

## Quality of Canadian Wheat

The following excerpt is taken from the Alberta Wheat Pool's publication "The Story of Wheat":

"High-grade Canadian spring wheats are recognized all over the world as the strongest wheats in international commerce. Their high protein content and excellent quality are accepted abroad as characteristics of Manitobas, the international name for wheat from the Canadian prairies. The long hours of sunshine, the cool nights and the low rainfall, all so characteristic of prairie conditions, combine to produce that quality in Canadian spring wheat which makes it desirable in the bread "mixes" of Europe, and particularly of Great Britain.

"Flour made from Canadian wheat has a high water-absorbing capacity, turns out a dough of excellent handling qualities, capable of withstanding wide variations in fermentation, and producing a large, well-piled loaf of bread of good texture. The qualities which enable it to produce a loaf such as described above, and which can be imparted to weaker flours with which it may be blended, make it desirable in countries which produce and import weaker types of wheat."

## Technological Improvements

Recent trends in agriculture have all been in the direction of greater mechanization of farming. The advent of war, with its attendant drain on the supply of farm labor, greatly increased the rate of mechanization. The rapid replacement of horses by power machinery has released much acreage formerly devoted to raising feed-stuffs for draft animals. This acreage is now available for the production of cash crops or feed for meat animals. Among the technological factors tending to create a permanent increase in productive capacity are the introduction of the farm tractor and combine together with the development of new grain varieties more suited to local conditions. A recent survey by the Searle Grain Company indicates that Thatcher wheat, a rust-resistant variety, now occupies 56.7 per cent of the wheat acreage of the prairies. Marquis is in second place, occupying 12.9 per cent of the acreage; Red Bobs is third, with just under 10 per cent; and many other varieties make up the balance. A new variety, Rescue, which resists the attacks of the sawfly, was recently added to the list of recommended varieties, and limited quantities of Rescue seed are now available. Another new variety, Redman, has been recommended. This wheat has excellent milling and baking qualities and will be eligible for top grades. It outyields Thatcher and Regent in Manitoba and Eastern Saskatchewan and for that reason and because of its resistance to stem and leaf rusts it should prove valuable in these areas.

In addition to the innovations in the fields of mechanization and plant breeding, new cultural methods have been evolved which assist farmers in keeping wind and water erosion to a minimum. These methods include the use of new types of cultivating machinery, strip farming techniques, trash covers, cover crops and contour ploughing.

## Wheat Pools

A challenge to the marketing system established by the Winnipeg Grain Exchange came in 1923 when farmers in the Prairie Provinces began to organize co-operatives. The first of these organizations, known as the Alberta Wheat Pool, came into being in the fall of that year. This body commenced operations on October 29, 1923, with a membership of nearly 26,000 and with 2,500,000 acres of wheat under contract. In the following year similar bodies were