

Section 4.—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 to 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 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. 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 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

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, 1953, amounted to 561,505,000 bu., an increase of 22,215,000 bu. over the level of Dec. 1, 1952. Slightly over 16,000,000 bu. of this increase occurred in country elevators, reflecting the need for providing additional storage resulting from the cumulative effect of three large Western Canada grain crops. 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 licensed grain storage capacity has increased each year.

* The material in this Section was supplied by various Divisions of the Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries, Mines and Technical Surveys, National Revenue and of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.