

## SPECIAL MEASURES IN REGARD TO WHEAT, 1945-46

*(a) The British Priority*

Early in 1945-46 the demand situation was such that Canada could dispose of wheat in a volume which would later in the crop year reduce the quantities available to the United Kingdom below her minimum requirements. Since Canada had provided practically all imported wheat for the United Kingdom since the outbreak of war in 1939, it was evident that some special arrangements would have to be made if Canada were to continue this position in 1945-46. As a result, cables and letters were exchanged between the board and the United Kingdom authorities relative to the United Kingdom's wheat requirements for 1945-46 and Canada's ability to meet these requirements in the face of exceptional demand from other countries. The Imported Cereals Division of the Ministry of Food made available to the board all relevant facts in regard to the United Kingdom's wheat position for 1945-46, including monthly requirements and bulk stocks required to permit continuous operation of United Kingdom mills. As a result of this exchange of information and views, the board in November, 1945, agreed to supply the United Kingdom with her minimum home requirements for the period from December 1, 1945 to April 30, 1946. This commitment was in addition to the supplies of wheat made available to the United Kingdom during the August-November period, which not only met United Kingdom requirements during these months, but resulted in a satisfactory stock position in the United Kingdom as at December 1, 1945. This decision on the part of the board was concurred in by the dominion government and became an important feature of Canadian wheat policy during the critical winter of 1945-46.

The arrangement in respect to the United Kingdom was in terms of her minimum home requirements. In these negotiations, the United Kingdom did not suggest more than assurance in regard to her minimum home requirements in view of the food situation confronting other countries.

*(b) Limitation of Export Price of Wheat  
Price Guaranteed to Producers*

On September 19, 1945, the dominion government announced that for the time being Canadian wheat was to be offered for export at a price not exceeding \$1.55 per bushel for Number One Northern wheat basis in store Fort William/Port Arthur or Vancouver.

At the same time the dominion government announced that "as a further means of stabilizing wheat prices during the post-war period, it is the intention that steps shall be taken to ensure that producers will not at any time up to July 31, 1950, receive less than \$1.00 per bushel for Number One Manitoba Northern wheat, basis in store Fort William/Port Arthur or Vancouver, on the authorized deliveries for each crop year".

The reasons for these two decisions on the part of the dominion government and the specific instructions to The Canadian Wheat Board in respect to export prices for Canadian wheat are set forth in order in council P.C. 6122, September 19, 1945.

*(c) Cessation of Mutual Aid*

At midnight September 1, 1945, sales of wheat under Mutual Aid ceased in Canada. Mutual Aid funds first became available in 1943 and large quantities of wheat and flour went abroad as a direct charge against these funds. After September 1, 1945, the sale of Canadian wheat and flour became subject to cash settlement or a charge against credit arrangements negotiated by various importing countries with the Canadian Government. Pursuant to this decision, the Board's Crown Wheat Account was closed out as at the close of business on September 1, 1945.