

812 MILLION BUSHELS OF GRAIN MARKETING

1952-53 RECORD: "The crop year 1952-53 ended on July 31, 1953, and I can report 12 months of unprecedented achievement in the handling and marketing of Western grain," stated the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, on August 7. "It is very gratifying that the record 1952 crop which followed the large crop of 1951 has been accompanied by the extremely heavy movement of grain from farms into country elevators and into consumption in Canada and abroad. The results are attributed to excellent co-operation of effort on the part of all agencies involved in the handling of grain from farm to seaboard and in merchandizing grain."

According to preliminary statistics, producers in the Prairie Provinces marketed 812 million bushels of grain during the 12 month period ended July 31, 1953, and final figures will probably total 825 to 830 million bushels. This is the largest volume of grain ever delivered by producers in the Prairie Provinces within the period of a single crop year. Producers marketings in 1952-53 exceeded the record marketings of 1951-52 by some 90 million bushels.

Preliminary figures of exports of all grains and flaxseed, including wheat in the form of flour, amounted to 582 million bushels. This is an all-time record, exceeding the previous record established in 1951-52 by 77 million bushels. Exports of wheat and flour

were 385 million bushels as compared with 356 million bushels in 1951-52. A startling increase is recorded in exports of barley for the crop year just ended. Exports of barley amounted to 119 million bushels as compared with 70 million bushels in the previous crop year.

Exports of oats were 65 million bushels as compared with 69 million bushels in the previous year. Exports of rye and flaxseed were well in excess of the exports in the previous crop year.

During the crop year, there was a very wide distribution of Canadian grain exports among the world consuming markets. The wheat exports were very large to the United Kingdom, Western Europe, Asia and record exports of wheat and flour to the Caribbean area and South America were recorded. A particularly interesting pattern of barley exports was established in 1952-53. Western Germany was the largest buyer of Canadian barley followed by Japan, United States, Korea, Belgium and The Netherlands.

Record farm deliveries of grain and record exports called for an unusually large movement of grain within Canada itself. The railways moved 742 million bushels of grain out of country elevators. This compares with 672 million bushels shipped from country elevators in the preceding crop year.

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CROPS GENERALLY HEAVY: With few exceptions moisture supplies are ample throughout the Prairie Provinces and over wide areas sufficient is available to carry crops to maturity, the Bureau of Statistics reported on August 6. Despite a late start, recent weather conditions have promoted rapid crop development, particularly in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. In Alberta the weather has been cool during the past week and the stage of maturity of crops is still behind normal in many sections. Stands of crops are generally heavy throughout the Prairies with warmer weather being the major requirement to ensure realization of current favourable prospects now existing in most areas. Harvesting of fall-seeded grains is well advanced in southern Manitoba and should be general in most other areas within the next week. Some wheat and coarse grains have been swathed in southern Manitoba. Hail damage has been severe to date in Alberta with lighter losses occurring in the other two Provinces. Heavy rust infection is reported from some points in southern Manitoba with durum and late-seeded crops being particularly affected. Further development of rust and its spread to other areas will depend on weather conditions during the next few weeks.

WHEAT EXPORTS: Exports of wheat as grain in June amounted to 39,000,000 bushels, down from the May total of 41,700,000, but narrowly above last year's June shipments of 38,300,000. This brought the cumulative total for the first 11 months of the current crop year to 288,800,000 bushels, some 8.4 per cent greater than the 266,400,000 bushels exported during the same period of 1951-52.

Preliminary customs returns indicate that exports of wheat flour in terms of wheat during June amounted to 5,900,000 bushels, somewhat higher than the previous month's 4,800,000, but lower than the June, 1952 total of 6,100,000 bushels. Total exports of wheat flour in terms of wheat equivalent for the August-June period of the current crop year, at 51,700,000 bushels, exceeded by 11 per cent the adjusted figure of 46,500,000 exported in the same period of 1951-52.

Some 84,200,000 bushels of wheat, or 29 per cent of this year's August-June exports, went to the United Kingdom.

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From September 1949 to the end of 1952, 210,207 television sets were sold in Canada for \$96,127,373.