

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 with 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, 1951, total licensed grain storage capacity in Canada stood at 526,000,000 bu., an increase of 20,000,000 bu. from the level of Dec. 1, 1950. Licensed grain storage capacity reached a peak of 603,000,000 bu. at Dec. 1, 1943, but, following the disposal of heavy war-time stocks, declined to 482,000,000 bu. at Dec. 1, 1947. Since then licensed capacity has increased each year.

In recent years strong export and domestic demand has prevented the accumulation of unduly large stocks of grain. Heavy crops, however, were harvested in 1950 and 1951, and with adverse harvesting weather in both seasons the normal flow of grain to foreign and domestic points of consumption was impeded. The proportion of licensed grain storage capacity occupied accordingly moved upward. At July 31, 1950, 22 p.c. of licensed capacity was utilized. A year later the proportion had risen to 39 p.c. and, at Mar. 27, 1952, more than 52 p.c. of licensed capacity was in use.