



REFERENCE PAPERS

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CANADA'S WHEAT^{*}(Revised Sept.
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The agricultural area of Western Canada is one of the world's largest wheat growing regions. Canada's hard spring wheat, grown in this area, is recognized throughout the grain markets of the world for its superior mixing qualities and baking strength. The following paragraphs outline the principle features of the production and marketing of Canada's most important crops:-

ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION

Canada's wheat acreage and production expanded most rapidly during the First World War, particularly in the three Prairie Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The wheat acreage in 1914 in Canada was just over 10 million acres but in 1919 it exceeded 19 million acres. Acreage continued to expand during the period between the two World Wars, and reached the highest point on record in 1940, when 28,726,000 acres were seeded to wheat. All but one million acres of this was in the three Prairie Provinces.

The largest Canadian wheat crop was in 1952, when 687,922,000 bushels of wheat were harvested. The 1954 crop is estimated at 377 million, of which 351 million bushels were produced in the Prairie Provinces and 26 million bushels elsewhere, mainly Ontario. Little of the Ontario soft winter wheat crop enters export channels and the remaining paragraphs of this paper will, therefore, apply to Western Canada's hard spring wheat.

Wheat production in Canada since 1908 is recorded in the attached Appendix "A" "Wheat Supply and Disposition - Canada".

METHOD OF HANDLING

The most important characteristic of the handling of Canadian wheat is its movement in bulk right from the time of delivery by the producer through its various stages to seaboard or to domestic mills. Western Canada's wheat is normally harvested during late August and September, and is delivered by truck or wagon to "country elevators" in nearby towns. These country elevators, each with a capacity of between 30,000 and 80,000 bushels, represent approximately half the storage capacity of all grain elevators

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