With the liberation of progressively larger areas of Europe, the function of the Cereals Committee of the Combined Food Board in programming available export supplies of wheat to the various importing countries became increasingly important and complex. The work of this Committee contributed in substantial measure to the efficient planning of the maximum movement of Canadian grain.

The crop year of 1944-45 coincided with the final phase of the War in Europe. It is appropriate here to set forth the broad features of the Canadian wheat position during the years of the conflict, in order that developments of the crop year 1944-45 may be seen in proper relationship to the larger wartime experience. The following statement shows initial stocks, annual production, total supplies and the disposition of supplies for the ten-year period prior to the war and for the six-year wartime period:—

		Annual Supplies		Annual Disposition		
Crop Year	Initial Stocks	Annual Production	Total Supplies	Domestic Requirements	Exports	Year-end Stocks
		(million bushels)				
Av. 1929-30 to 1938-39.	135	309	444	110	199	135
1939-40	103	521	624	131	193	300
1940-41	300	540	840	129	231	480
1941-42	480	315	795	145	226	424
1942-43	424	557	981	171	215	595
1943-44	595	284	879	179	344	356
1944-45	356	417	773	172	343	258
Av 1939-40 to 1944-45.	376	439	815	154	259	402

It will be noted that in the first four crop years of the War, exports of Canadian wheat (including flour) ranged from 193,000,000 bushels to 231,000,000 bushels only slightly above or below the average for the ten pre-war years. Of the four crops harvested during the same years, three yielded over 500,000,000 bushels. Exports and rising domestic requirements fell far short of absorbing the phenomenal production of the 1939-42 period and, consequently, year-end stocks rose to a level of 595,000,000 bushels on July 31, 1943. This reserve stock of wheat not only filled the greater part of permanent storage capacity in Canada and temporary capacity erected during the War, but nearly 200,000,000 bushels were stored on farms.

In the final two crop years of the war period, crops fell off to an average of 350,000,000 bushels, and at the same time the demand for Canadian wheat increased sharply. During the crop year 1943-44, the United States imported about 160,000,000 bushels of Canadian wheat to supplement feed supplies. Although the United States demand subsided in the following crop year, it was more than offset by increased demand for wheat from overseas countries. In the two crop years ending July 31, 1945, Canada provided importing countries with 687,000,000 bushels of wheat (including flour), or an average of 28,600,000 bushels each month from Aug. 1, 1943 to July 31, 1945.

In spite of the heavy outward movement in the latter stages of the War and in the early post-war months, the carryover on July 31, 1945, was 258,000,000 bushels as compared with the wartime peak of 595,000,000 bushels and the ten-year pre-war average of 135,000,000 bushels. Thus, on July 31, 1945, there remained a substantial volume of wheat from our wartime reserve, which, along with the 1945 crop, was destined to play an important part in meeting the needs of the importing countries during the transition from war to peace. The increase in the demand for