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FOREIGN NEWS ON WHEAT

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WORLD WHEAT CROP AND MARKET PROSPECTS BASED ON REPORTS TO MARCH 15, 1928

The wheat market situation has been strengthened recently by an improved demand and increasing prices in Continental Europe, together with decreased European domestic offerings, according to reports received by the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Although European wheat stocks appear to be somewhat larger than at this time last year, they include a large proportion of low quality grain, and do not indicate any prospective reduction in takings of overseas wheat. Winter killing and other damage to the winter sown crop in Europe, unless offset by improved conditions in the spring, point to the possibility of a decreased winter wheat crop, which is another strengthening factor in the situation. The decrease in present wheat supplies in the Southern Hemisphere as compared with last year is also improving the situation. The strength caused by the shortage of feed grains is continuing.

The estimated world supply of wheat shows no change during the month. Reports of production for 44 countries total 3,451 million bushels as against 3,327 million last year.

The balance in non-European exporting countries remaining to be shipped appears to be no larger than at this time last year, the increase in the United States and Canada being offset by the prospect of decreased supplies for the balance of the season from Russia and the Southern Hemisphere. In Russia there appears to be a prospect of practically no exports during the balance of the season, while last year exports from March through June as officially reported amounted to 13 million bushels. Argentine exports have been heavy during January and February, and if early indications of decreased carryover were correct the supplies now remaining in the country are smaller than at this time last year. Exports from Australia have been smaller since January 1 than for this period last year, as was expected from the smaller crop. Supplies are still considerably below last year and exports are expected to be light.

European importing countries have taken about 23 million bushels more wheat according to latest reports than during the corresponding period last year. A strengthening of the Continental market the last of February and the first of March, with some indications of a tendency among farmers to hold their stocks, and continued reports of poor quality of the crop, point to a good demand for overseas wheat for the immediate future. Winter killing of the new fall sown crop in France, Germany and Poland may cause some holding of old grain.

Canadian Supplies

Platform loadings and receipts at country mills and elevators indicate that the balance of wheat on farms in Canada may be less than at this time last year. These receipts up to February 24 amounted to 350 million bushels, which is about 45 million greater than at that time last year. Much of the surplus is in the country at concentration points. The total receipts at Fort William-Port Arthur and Vancouver, including Prince Rupert, amount to 264 million bushels or 31 million above last year, and shipments from those markets are 223 million or 25 million above last year. Exports through January were only 189 million bushels, compared with 195 million last year. The estimate of a probable export for the year of 310 to 340 millions still appears reasonable in view of the amounts at concentration points.

Inspected wheat continues to grade low. For the season through February 29 inspections in the western division graded No. 3 or better for only 36 per cent of the crop, compared with 39 last year and 65 the year before. Furthermore only 1 per cent graded No. 1 this year and 10 per cent No. 2, while last year 11 per cent graded No. 1 and 19 per cent No. 2.

Inspections of Canadian durum continue a little in advance of last year, the total amount graded in the western division amounting to a little over 13 million through February, as compared with nearly 12 million last year. It has been grading higher, however, with 43 per cent of the total inspections included in the first three grades whereas last year through February only 13 per cent was included. Canadian durum inspections are shown on page 8.

Wheat: Inspections in the western grain division of Canada, 1923-24 to 1927-28

Year	Percentage of total cars inspected graded							
	August 1 to February 29				August 1 to July 31			
	No. 1 Northern	No. 2 Northern	No. 3 Northern	Total first 3 grades	No. 1 Northern	No. 2 Northern	No. 3 Northern	Total first 3 grades
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1923-24	38.4	25.0	22.0	85.4	37.3	25.7	22.7	85.7
1924-25	20.1	18.7	18.8	57.6	19.5	18.3	18.6	56.4
1925-26	23.5	27.4	13.6	64.5	22.4	27.0	13.8	63.2
1926-27	10.7	19.3	8.6	38.6	9.2	17.7	8.0	34.9
1927-28	1.2	9.5	25.3	36.0	---	---	---	---

Board of Grain Commissioners, Winnipeg.

