

*Wheat and Coarse Grains*

**Mr. Heiland:** Yes. Will the minister make a statement on wheat, oats and barley at this time?

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, hon. members are aware of the difficulties being experienced by western producers in harvesting their 1951 grain crops. For nearly two months now frequent and widespread rains have repeatedly delayed harvesting throughout the prairie provinces, and the long weathering of fully matured crops has caused some loss in yield and a lowering in grade. However, for the past week weather conditions have been favourable throughout the prairies and harvesting is finally under way.

At this time I should advise the house of the plans of the Canadian wheat board in distributing final payments on the 1950-51 pools. Final accounting is now under way, and I am in a position to state there will be surpluses to distribute to producers in respect to the 1950-51 wheat, oats and barley pools. The final distribution on the barley pool will commence next week; on Monday, October 15, to be exact. The final barley payment will be followed by a final payment from the 1950-51 oats pool, and then the board will proceed with the payment on the 1950-51 wheat pool.

I would estimate that the three payments I have mentioned involve a distribution to western producers in excess of \$100 million and these payments will all be completed before the end of the calendar year, I hope before December 1.

I will now give a summary of the details of the final payment on barley which will commence on October 15. Members will recall that on February 1, 1951, all initial barley prices were increased by 20 cents per bushel and a payment of the same amount was made on all barley delivered to the board between August 1, 1950, and January 31, 1951. The final payment which I am announcing today, therefore, represents the second payment distribution over and above the initial prices which were originally established for 1950-51.

The 1949-50 barley pool was closed as at September 30, 1950, and the 1950-51 barley pool was closed as at September 22, 1951. Therefore the operating results of the 1950-51 barley pool reflect board sales between October 1, 1950 and September 22, 1951.

I should also add that in winding up the 1950-51 barley pool, slightly over eight million bushels of cash barley were transferred

to the 1951-52 pool under provisions of section 29A of the Canadian Wheat Board Act. Futures contracts covering the barley transferred to the new pool had been sold prior to the transfer date, and the transfer involved pricing the various grades of barley transferred to the new pool in relation to the closing price of the October future on September 22, 1951.

The net surplus from the 1950-51 pool amounts to \$15,112,054.03. Producers delivered 83,521,106.07 bushels of barley to the 1950-51 pool. Therefore, the average final payment on all grades of barley delivered to the board in 1950-51 will be 18.0937 cents per bushel. On the basic grade, namely three Canada Western six-row barley, the final payment will be 20.882 cents per bushel, bringing the total realized price for this grade of barley to \$1.33882. On No. 1 feed barley, a principal grade from the standpoint of producers deliveries, the final payment will be 16.164 cents per bushel, bringing the total realized price to \$1.23164. On No. 2 and No. 3 feed barley, the final payment will be 18.300 cents per bushel and 18.712 cents per bushel respectively, bringing the final realized prices for these two grades of barley to \$1.18300 per bushel and \$1.13712 per bushel. The final payment on many of the lower grades of barley delivered to the board in 1950-51 will range considerably higher than the final payment on the top grades. Payments on some of the lower grades will range as high as 30 cents per bushel.

The board is now winding up the 1950-51 oats pool and within a short time I will be in a position to advise the house of the final payments to be made on 1950-51 oats delivered to the board; and before the oats payment is completed, I shall be making an announcement about the wheat payment.

**Mr. P. E. Wright (Melfort):** There is one further question that I wish to ask the minister. Will the government give consideration to a further amendment to the wheat board act at this session which will permit the wheat board to make an advance payment on properly stored wheat on the farm?

**Mr. Howe:** The government does not intend to ask parliament to amend the wheat board act at this session. The question as to payment on wheat stored on the farm is of importance this year due to the lateness of the harvest. The harvest is six weeks later than normal. The government has been watching the situation carefully. However, exceptional arrangements have been made for the transport of wheat to market. It is now felt that the farmers of western Canada will