



CANADA

CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 18 No. 50

December 11, 1963

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A BOOM SEASON FOR CANADA'S WHEAT

The following are extracts from a speech by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, on December 2, to the Alberta Wheat Pool at Calgary, Alberta:

...When I took office in April of this year, the outlook was very uncertain. Indeed, your organization was associated with representations made to the Government of Canada, just a short time before the election, expressing concern about a decline in exports and urging the Government to increase its efforts to move grain. Needless to say, my concern grew as the 1963 crop looked as if it might be a big one — which it surely was, as you well know.

WHEAT FOR CHINA

About midsummer the outlook began to improve. The first major break came with the signing of another agreement between the Canadian Wheat Board and the China Resources Company similar to the first contract signed in 1961 by the two agencies. The negotiations for this second agreement were very tough. Concessions had to be made both by the Board and by the Canadian Government. We were requested and agreed to give the Chinese an improved opportunity to sell their goods in Canada. Under the terms of this long-term agreement, individual sales contracts are to be negotiated periodically as to quantity, price and shipping period. To date one contract for 18.7 million bushels for shipment by January 31, 1964, has been concluded and it is expected that a further contract will be concluded within the near future. Representatives of the China Resources Company have in fact been in Canada for

some weeks talking to the Wheat Board and also to potential customers for their wares.

SALE TO U.S.S.R.

The long-term agreements with China was followed in September by an initial sale of 11 million bushels to Russia followed by the renewal of the Canada-U.S.S.R. Trade Agreement and the largest single wheat sale in Canadian history. During the three years of this agreement, which dates from the expiry of the previous agreement on April 17, 1963, the U.S.S.R. has agreed to purchase 247 million bushels of wheat or flour equivalent. The bulk of this quantity, 228 million bushels, is for shipment in the current crop year, but the Soviet Union has agreed to purchase 19 million bushels of wheat, or the flour equivalent, in the third year of the agreement.

BULGARIAN SALE

On October 8, Bulgaria signed a three-year agreement to purchase 3.7 million bushels annually, with the option of a further 5.5 million bushels in the current crop year if this quantity can be made available. This is the first sale of wheat to Bulgaria by Canada, and I am confident that the three year agreement will provide the basis for a continuing market in that country.

CZECH AND POLISH SALES

Czechoslovakia, which has been a sporadic market in the past, clearly indicated its intention of becoming a regular customer for Canadian wheat by signing, on October 29, a five-year agreement for the purchase of 44 million bushels.

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On November 5, Poland, which has been a regular customer for our wheat since 1955-56, signed an agreement providing for the supply and purchase of 44 million bushels of wheat during the next three years. Under this agreement annual shipments will average 14.7 million bushels and will, in the three-year period, exceed the combined total of the best three years to date.

Thus, in the last four months, in addition to the agreement with China and the spectacular agreement with the Soviet Union, long-term agreements have been concluded which have developed a new customer for Canadian wheat - Bulgaria - converted a sporadic customer to a regular customer - Czechoslovakia - and increased the annual level of exports to a regular market - Poland.

REGULAR CUSTOMERS

In addition, of course, the Wheat Board has been selling wheat to our regular customers and in regular quantities. In fact, during the present crop year shipments to regular markets, outside the Eastern European Socialist countries and Mainland China, are likely to be larger this crop year than during the crop year which ended on July 31 of this year.

Before making large-scale commitments to the Soviet Union, the Wheat Board set aside quantities for our regular customers like Britain and Japan. The Wheat Board consulted with me about this policy of protecting our regular customers on both quantities and prices and I supported them strongly. I was gratified to find that this policy also commanded the support of all the political parties in the House of Commons and also, so far as I am aware, of Western producers....

The significance of these long-term contracts with China, the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Poland is that they seem to indicate a fundamental shift in the pattern of world wheat trade. Mainland China shows every sign of becoming a permanent importer of wheat and on a substantial scale. The same may be said of the socialist countries of Eastern Europe, which, as a group, were once self-sufficient in wheat and which, more recently, were large importers of wheat from the Soviet Union. I do not think these countries would have been interested in agreements with Canada extending ahead for three to five years had there not been a pretty fundamental reassessment by them of their dependence upon supplies from the Western world....

REMARKABLE RECORD

This is the record of our wheat sales during the present crop season. It is indeed a remarkable record, unprecedented in our history. It is all the more remarkable because prices are higher on the whole (above \$2.00 a bushel for one Northern at Fort William as well as at Vancouver) than they have been at any time in the post war period except for small quantities sold many years ago outside the International Wheat Agreement.

