

Eastern Division.—On July 18, 1946, the Hon. James A. MacKinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce, made the following general statement in regard to Ontario winter wheat policy for the crop year commencing July 1, 1946:—

“During the crop year 1945-46, Ontario winter wheat was sold at a ceiling price of \$1.26 per bushel for No. 1 Canadian Eastern Winter Wheat, basis delivered at Montreal. There was an appropriate flour ceiling. Producers were also given the proceeds of an Ontario Wheat Equalization Fund, arising from collection of an equalization fee on the exports of Ontario winter wheat flour. To place a ‘floor’ under these prices, the Canadian Wheat Board was empowered to buy No. 1 Canada Eastern Winter Wheat at \$1.25 per bushel, basis delivered at Montreal. No purchases by the Board were necessary, because commercial interests bought the wheat at the ceiling price.

“It had originally been intended to raise the ceiling on Ontario wheat to \$1.35 per bushel for the crop year beginning July 1, 1946, and to permit a corresponding increase in the domestic price of winter wheat flour and the products thereof, but in view of recent developments in price control policy this step is not being taken. Instead producers will receive at time of delivery an additional 9 cents per bushel which will be paid by the Canadian Wheat Board on behalf of the Government.

“In addition, the Wheat Board will pay to producers at time of delivery an amount of 5 cents per bushel in lieu of any payment from the Equalization Fund that will be operated as before with the Government absorbing any profit or loss therein. By this payment at time of delivery, the difficulties and expense of making a subsequent small payment will be avoided. It is felt that this system will be more satisfactory to the producers. The net effect will therefore be that producers of Ontario wheat will receive, in addition to the price paid by the purchaser under the existing price ceiling, an amount of 14 cents, 9 cents of which represents the equivalent of an increased price and 5 cents of which represents a fixed and final payment out of the Ontario Wheat Flour Equalization Fund. The Canadian Wheat Board will continue to maintain a floor at \$1.25.

“I should perhaps add, for the sake of clarity, that no adjustment is being made in the price ceiling on Ontario wheat or products made therefrom.”

Wheat Products.—The Board continued to administer drawbacks paid in respect to flour and other human foods containing wheat, sold and delivered in Canada between Aug. 1, 1946 and July 31, 1947

Oats and Barley.—Under Order in Council P.C. 3222, dated July 30, 1944, the Board continued to guarantee minimum prices for oats and barley on the same basis as in 1945-46. Maximum prices remained the same.

Oats and Barley Equalization Funds.—Under provisions of Order in Council P.C. 3222, dated July 30, 1946, the Board continued to administer the Barley Equalization Fund and the Oats Equalization Fund and Advance Equalization Payments. For the crop year 1946-47 the advance equalization payment on barley was reduced from 20 cents per bushel to 15 cents per bushel and malting premiums up to 5 cents per bushel were permitted. The exercise of export control to preserve grain supplies for domestic use continued as an important feature of grain policy, with the Agricultural Supplies Board making the decisions as to export releases.

Flaxseed.—For the crop year 1946-47 the Board continued to be the sole agency to receive commercial flaxseed from producers in Canada. Under Order in Council P.C. 3222, dated July 30, 1946, the Board was empowered to buy flaxseed at \$3.25 per bushel basis No. 1 C.W. Flaxseed in store Fort William/Port Arthur or Vancouver, and the Grade No. 1 Canada Eastern Flaxseed in store Montreal. Under the same Order in Council the Board was required to sell flaxseed in the