

exhausted by the end of the crop year, and a substantial part of remaining commercial stocks was required to meet the requirements of Canadian mills until new crop wheat became available in September. This exhaustion of wheat stocks in all positions in Canada as at July 31, 1946, and especially in wheat stocks in export positions, had an important effect upon the Canadian export position during the first four months of the ensuing crop year.

The 1945-46 Grain Program

During the crop year 1945-46, the Canadian Wheat Board administered a grain and oilseed program which closely paralleled the program in effect in the previous crop year. The main features of the 1945-46 program were as follows:—

Wheat.—Western Division.—In accordance with Order in Council P.C. 2550, Apr. 12, 1945, the Board continued to handle all wheat marketed by producers in the Western Division. The Board's fixed initial price for 1945-46 was \$1.25 per bushel basis No. 1 Northern wheat in store Fort William/Port Arthur or Vancouver. Order in Council P.C. 5476, Aug. 7, 1945, established Board prices for other principal grades of wheat.

Pursuant to Order in Council P.C. 2550, Apr. 12, 1945, the Board was empowered to restrict marketings of wheat in the Western Division to 14 bushels per authorized acre. As the 1945 wheat crop was small and the demand continued on a high level, it was possible for the Dominion Government to authorize the Board to take all wheat offered by producers during the crop year.

Eastern Division.—As in 1944-45, the Canadian Wheat Board was exempted from carrying out its obligations under Sect. 14 of the Canadian Wheat Board Act (Order in Council P.C. 4645, dated July 5, 1945). Under the same Order in Council the Board was charged with the responsibility of maintaining a floor price of \$1.25 per bushel for top grades of Ontario winter wheat basis in store Montreal. The Ontario Wheat Equalization Fund was continued in 1946 in accordance with Order in Council P.C. 4645, dated July 5, 1945.

Wheat Products.—Under Order in Council P.C. 5768, dated Aug. 28, 1945, 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, 1945, and July 31, 1946.

Oats and Barley.—Under Order in Council P.C. 2550, the Board continued to guarantee minimum prices for oats and barley on the same basis as in 1944-45. Maximum prices remained the same.

Oats and Barley Equalization Funds.—Under provisions of Order in Council P.C. 2550, dated Apr. 12, 1945, the Board continued to administer the Barley Equalization Fund and the Oats Equalization Fund and Advance Equalization Payments.

On Sept. 25, 1945, Order in Council P.C. 6238 was passed amending Western Grain Regulations to provide for an increase in the advance equalization payment on barley to 20 cents per bushel, and prohibiting maltsters from paying a premium on the purchase of barley for malting purposes. This action was taken on account of the shortage of feed grains in Canada and the necessity of prohibiting exports of barley of all types during the crop year 1945-46. The 20-cent Advance Equalization Payment to producers applied on barley marketings from Aug. 1, 1945, to July 31, 1946.