

per pound and 6c per pound respectively, for top grades f.o.b. shipping points designated by the Board. The Board's power to purchase rapeseed at the established prices was limited to the Western Division. The Order in Council provided that sunflower seed and rapeseed so purchased should be in reasonably clean condition and with a moisture content not exceeding limits to be established by the Board.

8. Drawback on Wheat Products

Under Order in Council P.C. 5768, August 28, 1945, The Canadian Wheat Board was charged with the administration of drawbacks paid in respect to flour and other human foods containing wheat, sold and delivered in Canada between August 1, 1945, and July 31, 1946.

9. Price Ceilings on Whole Grains

The Board continued to act as Western Administrator of ceiling prices on whole grains on behalf of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

10. Equalization Funds

Under provisions of Order in Council P.C. 2550, April 12, 1945, the Board continued to administer the Barley Equalization Fund and the Oats Equalization Fund.

Under Order in Council P.C. 2550, April 12, 1945, the Dominion Government guaranteed the Equalization Funds to the extent of 10 cents per bushel on oats and 15 cents per bushel on barley. On September 25, 1945, Order in Council P.C. 6238 was passed amending Western Grain Regulations to provide for an increase in the advance equalization payment on barley to 20 cents per bushel, and prohibiting maltsters from paying a premium on the purchase of barley for malting purposes. This action was taken on account of the shortage of feed grains in Canada and the necessity of prohibiting exports of barley of all types during the crop year 1945-46. The 20 cent Advance Equalization Payment to producers applied on barley marketings from August 1, 1945, to July 31, 1946.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE 1945 CROP

(a) Acreages

Wheat acreage in 1945 showed only a slight increase over the area sown in 1944. Wheat acreage in Canada amounted to 23,414,100 acres as compared with 23,284,200 acres in 1944. In the Prairie Provinces 22,566,000 acres were seeded to wheat as compared with 22,443,800 acres in 1944. Small decreases were shown in the area sown to rye and flaxseed.

(b) Growing Conditions

A cold, late spring delayed seeding. A very high percentage of the western grain crop was seeded after May 15th. Cool, dry weather continued for the greater part of the month of June. During the last week in June the first high temperatures of the growing season were reported and large areas in western Saskatchewan and central and northern Alberta urgently required rain. Deterioration had been severe in many of the drier areas and central and northern Alberta had experienced one of the driest seasons on record. General rains were received early in July but subsequent moisture supplies were not sufficient to change the general pattern of the crop. By the end of July crop conditions remained favourable in Manitoba and the more easterly areas in Saskatchewan, as well as in the foothills area and the Peace River area of Alberta. Crop deterioration was severe throughout the greater part of western Saskatchewan, and southeastern, central and northern Alberta. The Canadian wheat crop was estimated at 306 million bushels as compared with 417 million bushels in 1944, and the Prairie wheat crop was estimated at 282 million bushels as compared with 392 million bushels in 1944.