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A YEAR OF RECORD WHEAT SALES

Mr. Mitchell Sharp, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, recently issued the following statement:

Today, July 31, marks the end of the 1963-64 wheat crop year in Canada. It is a year that will be long remembered as one of record production, record sales and great accomplishment by Canadians.

Last fall, when it was my privilege to announce the largest single wheat sale in Canadian history, to the U.S.S.R., I stated: "The Canadian Wheat Board believes that exports for the crop year 1963-64 will be over 550 million bushels."

I am now advised that this figure has been passed and that the final tally will be approximately 590 million bushels. The magnitude of these sales can best be appreciated when we consider that they are almost 50 percent greater than those of the previous record, set 35 years ago.

In addition, exports of all grains, including flour, will top 650 million bushels, also a record, and loadings from country elevators to boxcars will total 750 million bushels, which will match or surpass the previous record set back in 1952-53. By all counts, the crop year now ending has been the most successful wheat-marketing year in our history.

When the size of this year's export requirements became apparent, the Wheat Board recognized that the commitments which it was making would strain Canadian transportation and grain-handling facilities.

At that time, on behalf of the Board and of the Government, I called for co-operation and teamwork

from all who would be concerned with this massive grain movement to ensure that it would be carried through successfully.

A GREAT CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT

The truly magnificent manner in which this co-operation was forthcoming is borne out by the results attained in the year now drawing to a close. The record quantities of wheat and flour purchased by the U.S.S.R. were shipped on the schedule arranged with the buyer. Shipments of feed grains to Eastern feeders and wheat to mills in the Eastern Canada were carried out without disruption. The normal requirements of Canada's traditional wheat customers were supplied as promised by the Wheat Board.

All this could not have been accomplished without the wholehearted efforts of the railroads, private grain and flour firms, elevator companies, lake-shipment firms, and other organizations such as the Board of Grain Commissioners, the National Harbours Board and the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority. Even the weather co-operated, permitting late closing and early opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

In the final analysis, however, it was individual effort that made these accomplishments possible — the efforts of people willing to put in the extra time and effort required to ensure the smooth handling, transportation and loading of wheat and flour for our markets abroad. Individual elevator operators, grain inspectors, lake seamen, stevedores and many others did their share to help reach our goal....