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## The Allies Grain and Flour Requirements For 1917

Estimated That Allies Requirements of Cerials  
Will be 1,000,000,000 Bushels --- Canada's  
Share is Shown in Increases in Exports  
of Wheat and of Flour---Only Care-  
ful Management Will Make 1917  
Crop go Round According to  
Herbert C. Hoover

A recent despatch from Washington, shows that the 1917 wheat crop of America as forecasted by the Department of Agriculture, will fall below the normal, despite the prospect of more than ordinary yield of spring wheat.

A total yield estimated at 656,000,000 bushels will give the country 16,000,000 more bushels than last year's crops, but with the heavy demands from abroad and virtually no reserve store, it will not meet war needs unless the country practises the most rigid economy.

The department forecasts a spring crop of 283,000,000 bushels, a big yield, but estimates of winter wheat production give a crop of only 373,000,000 bushels, 7,000,000 more than was forecasted from the May 1 condition, but still far from the normal yield.

Herbert C. Hoover in his report to the government on what the United States must do to sustain its Allies with food, shows that the Allies and a few neutrals, which must be considered, will require during the next year 1,000,000,000 bushels of cereals alone, and that their needs of meat, fats and sugar also will be enormous.

Production in the Allied countries and imports from other countries can meet only a portion of these needs. America must supply the remainder. America's surplus on the present scale of consumption will not meet the deficiency, Mr. Hoover says, and points out that reduction of home consumption in many ways is required.

The report closes with an appeal to the American people to assist the food administration in its efforts to increase production and to conserve American supplies. "We are at war," it says. "We must do what success in war demands. He also fights who helps a fighter fight. That is the way we can all help in the war, and if we don't help the war will not be won."

The situation abroad was outlined by Mr. Hoover as follows:

"Great Britain normally raises about one-fourth of the grain she needs for her bread; France about one-half. The additions necessary to make up the total quantities needed are brought in from various other countries.

"But in these abnormal times the native production of the fighting Allies is greatly reduced by the withdrawal of the man-power from the farms to the armies and munition factories; also by reason of late frosts this year's crop in the United Kingdom, France and Italy is a partial failure. Opportunity to import from certain grain-raising countries, as Russia and Roumania, is entirely lacking, and from certain others, as Australia, South America and India, is greatly lessened on account of the long haul for which ships cannot be spared.

"In addition the actual cereal and meat consumption of the Allied countries is increased by the transfer of millions of men from sedentary occupations to those of great physical activity and by the wastage incidental to the feeding of the great armies in the field. There must also be recognized the greater demand for seed grain to maintain the dairy and meat supplies and the cavalry horses of the armies."

America's duty is set forth by Mr. Hoover thus:

"All those conditions throw on North America the brunt of the burden of supplying our co-belligerents with the human and animal food necessary to maintain their great armies in fighting condition, as well as to keep alive and efficient the families of the fighters and the great industrial army at home."

A cablegram recently received by the Government, from the International Institute of Agriculture, gave the following crop reports:

The condition of growing cereals was good in Tunis, average in Spain, Netherlands and Algeria, mediocre in France, Great Britain, Italy and Switzerland.

Areas sown to wheat:

Spain, 10,300,000 acres or 105 per cent of 1916.  
Switzerland, 128,000 acres or 104 per cent of 1916.  
India, 32,885,000 acres or 109 per cent of 1916.  
Algeria, 3,151,000 acres or 96 per cent of 1916.

Areas sown to rye:

Spain, 1,846,000 acres or 100 per cent of 1916.  
Switzerland, 74,000 acres or 105 per cent of 1916.

These figures as well as additional figures of barley and oats, show fairly good increases in the old world acreage under cereal crops, but crop prospects about average. In no case is there any indication of any abnormal crop prospects this year.

Reports published from time to time by Cora Hind, one of Canada's expert crop reporters, in the Manitoba "Free Press" and in the Journal of Commerce, show that there will probably be at least an average crop in Canada. The wheat acreage will not show very much increase over last year but all crops, including vegetables, will show a considerable increase over last year.

All reports from Canada, the United States and from Europe, indicate that while there will be some small increases in acreage under crops over last year, the amount of wheat available this year, even with good crops, will just barely meet the demands of the Allies. It would appear that even with bumper crops, only very careful management will make the cereals go round until the crop of 1918 is harvested. Weather conditions are of course changeable and the crop reports change with the weather reports. A week may bring forth a warm rain, a growing week of sunshine or a bad frost. Not for another five or six weeks will it be possible to accurately forecast the total grain production for the whole world from the 1916 summer crops, but as pointed out by Mr. Hoover there will be just barely enough cereals to fill the demands even with good crops. He has estimated that the Allies will require 1,000,000,000 bushels of cereals. Canada may produce for export from 100,000,000 to 200,000,000 bushels of cereals, but it will all depend on the weather.

The question naturally arises: "What can the Canadian millers do toward filling the demand for flour? It has been said that there is more flour milled in the city of Minneapolis than in the whole Dominion of Canada. It is, however, interesting to note that the exports of Canadian flour have been jumping by leaps and bounds. The flour exports for 1916 were valued at over \$35,000,000 as compared with \$24,000,000 in the previous year. The 1916 flour exports showed an increase of nearly 500 per cent over 1909. The total grain exports in 1916 were valued at \$192,000,000 as compared with \$88,000,000 in the previous year and as compared with a little over \$56,000,000 in 1910. Thus in 1916 Canada contributed to the Allies, grain and flour worth approximately \$227,000,000, breaking all

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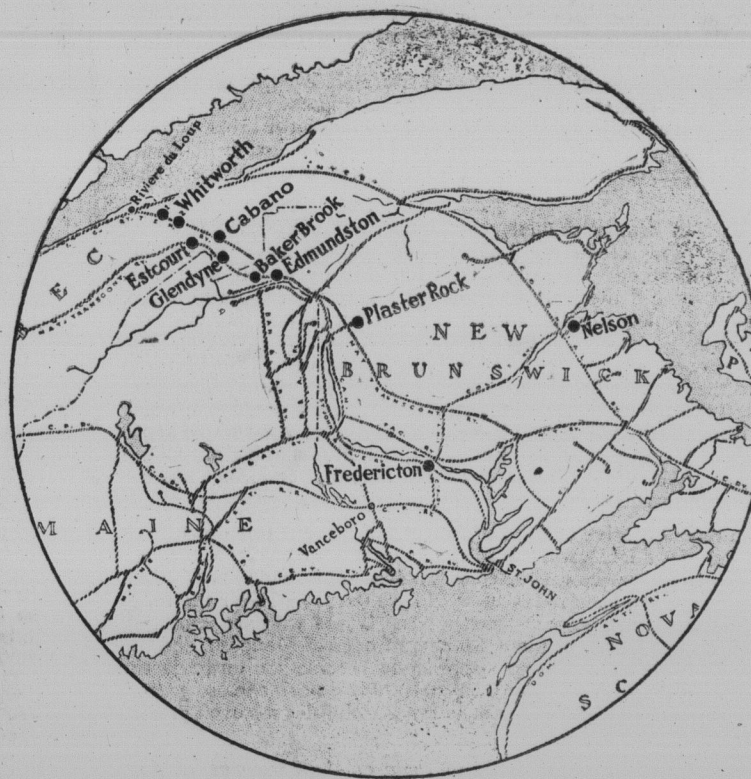
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