Section 3.—Warehousing and Cold Storage*

Warehousing ranks high among the means by which the utilities of 'place', 'time' and 'possession' are added to the products of industry. Its importance has been emphasized in modern times because of the introduction of cold storage methods in the conservation of perishable foods.

The presentation of warehousing statistics is difficult because 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 ware-housing 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. Because 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 that add the utility of 'time' to commodities already worked up into 'form'. At least as some clear line must be drawn and because separate statistics of the latter branch of storage are not available, it is con-sidered practicable to interpret warehousing in this way.

The statistics of warehousing are gathered together under 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

Total grain storage in Canada licensed under the provisions of the Canada Grain Act by the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada at Dec. 1, 1954 amounted to 580,969,000 bu., an increase of 19,464,000 bu. over the level at Dec. 1, 1953. Slightly over 15,000,000 bu. of this increase occurred in western country elevators, reflecting the need for providing additional storage resulting from the cumulative effect of unusually large western Canada grain crops in recent years. Licensed grain storage capacity in Canada reached a peak of 603,000,000 bu., at Dec. 1, 1943 but, following the disposal of heavy wartime stocks, declined to 428,000,000 bu. at Dec. 1, 1947. Since that date capacity has increased each year.

Although the 1954 western grain crop was below average in volume, elevator storage space continued to be at a premium throughout the 1954-55 crop year as a result of the backlog of unusually large farm stocks of old-crop grain. Consequently farmers' market-ings of western grain continued to be governed to a large extent by space made available in country elevators as grain moved forward into the domestic and export market. As indicated in Table 27 there was relatively little variation in the proportion of elevator space occupied at Dec. 1, Mar. 30 and July 31 in the 1954-55 crop year. Although information is given in the table for only three dates in the crop year, weekly data on stocks of grain in various commercial positions may be obtained from the DBS *Grain Statistics Weekly*.

* Information supplied by various Divisions of the Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries, Mines and Technical Surveys, and National Revenue and of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.