	301	282	75	130	788
1941.....	480	387	175	70	1,112
*1942.....	400	610	215	145	1,370

¹ Official statistics.

² Food research institute.

* Estimated.

Note.—Figures in million bushels.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That would indicate, would it not that this is not a special war problem?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): Yes. I would point out particularly that at the end of 1938 the carryover in Canada, the United States, Argentina and Australia amounted to 300 million bushels, but at the end of 1942, and this is a conservative estimate, the carryover of these same countries will have risen to 1,370 million bushels. The government had to give further serious consideration to the relative importance of various farm products in connection with our war effort. No one disputes the value of wheat as a food product; no one disputes the advisability of carrying a substantial reserve of wheat under present con-

ditions; and no one disputes the fact that of all farm products wheat can be most effectively stored. But with 480 million bushels of wheat on hand last July, and with the prospect of 400 million bushels of wheat on hand next July at the time when the 1942 crop will be ready for harvest, and in view of the lack of large export possibilities, wheat production in 1942 cannot be regarded as an extremely urgent matter.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Could the minister give the stock in Canada available for export as of February 1?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I am not just sure that I can give the figures offhand. I think it would be about 480 million bushels.