

the United States together exported about 750,000,000 bushels of wheat (including flour) which constituted the largest wheat exports in any twelve-month period in the history of the North American continent. In addition to these supplies of wheat, both countries supplied quantities of other grains for human consumption.

Canada commenced the new crop year with a favourable position for a large export movement of wheat during the first half of the crop year, due to the carryover of 258,000,000 bushels of wheat on July 31, 1945. Within this carryover were substantial quantities of wheat in export position and a "bank" of wheat amounting to over 62,000,000 bushels in country elevators. These stocks were supplemented, of course, by deliveries from the 1945 wheat crop.

Canadian wheat exports (excluding flour) were heavily concentrated during the first half of the crop year, approximately 178,000,000 bushels, two-thirds of the total quantity for the year, being exported between Aug. 1, 1945, and Jan. 31, 1946. In this connection it is interesting to note that during the August-January period, 36 p.c. of Canadian wheat exports went to the United Kingdom, while during the February-July period, 61 p.c. of the smaller Canadian wheat exports were directed to the United Kingdom as a result of the priority granted that country.

Also significant was the wide distribution of wheat exports among wheat importing countries during the crop year. All exports were programmed through the Cereals Committee of the then-existing Combined Food Board and were related to export programs undertaken by other countries, principally the United States and Australia. In addition to wheat exports, Canada exported 62,000,000 bushels of wheat in the form of flour, of which about 28,000,000 bushels went to the United Kingdom and the balance was distributed among a wide range of importing countries. A very substantial volume of Canadian flour was purchased by UNRRA for distribution to countries in receipt of UNRRA assistance.

The co-ordinated distribution of exports of wheat from the chief supplying countries went a long way in meeting the most urgent import requirements. During the crop year there was a deficit in world wheat supplies which could not under any circumstances be overcome. The problem was to make the available supplies in all wheat exporting countries go as far as possible in meeting urgent requirements in both Europe and Asia. An element of flexibility was maintained in the movement of supplies from exporting countries and in this way recurring crises were minimized. The problem, one of potential hunger and starvation, was reduced to a problem of meagre rations in many countries and malnutrition on a wide scale which was partly relieved with the harvesting of improved grain crops throughout Europe in late June, July and August, 1946. It can be said that Canada, the United States and Australia over-exported wheat during the critical crop year under review. Residual problems were left in all three countries. These problems, however, must be evaluated in terms of the impression which was made upon a severe and far-reaching food crisis.

Year-End Stocks.—The implementation of the foregoing export program in 1945-46, plus meeting the full requirements of Canadian mills for the production of domestic and export flour, reduced reserve stocks of wheat in Canada to the lowest point since 1938. The carryover on July 31, 1946, was 69,900,000 bushels, of which 27,200,000 bushels were on farms and 42,700,000 bushels in commercial position. This compared with a carryover of 258,000,000 bushels on July 31 in the previous crop year. Stocks of wheat in export positions were practically