

# Canadian Official Record

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## SEEDING WELL AHEAD IN WEST SAYS REPORT

Commenced on April 10th in many places and was general by April 23rd. Frost is well out of ground.

### GRAIN SHIPMENTS

The following resumé of crop conditions and the grain situation in the Western Provinces for the week of April 19 is furnished by the western office at Winnipeg of the Department of Immigration and Colonization:—

Grain in store at Government interior elevators: Moosejaw, 1,500,449 bushels; Saskatoon, 1,489,541 bushels; Calgary, 1,545,171 bushels.

In store C.P. interior elevators, 10,435,480 bushels; 1917, 6,700,765 bushels.

In store all elevators at lake front, 40,982,758 bushels.

Inspected since September 1, 1918:—

Wheat. Other grains. Total.

1918—108,220,800 35,442,700 143,663,500

1917—138,861,600 63,960,200 202,821,800

Seeding commenced between the 5th and 9th instant at nearly all points in Alberta south of Wetaskiwin.

More than 10 per cent of seeding in southern Alberta is completed. Easter will see more than 40 per cent finished, as seeding is general in all sections. Moisture conditions vary from wet to fairly dry, recent storms having been more or less of a local nature.

Seeding commenced at Estuary, Sask., on the 10th inst., and five miles north of Saskatoon on the 12th. Some seeding has been done on light land at Prelate, Sask.

The Department of Agriculture, Saskatchewan, reports that, while work on the land has commenced in many districts, seeding will not be general until the 23rd inst. Sufficient quantities of seed grain and feed are reported. Labour is scarce, and \$65 to \$75 per month is being paid for experienced men.

Practically all farmers in the Prince Albert district will be on the land in the next few days. For some time past many farmers have been making preparations, and are now in readiness to commence operations as soon as the land is dry enough to put the machinery to work.

During the past two weeks rain and snow fell all over the Medicine Hat division, which soaked the ground, on account of no frost. Moisture conditions at present are excellent and farmers very optimistic regarding prospects.

The land in the Portage division that is ready for crop and that is to be ploughed is in as good condition as could be desired. A snowstorm on the night of the 7th and morning of the 8th instant provided abundant moisture.

### PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN.

The first press bulletin issued by the Saskatchewan Government shows that

## CONTRACTS AWARDED BY ORDER IN COUNCIL

### Alterations and Additions to Military Hospitals at Halifax and Toronto.

The Department of Public Works of Canada announces the following contracts awarded under Orders in Council:—

Halifax (Bellevue), N.S.—Construction of new ward building and execution of alterations and additions to present building for conversion of same into hospital offices in connection with military hospital. Contractors, M. E. Keefe Construction Company, Limited, of Halifax, at \$76,102. Order in Council dated April 19, 1919.

Esquimalt, B.C.—Construction of orderlies' mess in connection with military hospital. Contractor, R. Moncrieff, of Victoria, B.C., at \$5,385. Order in Council dated April 19, 1919.

Port Arthur, Ont.—Alterations and repairs to Armoury. Contractors, M. H. Braden & Co., of Fort William, Ont., at \$21,300. Order in Council dated April 19, 1919.

Toronto, Ont.—Construction of guard house in connection with Military Orthopedic hospital. Contractor, Daniel Kay, of Toronto, at \$4,120. Order in Council dated April 22, 1919.

## DUTY ON WHEAT IS ABOLISHED BY JAPAN

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce has received a cablegram from A. E. Bryan, Canadian Trade Commissioner in Yokohama, Japan, that the duty on wheat and barley has been abolished by the Japanese Government, while the duty on flour has been reduced to 75 sen per picul. This is equivalent to a little less than 37½ cents duty on 133½ pounds of flour. One picul is 133½ pounds; 1 sen, 498 cents; 75 sen, 37½ cents.

snow has practically disappeared from the land with the exception of deep drifts and around bluffs. The frost is out of the ground to a depth of from 12 to 18 inches, making it possible on higher and drier lands to start work already with the harrow. Snow has fallen, however, in several districts within the last week, but this has been beneficial on account of the added moisture.

