

Price and Marketing Arrangements.—The marketing of Western Canada wheat during the 1955-56 crop year was again conducted by the Canadian Wheat Board on a one-year pool basis, with the initial payment set at \$1.40 per bu., basis in store Fort William-Port Arthur or Vancouver. The initial payment for No. 1 C.W. Amber Durum was continued at \$1.50 per bu. An interim payment (announced Feb. 2, 1956) amounting to a total of about \$22,300,000 was paid in varying amounts per bushel on the higher grades delivered in 1954-55. Final payment (announced May 18, 1956) on the 318,439,061 bu. of wheat delivered to the 1954-55 pool averaged 12.461 cents per bu. with the total payment for No. 1 Northern, basis in store Fort William-Port Arthur or Vancouver, and prior to deduction of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act levy amounting to \$1.65066 per bu. No adjustment payments on 1955-56 deliveries were made during the crop year but on Jan. 30, 1957, an interim payment on the 1955-56 pool account for wheat was announced, amounting to 10 cents per bu. for all grades except milling grades of Durum for which the interim payment was 25 cents. The full amount of this payment was about \$37,300,000. The final payment on the 1955-56 pool was announced on May 15, 1957, and averaged 11.912 cents per bu. on farmers' deliveries of 352,200,000 bu. Prior to deduction of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act levy, the net price realized by producers in the 1955-56 pool for No. 1 Northern Wheat, basis in store Fort William-Port Arthur or Vancouver, was \$1.60893 per bu.

The crop year 1955-56 coincided with the third and final year of the second International Wheat Agreement. Under its provisions, Canada had a guaranteed export quota of 153,100,000 bu. for 1955-56 and, according to the report on the year's transactions, Canadian sales under the Agreement totalled 75,600,000 bu. These sales continued to be quite widely distributed; 26 of the 44 importing countries included in the pact purchased wheat and/or flour from Canada. The larger purchasers were the Federal Republic of Germany, 17,600,000 bu.; Japan, 15,900,000 bu.; Belgium, 7,500,000 bu.; Switzerland, 5,500,000 bu.; and the Union of South Africa, 5,000,000 bu. The greater part of Canada's wheat trade in 1955-56 was carried on in Class II wheat (wheat exported outside the provisions of the International Wheat Agreement). The United Kingdom continued as the leading importer of Class II wheat, shipments to that country accounting for 96,800,000 bu. of wheat as grain and the equivalent of an additional 12,700,000 bu. in the form of wheat flour. The combined Canadian exports of 309,200,000 bu. of wheat and flour went to 87 countries, territories and colonies during the crop year.

During most of 1955-56, domestic sales of all classes of wheat were made at the same prices as those prevailing for wheat sold under the International Wheat Agreement. From Aug. 1 to Sept. 6, 1955, an additional 10 cents per bu. over the IWA price was charged on domestic sales of Durum. During the entire 1955-56 crop year, Class II prices for all grades of wheat, except Durum, coincided with the IWA and domestic quotations. The average Class II price received for No. 1 C.W. Amber Durum during the crop year was 59½ cents per bu. above the comparable IWA average price of 203½ cents.

Exports of wheat and flour (in terms of wheat) during 1955-56 amounted to 309,200,000 bu., exceeding by 23 p.c. the 251,900,000 bu. exported in 1954-55. The 1955-56 total exports consisted of 269,200,000 bu. of wheat as grain and the equivalent of 40,000,000 bu. of wheat flour. Total domestic (commercial and farm) disappearance of wheat in 1955-56 amounted to 167,200,000 bu. surpassing both the 1954-55 figure of 162,200,000 bu. and the ten-year (1945-46—1954-55) average of 150,100,000 bu. The carryover at July 31, 1956, amounted to 579,600,000 bu. with a larger crop in 1955 more than offsetting the combined effect of a reduced carryover at July 31, 1955, and higher levels of both exports and domestic disappearance.