

Senator LAMBERT: It has increased its position.

Senator STAMBAUGH: If you take out the special transactions, Canada has actually increased its position, has it not?

The Acting CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Senator HAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would like to find out who were present at the negotiations concerning this agreement?

Dr. HUDSON: Mr. Chairman, the agreement was negotiated in Geneva. There were two sessions. The first session was held in November, and the second one was held in January. Would you like a list of the Canadian representatives?

Senator HAIG: I would like to know who they represented.

Dr. HUDSON: The official representatives were officials of the Government and the Canadian Wheat Board.

Senator HAIG: Was a representative of the wheat pools there?

Dr. HUDSON: The representatives of the wheat pools and of the farm organizations were there as members of the Advisory Committee to the Canadian Wheat Board. The members of the Advisory Committee to the Canadian Wheat Board are drawn from these organizations and they were present as advisors to the Canadian Delegation at the final session.

Senator HAIG: Did all the advisors agree to this agreement.

Dr. HUDSON: Yes.

Senator HAIG: Did they all approve of it?

Dr. HUDSON: Yes.

Senator HAIG: Thank you.

Senator MACDONALD: I wonder if the witness could give us any information on the position of wheat in Canada today: what is our surplus, and what are the prospects for the current year?

Dr. HUDSON: Do you wish information on the general world situation?

Senator MACDONALD: Yes, in the first instance.

Dr. HUDSON: I don't know in what detail the committee might like this information, Mr. Chairman, but part of a paper which I presented in Winnipeg two weeks ago deals with the current world situation. If it would interest the committee, I could take the information from that paper.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: If you prefer to do that, please do.

Dr. HUDSON: World wheat supplies at the beginning of 1959 were probably at a record level. Production of wheat in 1958 is estimated at approximately 250 million metric tons (9.1 billion bushels), exceeding the previous record in 1956 by over 13 per cent and the 1957 crop by almost 20 per cent. The aggregate quantity of the carry-over existing in all countries at the beginning of their respective crop years is estimated at nearly 50 million metric tons (1.8 billion bushels). This amount exceeds by more than 60 per cent the annual total of the international wheat trade. Global availability of wheat in 1958-59 should therefore be close to 300 million metric tons (11 billion bushels).

The larger output of 1958 was mainly the result of bumper crops harvested in the three major producing countries: the U.S.S.R., the United States and China. The United States record crop of 39.5 million metric tons exceeded that of 1957 by 14 millions tons. On the other hand, Canada's crop of 368.7 million bushels (10 million metric tons) was slightly lower than that of the year before and well below the average for the past 10 years.