As a result we shall be able to sell every bushel of wheat and every pound of flour that can be moved through Canadian ports before the end of next July. The more we can move the more we can sell. Customers are waiting in line. I have suggested that our wheat and flour exports will total about 550 million

bushels, about 150 million bushels higher than the previous all-time record and 170 million bushels higher than the post-war record. The Board have told me they will be trying for an even higher figure and I shall not be unhappy if they succeed in making me look like a piker. And I know western producers will not be unhappy either.

MEETING CUSTOMER REQUIREMENTS

Well, then, how is the Board getting along in meeting the requirements of its customers? First, let me say that, with the exception of very short delays during the longshoremen's strike on the St. Lawrence, all the ships that have presented themselves at our ports for wheat have been loaded promptly and never in our history have so many ships presented themselves in such a short space of time.

Unfortunately, I cannot give you specific figures on the quantities of grain delivered so far this year within the terms of the contracts I outlined earlier, since it is not consistent with good marketing practice to discuss publicly contracts while they are being fulfilled. However, this much I can say. The contracts that have been entered into are being fulfilled right on schedule and if we continue to receive the cooperation of all concerned in the grain movement I am confident that we can continue to do so for the balance of the crop year. This is indeed an accomplishment in which the people involved can take justifiable pride....

The highest weekly volume of grain ever moved out of the Lakehead was recorded during the week ended October 30 - 18.5 million bushels. The highest weekly volume of shipments of grain from country elevators in the post-war period was recorded during the week ending November 20 - 20.6 million bushels.

On November 14 a post-war record for any single day was established when 1,373 boxcars, moving some 2.6 million bushels of grain, were unloaded at the Lakehead.

Exports of wheat since the beginning of August are 75 per cent ahead of those for the same period last year, which was not itself a poor year by any ordinary standard of comparison.

Statistics are cold things. I wish that it were possible to clothe these figures with the drama and excitement that they deserve. You producers can translate them easily enough. I do not think that as yet, however, the contribution that this enormous movement is making to Canadians in all parts of Canada and in all walks of life is fully understood....

PUBLIC-SCHOOL TEACHERS

Teachers in public-elementary and secondary schools in Canada at the beginning of the 1962-63 academic year numbered 171,927, an increase of 4.6 per cent from the preceding year. The proportion of male teachers continued to increase, rising to 30.8 per cent from 29.9 per cent in 1961-62 and 28.8 per cent in 1960-61. Median salaries of teachers and principals in nine provinces (excluding Quebec) rose 2.4 per cent to \$4,522 from \$4,414 in the preceding year. Median years of teaching experience for all teachers and principals in the same nine provinces was seven years and four months.

BUILDING PERMITS

In September, Canadian municipalities issued building permits covering construction estimated at \$241,702,200, up 20.2 per cent from last year's corresponding total of \$201,075,000. This brought the January-September value to \$2,051,948,000, a rise of 4.4 per cent from the like 1962 total of \$1,966,212,000.

The value of residential construction advanced 30.9 per cent in September to \$127,979,000 from \$97,792,000 a year earlier and 9.9 per cent in the January-September period to \$1,044,174,000 from \$949,733,000 a year ago. Non-residential value was up 10.1 per cent in the month to \$113,723,000 from \$103,283,000 but was down 0.9 per cent in the nine months to \$1,007,774,000 from \$1,016,479,000.

VALUE BY PROVINCES

Value of construction covered by building permits issued in September was up from a year earlier in all provinces except Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Alberta. Month's totals were: Newfoundland, \$1,816,000 (\$2,653,000 in September last year); Prince Edward Island, \$320,000 (\$84,000); Nova Scotia, \$3,079,000 (\$2,888,000); New Brunswick, \$2,767,000 (\$3,573,000); Quebec, \$61,885,000 (\$53,664,000); Ontario, \$107,335,000 (\$82,397,000); Manitoba, \$11,849,000 (\$9,107,000); Saskatchewan, \$12,885,000 (\$5,447,000); Alberta, \$19,872,000 (\$23,550,000); and British Columbia, \$19,894,000 (\$17,712,000).

VISIT OF OECD TRAINING TEAM

A team of European training experts, sponsored by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, is at present in Canada on a two-week visit, surveying technician facilities and programmes as part of a multi-nation study of training at this level.

The group is looking closely at post-high-school education in Canada's institutes of technology and in industry, examining facilities and assessing programmes. They will relate their findings to programmes and facilities in other nations of the world, and will look generally at Canada's place in this field in relation to other industrialized and emerging nations.

AIM OF SURVEY

The purpose of the survey is that, as unbiased observers, the team may be able to make recommendations for improvement in the Canadian approach for the consideration of provincial departments of education and industrial leaders or possibly may be able to use the Canadian system as an example for other countries to follow.

