

### Wartime Rise in Demand

The crop year 1943-44 witnessed a phenomenal use of wheat for live-stock feed, particularly in the United States where feed grain supplies were insufficient to maintain the greatly increased live-stock population. It became necessary to substitute wheat for corn maize and other feed grains, and eventually Canada had to ship very large quantities of wheat to the United States for use there as live-stock feed. At the same time the use of wheat for animal feed in Canada also increased to a record level of more than 100,000,000 bushels. Preliminary figures for the twelve months ending July 31, 1944, indicated that a total of 570,000,000 bushels of wheat was fed to live-stock and poultry in North America or about the same quantity as required to feed the human population. Substantial quantities of wheat were also used for the production of industrial alcohol in both the United States and Canada.

Exports of wheat and flour during the first five years of the war showed an increase of more than 35 per cent over the years immediately preceding the war, but the distribution of these exports changed radically in the war period for reasons already mentioned. During the last year of the war and in the period since the cessation of hostilities, requirements for wheat in war-devastated areas have pressed sharply on available supplies. During the crop years 1944-45 and 1945-46 over 680 million bushels of wheat and wheat flour in terms of wheat were exported from Canada. All of this, with the exception of about 53 million bushels consigned to the United States was cleared to overseas destinations.

### Post-War Trends in Exports

In the crop year 1945-46, the first following the cessation of hostilities, Canada's exports of wheat and flour amounted to 340 million bushels, approximately the same as for the preceding two crop years. In 1946-47, however, there was a decrease of almost 100 million bushels in exports of wheat and flour. This reduction was largely attributable to the exhaustion of reserve stocks by the heavy export movements of the three previous years. With only two months of the 1947-48 crop year remaining at the time of writing, indications are that wheat and flour exports for the current crop year will be about 200 million bushels. Exports for the first ten months of the 1947-48 crop year are 163 million bushels, as compared with 184 million bushels for the same period of the 1946-47 crop year. Because of unfavourable weather conditions and late seeding on the prairies, substantial quantities of deliverable wheat remained on western farms in the spring of 1948. Farmers were urged by the Wheat Board to do everything possible to expedite delivery of this wheat so that domestic and overseas commitments might be met.