In those districts where a shortage of seed grain appeared local municipal authorities and grain growers' associations are endeavouring to meet the shortage. Many are importing seed oats, owing to scarcity of this grain last year.

Feed for stock during the seeding season appears to be sufficient, and from present appearances there will be green grass within a short time to remedy any shortage that occurs. Some farmers are shipping hay from those districts where more than a sufficiency exists.

## REFRIGERATOR SPACE ON STEAMERS IS RELEASED

### Far-reaching Results Expected for Canadian Shippers by Announcement made by British Food Ministry

### CANADIAN COMMISSION—IMPERIAL PREFERENCE PROPOSALS

A marked advance towards normalizing Canadian trade with Europe has been made during the week. As is well known, the chief difficulty which has been experienced in shipping Canadian produce and manufactures overseas is the restriction on tonnage which the British Shipping Controller has found imperative to continue since the armistice was signed. Far-reaching results are expected, however, from an important announcement made on May 1 by the British Ministry of Food withdrawing the restrictions on refrigerator space on ocean-going vessels. Shipment of all refrigerated foods from Canada has been under the direction of the Shipping Controller, whose allotment was final. The text of the cable sent by the Canadian Mission in London to the Canadian Trade Commission, Ottawa, was as follows:—

“Refrigerator Space: Ministry of Food agrees that from May 1 entire space will be available for commercial interests from Atlantic ports with exception of one or two small shipments of frozen beef, transportation of which very indefinite. Regular lines receiving instructions and particulars should be obtained from them.”

An impasse which has been reached in the exportation of Canadian produce, particularly of wheat and grain, through United States ports to the northern European neutrals, that is, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Holland, was satisfactorily overcome on Friday, May 1. The Trade Commission had placed the matter before the Canadian War Mission in Washington, by whom representations were made with the result that the United States authorities decided to grant permits for export to northern neutrals on submission of particulars of cases in which shipments cannot be made through Canadian ports. The arrangement, however, will only apply to shipments due to leave immediately, as the Transportation Department of the Grain Corporation at New York can give no assurance as to sailings a month in advance.

The Trade Commission is taking up further the matter of in transit shipments.

It is reported that several shipments of wheat and flour have been held up by the order of the United States Food Administration cancelling the general operating certificates for consignments from Canada, without which the United States Railroad Administration could not accept for shipment. This meant that a sixty-day embargo had been placed on the export of Canadian produce, as there are no steamship lines running from the Dominion to any northern neutral port.

Benefits to Canada under the Imperial preference proposals as made in the British House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer are emphasized in a special London cable received by the Trade Commission at Ottawa from the Canadian Mission. The cablegram points out, supplementing press messages received, the advantages of sending to Great Britain from Canada automobiles, musical instruments, sugar and dried fruits. These, together with cinematographic films, clocks and watches, are to receive a one-third preference. The present duty on films in Great Britain is 1d. for positives and 5d. for negatives.

Other articles specifically affected by the preferential treatment now proposed in the British fiscal policy are stated to be: Tea, a preference of 2d. per lb., equivalent to one-sixth value; cocoa and coffee, a preference of 7s. per cwt. (one-sixth); raw chicory, a preference equal to one-sixth; sugar, a preference of 4s. per cwt., nearly one-sixth; dried fruits, a preference of one-sixth; unmanufactured tobacco, a preference of 1s. 4d. per lb., between one-fifth and one-sixth value; and motor spirit a preference of 1d. per gallon. A one-sixth preference is also given to certain classes of spirits. The proposal is that the preference should take effect from September 1st, next, except in the case of tea and jewelry.—*Canadian Trade Commission.*

## CONTRACTS AWARDED BY ORDER IN COUNCIL

The Department of Public Works of Canada announces the following contracts awarded under Orders in Council:—

Winnipeg (Tuxedo), Man.—Extension to power house and laundry at Military Hospital. Contractors: Carter-Halls-Aldinger Co., Ltd., of Winnipeg, at \$145,529. Order in Council dated April 26, 1919.

Ottawa-Hull.—Bridge over Ottawa river at Chaudière (to replace present Union Bridge). Contractors: Dominion Bridge Co., Ltd., of Montreal, at \$110,000. Order in Council dated April 26, 1919.