

bushels more in 1933 than in 1932, with indications that they would have a surplus of nearly 50,000,000 bushels for export in the 1933-34 season. France, Germany, and Italy produced large crops and these were particularly alarming because the effects of the heavy 1932 crops were still evident. The French wheat estimate is 339,000,000 bushels compared with 334,000,000 bushels in 1932. Germany's harvest is placed at 203,000,000 bushels compared with 184,000,000 bushels last year. The Italian crop is estimated at 297,000,000 bushels compared with 277,000,000 bushels last year. The United Kingdom estimates its wheat production at about 62,000,000 bushels, a substantial increase over the 44,000,000 bushels garnered in 1932. The Netherlands, Greece and Switzerland each had larger crops on increased acreage, while the crop in Belgium was reduced slightly due to the lower acreage seeded in 1933. Thus seven of the eight major European importing countries produced more wheat in 1933 than the record yields of 1932. The smaller countries were similarly favoured by the weather in 1933. Spain and Portugal are the only European countries which have appreciable decreases in 1933 wheat production compared with 1932 returns. Thus the continent of Europe, which is the principal market for overseas wheat, will have lower import requirements in 1933-34 because of increased acreages and exceptionally high yields per acre during the past growing season.

Without going further into that, I should like to read just this paragraph from the agreement. The agreement was:

To consider the measures which might be taken in concert to adjust the supply of wheat to effective world demand and eliminate the abnormal surpluses which have been depressing the wheat market and to bring about a rise and stabilization of prices at a level remunerative to producers and fair to consumers of bread-stuffs.

May I say that nothing more impressed me than to see the representatives of importing countries rise in their places and say that they believed the only way in which an ultimate return to prosperity would be secured was to bring about for wheat a price that would at least give a profit to the producer. They put that very strongly; they said that they were willing to give the greatest possible assistance to attain that end.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Has the right hon. gentleman the figures of surpluses in exporting countries?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I thought perhaps he might have them to the date of the conference.

Mr. BENNETT: I have them under my hand, brought down to a later date and I shall mention them before I finish. Let me give Canada's position:

It has been shown that the expansion of production of wheat in exporting countries and [Mr. Bennett.]

the return to pre-war production of this cereal in Europe resulted in a burdensome surplus of wheat.

I should like the house to listen to these figures:

In 1914, Canadian wheat acreage amounted to 10,000,000 acres. In 1933, Canadian wheat acreage amounted to 26,000,000 acres. While this situation has developed, the 1933 wheat acreage of Europe, where Canada must sell the bulk of her surplus, has reached and surpassed pre-war levels.

That is the story. I shall see if I can obtain a copy of this document and send it to the hon. gentleman, because there is a great deal of information in it; it answers many questions he would like to have answered, and on the back there is a series of charts bringing the figures reasonably down to date.

What did we undertake to do? First, on the best information available, it was concluded that 560,000,000 bushels of wheat would meet the requirements of the wheat importing countries of the world. It was agreed that Canada should have 200,000,000 bushels of that market. This was somewhat larger, some said, than we had a right to. I am bound to say that the attitude of the delegates was one of extreme fairness. They said this: Canada has been increasing its production in a very marked way and if it has 200,000,000 bushels of that market for the season 1933-34, that will not be unfair. But before the agreement was signed, in order that I might have the assistance and benefit of the views of the western provinces themselves, I cabled to western Canada and Mr. MacPherson, after a conference with the three provinces, came to London and with me signed the agreement. This matter is largely one within the jurisdiction of the provinces. On the large matter of trade we as a nation are affected. With respect to the acreage that shall be placed in wheat, the quantity that shall be delivered to the elevators, over those matters the legislatures of the provinces, of course, have control. The pool organizations in the three provinces have all approved of this agreement, Manitoba being the first, Saskatchewan, I think, second, and lastly Alberta. They have approved of the terms of the agreement. Why? Because they realize that any man in business who is confronted with an unsaleable surplus should so regulate his affairs as to reduce that surplus to the point where his future production will meet the requirements of those to whom he has to sell.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I ask the Prime Minister if the agreement is in force at the present time—