

provinces were placed on an "open delivery" basis. In addition to the increases in the general quota, the delivery quotas at individual stations were raised throughout the fall months as soon as local storage permitted.

The dominion government undertook to limit deliveries in all of Canada to 230 million bushels, which would mean about 223 million bushels deliverable in the prairie provinces. Since the prairie wheat crop amounted to 279 million bushels in 1941, it was apparent from the commencement of the new crop year, that marketings would not exceed the maximum established by the dominion government, making it possible to take delivery of all surplus wheat in the prairie provinces. It is expected that total deliveries for the crop year 1941-42 will amount to about 200 million bushels, which will be well within the limit prescribed for the prairie provinces.

Up until February 27th country deliveries of wheat had amounted to 166 million bushels, leaving a balance of about 34 million bushels to be delivered before July 31st, 1942.

Exports are running somewhat higher than for the corresponding period of 1940-41. Up to February 27th export clearances of wheat had amounted to 84 million bushels as compared with 65 million bushels for the corresponding period of last year. In addition during the six months ending January, flour exports in terms of wheat had amounted to 22 million bushels this crop year, as compared with 15 million bushels for the same months in 1940-41. It may be said, therefore, that our exports of wheat and flour are running about 25 million bushels ahead of the same period in 1940-41. We must remember, however, that exports were very light up to this time a year ago, and did not run into substantial volume until the last four months of the crop year. As the crop year progresses, therefore, it is very likely that our exports will be less favourable as compared with a year ago. I would not attempt to forecast our wheat exports for the crop year 1941-42 because the volume of these exports depends so largely upon the requirements of the United Kingdom and the ability to provide the necessary shipping.

In announcing the government's 1942-43 wheat programme, I shall deal with that part of the programme which comes within the jurisdiction of the Department of Trade and Commerce. Following my statement, my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner), will deal with other forms of assistance which will be administered by his department.

I wish to make it quite clear, Mr. Speaker, that the announcements to be made by my

colleague and this announcement by me are closely related. There are not two plans but one plan carefully worked out, each in relation to the other on the basis of the needs as we see them of the whole of the western provinces.

In so far as the wheat programme is concerned, no attempt has been made to formulate a long term policy. This would be virtually impossible in the light of the many factors which have a direct bearing on our policy at the present time but which may or may not exist after the cessation of hostilities. In the studies which have been made in regard to the whole agricultural policy to be followed in the west, a possible long term programme has been reviewed but, as I say, under present circumstances it is not possible to implement a programme which might be dislocated within six months of its announcement.

It is my responsibility to announce the government's decision in respect to the price which will be paid to the farmers for wheat in 1942-43, the volume of wheat which we propose to accept in that crop year and decisions which have been made in regard to price of certain coarse grains and flaxseed.

The government proposes that the fixed initial price for wheat delivered in 1942-43 under authorized delivery quotas shall be 90 cents per bushel, basis No. 1 northern wheat in store Fort William/Port Arthur or Vancouver.

In reaching its decision in regard to the fixed price per bushel of wheat, the government has taken into account the position of producers who, by virtue of geographical location, and established farm practice, must depend mainly upon wheat production in their farm operations. Producers in this position have not been able to take as much advantage as producers in other areas of remunerative markets which have existed for live stock and live stock products. With due regard to the percentage of total wheat acreage in the prairie provinces which is normally seeded to wheat in these areas, the government feels that an increase in the per bushel price is an effective way of assisting those who need assistance most.

It is not the intention of the government that domestic buyers of wheat and wheat products shall be deprived of the protection of the price control policy.

Accordingly, the Canadian wheat board will continue to sell wheat to domestic buyers for flour or other use at a price which conforms to the spirit and intention of the maximum prices regulations and is an appropriate price in relation to the domestic selling prices of goods made from wheat or in the production of which wheat is used.

The wartime prices and trade board, in the discharge of its responsibilities under the maxi-