

Seven years later, with the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1884 as far west as Moose Jaw, the first shipment of Western Canada wheat to Britain by the all-Canada route was made by the late Thomas Thompson of Thompson & Sons, Brandon, Manitoba.

This shipment consisted of 1,000 bushels of Manitoba No. 1 Hard. It was sacked and shipped by rail and water to seaboard. Exactly 21 days after the movement of the wheat commenced from Brandon, it was landed on the docks at Glasgow. By this shipment the all-Canada export route was established.

So much for the beginning and early history of wheat growing in Canada. We come now to the era of rapid development, not only of the area sown to wheat, but of transportation and handling facilities which enabled Canadian wheat to spread itself around the world, and find markets in almost every corner of the globe.

### Methods of Marketing

Although an organization known as the Winnipeg Grain and Produce Exchange had commenced operation in 1887, methods of handling and marketing Canadian wheat took more definite shape with the formation of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange in 1908 and the legislation which established the Canada Grain Act in 1912. The Winnipeg Grain Exchange, a voluntary association, defines one of its objectives in the constitution of 1908 as follows: "To organize, establish, and maintain an association not for pecuniary profit or gain, but for the purpose of promoting objects and measures for the advancement of trade and commerce respecting the grain trade for the general benefit of the Dominion of Canada". This organization established what is known as the "futures market" with headquarters in Winnipeg. With the exception of two periods during and immediately following World War I, trading in wheat futures on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange continued until September 27, 1943, when it was suspended as one of the measures of governmental wartime control over essential foodstuffs.

### Grading System

The erection of country elevators and terminal storage warehouses developed with the expansion of the grain-growing business in Western Canada in the early part of the twentieth century. The Canada Grain Act initiated a grading system for Canadian wheat and the issuing of Government certificates as a guarantee of quality. Buyers of wheat in Europe made their purchases from countries such as Argentina, Australia and India on the basis of f.a.q. (fair average quality), while from other countries they bought on a "sample" basis; but in the case of Canadian wheat they bought on the Canadian Government "certificate final". The grain was inspected by federal grain inspectors and graded according to the terms of the Canada Grain Act, while terminal and other elevators also came under the supervision of the Board of Grain Commissioners set up to administer the Canada Grain Act. This system continues in operation today.

### Research

The Grain Research Laboratory, established by the Board of Grain Commissioners, collaborates with the Inspection Department and has made a valuable contribution to the maintenance of the high quality in Canadian wheat. It conducts annual surveys of the protein content of Western Canadian wheat, and publishes informative bulletins and maps each year. It also conducts baking tests with flour milled from Canadian wheat and issues annually a report dealing with the baking quality of the Prairie wheat crop.