ITINERARY

The team arrived in Canada November 27 and met officials of the Federal Department of Labour November 28 for an informal discussion of technician-training programmes and facilities and to outline the

aims of the survey. On November 29, they visited the Eastern Ontario Institute of Technology in Ottawa. They were in Quebec City December 1 to carry out talks with officials of the Department of Youth and to visit the Quebec Institute of Technology.

On December 3, the team was in Montreal to discuss technician training with Garnet T. Page, Chairman, National Committee on Technological Education, with industrialists in the Montreal area and with local officials of the Department of Youth.

The experts toured the Laval Institute of Technology and the Montreal Institute on December 4 and visited the Lachine works of the Northern Electric Company on December 5. They travelled to Toronto on December 6, where they conferred with officials of the Ontario Department of Education and visited Ryerson Polytechnical Institute.

In Regina, on December 9, they had discussions with Saskatchewan Department of Education officials and toured the South Saskatchewan Technical Institute in Moose Jaw. They visited the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary the following day, and talked with industrial leaders in that community.

The team is slated to tour the British Columbia Institute of Technology, which is still under construction, on December 11 and will confer with B.C. education officials. On December 12, they will visit the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton and meet officials of the Alberta Department of Education. They will return to Ottawa for December 13 discussions with officials of the Federal Department of Labour.

LANDSCAPE ARTIST HONOURED

Homer Watson, Canada's first native-born painter to record the distinctive character of the Ontario landscape, is being honoured by a retrospective exhibition of his works at the National Gallery. The exhibition was opened at the Gallery on December 5 by William J. Withrow, Director of the Art Gallery of Toronto. It will remain at the Gallery for one month.

Not only did Homer Watson, who lived from 1855 until 1936, give a new sense of unity and order to the Canadian scene, he was also important as a forerunner of the Group of Seven, whose members were to add a further dimension and meaning to the Canadian landscape.

Watson worked chiefly near his native village of Doon, near the present city of Kitchener, where his brush captured the dignity and beauty of Waterloo County.

FORESTRY STUDY TOUR

The Minister of Forestry, Mr. John R. Nicholson, recently announced that 30 forestry officials from 15 member countries of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization would spend two weeks in Canada next summer, learning how problems of forest-fire control are handled by Canadian fire-fighters.

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The visitors will look at all phases of the subject, including forest-fire prevention, detection, suppression and planning; but their main interest will be in the training of fire-fighting personnel. They will undergo actual training and use the experience gained to develop the organization and conduct of training in their respective countries.

The study tour will be conducted in Ontario and Quebec from August 8 to 22, 1964, under the joint sponsorship of the North American Forestry Commission (FAO), the federal Department of Forestry and the two provincial Departments of Lands and Forests. It will follow a five-week study tour in the United States. The list of participating countries is not complete, but representation is expected to be world-wide.

NEW ISRAELI ENVOY

On December 6, His Excellency Gershon Avner presented to the Governor General his letter of credence as Ambassador of Israel in a ceremony which took place at Government House.

Mr. Avner was born in 1919. He is a graduate of the Hebrew Secondary School in Haifa, Palestine, and attended Oxford University, where he received Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in Political and Economic Sciences. From 1942 to 1948, Mr. Avner held important positions with the Jewish Agency for Palestine in London and in Jerusalem. Since joining the diplomatic service, he has served in Budapest, Sofia and London. Between these postings, Mr. Avner was, in turn, Director of the West-European and of the United States of America Divisions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1961 he was attached to the Israeli Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly and in 1962 was appointed Ambassador of Israel to Norway.

HEAVY-WATER PLANT FOR CANADA

Mr. C.M. Drury, the Minister of Industry, announced recently that the Government had approved the acceptance of the proposal submitted by Deuterium of Canada Limited to construct and operate a plant to produce heavy water in Canada. In its proposal, submitted to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited prior to May 31, 1963, the closing date for receipt of proposals, Deuterium of Canada Limited made an unconditional offer to produce heavy water in Canada for sale at a price considerably lower than that of other bidders who fulfilled the conditions established by the Government. The proposal contained a commitment that Deuterium would have a substantial degree of Canadian equity participation. The company agreed to use the maximum possible quantities of Canadian materials and equipment in the construction of the proposed plant.

Deuterium of Canada plans to construct its plant in Cape Breton. The plant will provide an assured market for Nova Scotia coal in Nova Scotia.

AN IMPORTANT STEP

The production of heavy water is a further important step in Canada's programme of developing nuclear sources of energy. The facilities of the new plant will be available to supply the requirements of heavy water in Canadian-designed reactor stations in Canada and abroad. Under the new arrangement, Deuterium of Canada will produce not less than 200 tons of heavy water a year for the first five years of production. The sale of this quantity will be underwritten by the Government of Canada. In view, however, of the keen interest at home and abroad, in the Canadian reactor programme, the prospects for the sale of heavy water appear most promising.