

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 1941 CROP

(a) ACREAGE

As contemplated by the 1941-42 wheat program, including the introduction of bonuses for wheat acreage reduction, a very large decline in wheat acreage was reported by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on August 10, 1941. The acreage sown to wheat in Canada declined from 28,726,000 acres in 1940 to 21,882,000 acres in 1941, and wheat acreage in the prairie provinces declined from 27,750,000 acres to 21,140,000 acres—a reduction of about 24 per cent. Wheat acreage in the prairie provinces in 1941 was the lowest in fifteen years, and returned to the approximate levels of 1927 and 1928.

(b) GROWING CONDITIONS

The 1941 crop was seeded under favourable circumstances and it was not until June 15th that adverse conditions developed in parts of Saskatchewan and Alberta. During the balance of June and July a combination of drought and extremely high temperatures caused a rapid deterioration in the grain crops in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Conditions remained favourable in Manitoba throughout the season. By the middle of July it was apparent that 1941 production would be well below average. The following table shows grain production in Canada and in the prairie provinces in 1941, with comparative figures for 1940:

	All Canada		Prairie Provinces	
	1941	1940	1941	1940
	(million bushels)		(million bushels)	
Wheat	315	540	296	514
Oats	306	381	178	229
Barley	111	104	95	83
Rye	12	14	10	12
Flax	6	3	6	3
Totals	750	1,042	585	841

Wheat production in Canada was 225 million bushels less than in 1940, and the production of all grain and flaxseed was 292 million bushels less than in the previous year.

The decline in wheat production in 1941, resulting from low yields per acre and a large reduction in wheat acreage, was reflected in the subsequent administration of 1941-42 wheat policy by The Canadian Wheat Board. Although crop estimates made in the fall of 1941 turned out to be too low when disposition data were complete, it was apparent that the probable deliveries would not be sufficiently different from "approximately 230 million bushels" to justify the continuance of a restrictive quota system.

MARKETINGS AND PRICES

During the crop year 1941-42, producers in western Canada marketed 227.9 million bushels of wheat as compared with marketings of 456 million bushels during 1940-41. Thus, marketings in 1941-42 were about one-half the volume of the preceding crop year. Of particular importance, wheat marketings by producers during the last month of the crop year amounted to about 25 million bushels. The last week of July was the third heaviest delivery week of the entire crop year, over 9 million bushels of wheat being marketed in that week. These heavy deliveries in the last few weeks of the crop year materially affected the storage situation at a large number of points in the west, and had definite reper-