

Advance equalization payments made to producers exceeded the amounts collected as equalization fees levied on oats exports, and the resultant deficit in the Oats Equalization Fund was \$1,421,431. On the other hand, the proceeds of equalization fees assessed on barley exports exceeded advance equalization payments to producers by \$6,044,880. This surplus in the Barley Equalization Fund made possible a further payment of 7.59 cents per bushel to those producers who received advance payments from the Barley Equalization Fund.

The deficit in the Oats Equalization Fund arose from a sharp decline in the level of equalization fees, which was only partially offset by the moderate increase in the volume of exports. Since the two Funds were separate and distinct, the deficit in the Oats Equalization Fund did not affect the distribution of the surplus in the Barley Equalization Fund. The Oats Fund deficit was absorbed by the Dominion Government.

Price Ceilings.—The Board continued to act as administrator of ceiling prices on whole grains on behalf of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

Delivery Quotas.—It was necessary to regulate deliveries at country elevators for a considerable part of the crop year, in spite of the fact that available empty space on Aug. 1, 1944, amounted to about 100,000,000 bushels. Rye and flax were not subject to delivery restrictions. Early in September, restrictions on barley were removed, and on May 4, 1945, an open wheat quota was established at all delivery points.

At various times during the crop year 1944-45 it was considered necessary to concentrate available transportation in areas most favourably situated in respect to the Lakehead, in order to meet an extremely large and urgent demand. This policy resulted in the deferring of necessary grain shipments from areas in northern Alberta and northern Saskatchewan, and made necessary the continuance of relatively small delivery quotas on oats and wheat in these areas until early in 1945.

THE CROP YEAR, 1945-46

Summary

The major task of all wheat exporting countries in 1945-46 was to provide maximum quantities of wheat and flour to assist importing countries through the first full crop year following the end of the War. In that effort Canada played a leading part and for the third successive year provided wheat exports (including flour) in excess of 340,000,000 bushels. Into the effort of 1945-46 went the last of Canada's wartime reserves of wheat and in the latter part of the crop year exports were determined by the volume of wheat that producers made available at country elevators.

The exceedingly urgent demand for breadstuffs during the crop year was due not only to the normal requirements of importing countries and special demands following the War, but also to the effects of a devastating drought in southern Europe and North Africa.

The full impact of this food position confronted the Cereals Committee of the Combined Food Board early in the crop year. The severity of the crisis and the threat of mass starvation on a large scale called for a major, co-ordinated effort on the part of Canada and the United States. The effectiveness of this effort is indicated by the fact that in the year ended June 30, 1946, Canada and