The Wheat Situation -- World’s Crop 1923

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Bushels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>58,308,000</td>
<td>785,741,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>22,673,000</td>
<td>469,761,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>65,253,000</td>
<td>1,289,752,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>8,446,000</td>
<td>109,735,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>32,033,000</td>
<td>404,951,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So. Hemis’ph’e (Arg. &amp; Austa.)</td>
<td>20,757,000</td>
<td>368,752,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Totals 216,470,000 3,409,041,000

Ave. World Surplus 5 yrs., 1919-23 243,000,000

Canada has 400,000,000 acres available for wheat fields undeveloped.

Canada crop 1923 av. 20.7 bu. per acre.

Russian av. crop 5 yrs. 1909-13, 760,191,000 bushels.

Her crops have not been reported since 1913.

All foreign wheat countries increasing area.

Exports and imports 3 year average, 1920-21-22:

Wheat exported, bushels 283,372,000

Imported 28,374,000

Our annual surplus 255,498,000

U. S. Crop is 23% of World Crop.

Our surplus is about 30% of our total crop. This surplus is sold on the world market and the price of the surplus fixes the price of the other 70% of the crop.

Is it a safe plan for the wheat farmers of Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma to attempt to compete with the other countries in producing this crop?

**WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE OF WHEAT.**

It may not seem quite the thing to insert in this report any statement or suggestions regarding the matter of the farmers of our three states de-

voting most of their acreage to the raising of wheat during the coming years. But from our observation and experience we believe a plain statement here might not be amiss.

We want to congratulate the farmers of Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma on their good fortune this year in having a good crop of wheat and able to sell it on a high market. But we believe it is the part of wisdom for all of us to remember our experience during the past three years and not get too enthusiastic about the future of wheat raising.

**OUR SUCCESS NOT PERMANENT.**

Our profits in wheat this year is due to two main causes, over which our farmers have no control; namely, a good yield due to favorable season and a high price largely due to smaller crops in Canada and other countries.

Last year Canada had a good crop as well as all other wheat producing countries and the world market was low. As a result the wheat farmers of our three states had a very lean year. In fact they have had very lean years during 1921, 1922 and 1923. Taking the law of averages we can reasonably expect one or more lean years with wheat for the immediate future. It is for this reason that this committee, which is deeply interested in helping to suggest a farming program that will eliminate crop failures and lean years for our farmers, due to any cause, that we discuss the wheat situation in this report.

**WISCONSIN DOES NOT GAMBLE ON WHEAT.**

The Wisconsin farmers have had no lean years during or since the war. They have made money right along, with pay days every day or every two
weeks, and their profits have kept accumulating slowly each day or week and as a result that state shows every evidence of continuous and dependable prosperity. That is just what our states need.

The above table, taken from a Government bulletin, is a condensed statement of the world production and consumption of wheat. It simply shows that normally the U. S. produces about 250,000,000 bushels of surplus wheat or about 30% of our total crop.

This surplus must be exported and sold on the Liverpool market in competition with the world crop, most of which is produced on cheaper land, with cheaper labor, lower taxes and cheaper transportation than prevails in the U. S.

WORLD MARKET FIXES OUR PRICE.

The world price, offered for our 30% surplus, fixes the price of the 70% of our crop which is consumed at home.
Therefore, every wheat farmer in Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma is in fact competing with the wheat farmer in Canada, Argentina, Australia and other wheat producing countries and these other countries are producing about the same bushels per acre and can undersell our farmers and still make a profit.

THE WISE THING TO DO.

This being the case then what is the wise course for the wheat farmers in our states? The best authorities suggest that we cut our acreage 50% and by a system of soil building increase our acre yield to double or three times its present yield. It is the cost of production that plays havoc with our farmers. By producing 30 bushels per acre the cost of production is reduced and the profits increased accordingly.

The remaining acres formerly in wheat can be devoted to grasses, legume and silage crops that will sustain dairy cows, pigs and poultry and give the farmers a pay day often and enable them to have a more balanced program.

While our three states are now reaping a great crop of wheat that is a godsend to our farmers and in fact every line of business it is a good time to seriously and honestly give heed to the future years and begin a new program which will be safe, sane and constructive. The fields of Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri, generally speaking, need a change of crop and they need animal fertilizer and our farmers need to give serious heed to what has happened during the last three years and to prepare for the future. The cow, the sow and the hen should have the attention and consideration to which they are entitled.

**WHEAT ACREAGE**

We give below the average acreage of wheat in these countries and states for the last three years for the purpose of showing the relative influence which they have upon the world's wheat market. In other words, the illustration showing the relative position of Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma in the yield per acre of wheat might be criticized on the ground that these countries which produce such large yields of wheat per acre produce only a very small percentage of the world's wheat crop, but it will be seen by the figures below that these countries and states listed as producing more bushels per acre than our own three states also have a very large area devoted to wheat, which should convince our farmers that if they are to continue as wheat growers in competition with the wheat farmers of the world that they must increase the acre yield in order to reduce cost of production and be assured of a profitable crop.

- **Denmark** 210,000 acres
- **Belgium** 340,000 acres
- **England** 2,100,000 acres
- **Germany** 3,600,000 acres
- **Egypt** 1,500,000 acres
- **India** 29,000,000 acres
- **Italy** 11,500,000 acres
- **France** 14,000,000 acres
- **Argentina** 16,000,000 acres
- **Australia** 9,500,000 acres
- **Canada** 22,500,000 acres
- **United States** 62,000,000 acres
- **Iowa** 750,000 acres
- **Illinois** 3,200,000 acres
- **Wisconsin** 200,000 acres
- **Nebraska** 3,000,000 acres
- **Kansas** 10,000,000 acres
- **Missouri** 3,100,000 acres
- **Oklahoma** 3,400,000 acres
- **World** 210,000,000 acres