

The great difficulty in presenting warehousing statistics lies in the fact that it is not an easy matter to define clearly what are to be regarded as stocks in storage. In these days of complicated business relationships and especially since the rise of the department store and chain store as characteristic institutions in the retail merchandising field, it often happens that warehousing is carried on in close relationship to merchandising. However, if the strict economic definition of warehousing is adopted then this term should be restricted to those facilities that add the utility of 'time' to the 'form' utilities that are the product of the extraction and manufacturing industries. Since the warehouses established in close connection with retail trade are more often than not convenient places for the temporary storage of goods in process of transfer from the manufacturer or wholesaler to the consumer, then they are not, in the strict economic sense, services which add the utility of 'time' to commodities already worked up into 'form'. At least, since some clear line must be drawn and because separate statistics of this branch of storage are not available, it is considered practicable to interpret warehousing in this way.

The statistics of warehousing are shown together under one general heading in this Section. Subsection 1 presents statistics of the licensed storage of grain. Subsection 2 deals with cold-storage facilities without which perishable foods such as meats, dairy products, fish and fruits could not be exchanged or distributed on a wide scale; it includes also figures of stocks of food on hand. Subsection 3 deals with the storage of petroleum and its products and Subsection 4 with public warehouses and customs warehouses. The facilities that specialize in the storage of tobacco and alcoholic liquors are analysed in Subsection 5. These bonded warehouses, as they are called, are under the strict surveillance of Federal Government excise officers who supervise all movements into and from such places of storage.

Subsection 1.—Licensed Grain Storage

At Dec. 1, 1949, total licensed grain storage in Canada stood at 490,000,000 bu., an increase of 4,000,000 bu. from the level of Dec. 1, 1948. Since 1943, licensed grain storage capacity has dropped off considerably, largely as a result of the dismantling of temporary storage erected to handle the huge stocks of grain accumulated in the early years of the War. At Dec. 1, 1943, licensed grain storage capacity had reached an all-time high of 603,000,000 bu.

Export demand for Canadian grain has been good since the end of the War with the result that storage stocks have remained at relatively low levels. November and December are normally peak storage months but on Dec. 1, 1949, only 42 p.c. of Canada's licensed grain storage capacity was occupied. On Dec. 3, 1942, when both stocks in store and storage capacity were at near record levels, the proportion of licensed capacity occupied was just under 80 p.c.

At July 31, 1949, the end of the Canadian crop year, only 16 p.c. of licensed capacity was occupied. With this situation existing at the beginning of the new crop year and taking into consideration the moderate crop harvested in 1949, ample storage space was generally available in all positions during the 1949-50 crop year.