

Wheat Products.—Under Order in Council P.C. 7319, dated Sept. 19, 1944, the Canadian Wheat Board was charged with the administration of drawbacks paid in respect to flour and other human foods containing wheat, sold and delivered in Canada between Aug. 1, 1944, and July 31, 1945.

Oats and Barley.—Under Order in Council P.C. 5998, dated July 31, 1944, the Board continued to guarantee minimum prices on the same basis as in 1943-44. Maximum prices remained the same. (See p. 788.)

Oats and Barley Equalization Funds.—Under provisions of Order in Council P.C. 5998, dated July 31, 1944, the Board continued to administer the Barley Equalization Fund and the Oats Equalization Fund. As in the preceding crop year, the Federal Government guaranteed the Equalization Funds to the extent of 10 cents per bushel on oats and 15 cents per bushel on barley. Payments to the extent of the guarantee were made to producers at the time of delivery and were known as Advance Equalization Payments. Provision was also made for Advance Equalization Payments to producers in connection with farm-to-feeder or farm-to-farm sales.

Flaxseed.—Apart from an increase in price to producers, no changes were made in flaxseed policy for 1944-45. The fixed price, basis in store Fort William, Vancouver and Montreal, was increased from \$2.50 to \$2.75 per bushel. Total sales during the year amounted to 8,300,000 bushels, of which 4,600,000 bushels were for domestic account and 3,700,000 bushels were for export. The export price was \$3.10 per bushel basis in store Fort William/Port Arthur.

Oilseeds.—Under Order in Council P.C. 4131 of June 1, 1944, the Board continued to guarantee minimum prices of sunflower seed and rapeseed on the same basis as in 1943-44. By Order in Council P.C. 8060 of Oct. 20, 1944, the Board's power to purchase rapeseed at the established prices was limited to the Western Division. In the 1944-45 crop year, Board purchases of rapeseed were 3,485,845 pounds and of sunflower seed 4,486,272 pounds. The carryover of sunflower seed from the 1943 crop amounted to 824,827 pounds. All rapeseed stocks were sold during the year but, at July 31, 1945, there remained unsold 4,351,500 pounds of sunflower seed.

Acreage and Production

The 1944 wheat acreage was 23,284,000 acres. This acreage represented a substantial increase over the area seeded to wheat in the previous year. Wheat production totalled 417,000,000 bushels which, added to the July 31, 1944, carryover of 356,000,000 bushels, gave total supplies for the crop year of 773,000,000 bushels—about 106,000,000 bushels less than was available in 1943-44.

Wheat and Flour Exports

Overseas clearances and exports of Canadian wheat in 1944-45 amounted to 280,000,000 bushels as compared with 283,000,000 bushels in 1943-44. Flour exports continued at a very high level and amounted to the equivalent of 63,000,000 bushels as compared with 61,000,000 bushels in 1943-44. Total exports of wheat and flour for the crop year 1944-45 amounted to 343,000,000 bushels as compared with 344,000,000 bushels in 1943-44.

The direction of exports of Canadian wheat in 1944-45 changed materially from that of 1943-44. During 1944-45 the United Kingdom took nearly one-half of Canadian exports of wheat. United States imports of Canadian wheat dropped to 42,000,000 bushels as compared with 160,000,000 bushels in the previous crop year.