WHEAT, INCLUDING FLOUR: Net exports of surplus producing countries for 1924-25 to 1926-27 and estimates for 1927-28 as indicated by production and carryover estimates

Country	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28 estimate: Minimum	1927-28 estimate: Maximum	Net exports reported: July to & including	1926-27	1927-28
	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels		Million bushels	Million bushels
United States	255	92	206	210	230	Mar.3	a/ 160	a/ 165
Canada	194	320	305	310	340	Jan.	195	b/ 189
Russia	1	27	49	7	15	Feb.	31	6
British India	45	7	9	8	10	Feb.	7	10
Rumania	4	9	9	5	15	Nov.	9	9
Bulgaria	c/	4	2	2	6	Sept.	1	1
Hungary	15	19	21	15	20	Nov.	13	12
Yugoslavia ...	10	12	10	d/	3	Nov.	e/	e/
Algeria	c/	5	e/	3	6	Dec.	2	1
Total above N. Hem.countries	524	495	611	560	645		418	393
Argentina	127	100	140	140	170	Mar.3	60	93
Australia	124	77	87	55	80	Mar.3	47	41
Chile	9	2	e/	0	10	Oct.	e/	e/
Total above S. Hem.countries	260	178	227	195	260		107	134
Grand total .	784	673	838	755	905		525	527
More probable estimates ...				810	860			

a/ Exports through February less imports through January. b/ Exports through January less imports through September. c/ Net imports. d/ Reported as possibly on an import basis. e/ Less than 500,000 bushels.

Southerm Hemisphere and Russia

The surplus of the Argentine crop is rapidly disappearing, and considering the indicated decrease in carryover, the total supply remaining in the country is now less than at this time last year. Exports from January 1 to March 3 were 53 million bushels which is 12 million greater than for that period last year. On the basis of a carryover of 16 million bushels, as compared with 35 million last year, and assuming a consumption of 77 million, the balance remaining for export during the remainder of the calendar year and for carryover would be only 125 million bushels, compared with 138 for this period last year. Australian exports from January 1 to March 3 were 19 million bushels, 13 million above that period of last year. With a carryover of 4 million bushels and assuming a consumption of 38 million, the balance remaining for export and for carryover would be only 56 million bushels for the remainder of the calendar year, compared with 91 million last year.

Russian procurements have improved materially in February and expectations in that country are for a continued improvement in March. This should relieve the shortage in the urban and deficit producing areas, but there is no indication so far of any improvement in the export situation. Total procurings of all grain reached the record figure of 2,145,000 short tons in February making a total for the season of 9,893,000 short tons. This is not far below the 10,450,000 for the same period a year ago. It is considered possible that March procurings may be heavy enough to bring the total up to last year's level, but exports for the balance of the season are not expected to be of any consequence. Rumors of possible imports into Russia which were current a month ago have been officially denied.

United States Crop Distribution and Stocks on March 1

The total supply of wheat this season (including 10 million bushels of imports) amounted to 1,006 million bushels. Of this amount, 583 million bushels were disposed of by March 1 in the form of exports, mill grindings and winter seedings, compared with a similar disposal of 574 million bushels the preceding year out of a supply of 942 million bushels. During the period July 1 to March, slightly more wheat has been exported this season than last. Commercial mills have ground slightly less wheat than a year ago but a little more has been used for winter seeding; leaving a considerably larger amount for feed and loss. Domestic mills have ground somewhat more wheat during the past three months than for the same period a year ago.

Total stocks on March 1 at farms and the visible supply amounted to approximately 208 million bushels or 18 million bushels greater than last year and 60 million bushels greater than on March 1, 1926. Crediting mills with about the same stocks as a year ago, the increase in supplies on March 1, as compared with last year is largely in country mills and elevators and central markets with most of it in central markets. There has been considerable shifting about in the size of farm and country mill and elevator stocks held in different areas of the United States as compared with last year. Farm stocks are 20 million bushels greater in the main spring wheat area than last year and 4 million larger in the western slope area, while in the main winter wheat area they are 20 million bushels less. Stocks of soft red winter wheat are particularly low. Stocks are smaller at Atlantic and Gulf ports and interior points in the winter wheat belt but are larger at interior points in the spring wheat region, at Lake ports and at Pacific ports.

Wheat: Supply and distribution in the United States

Period and item		1925-26	1926-27	1927-28
July 1 - February 28	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels
Supply:				
Stocks, July 1 -				
On farms		29	21	27
In country mills and elevators		25	29	22
Commercial visible (Bradstreet's)		29	16	26
In merchant mills and elevators 1/		22	25	37
In transit 1/		9	7	12
Imports (grain only)		16	13	10
Production		676	831	872
Total visible supply		806	942	1,006
Distribution:				
Exports (grain only)		39	123	130
Mill grindings (commercial mills) 2/		374	383	379
Mill grindings (custom and small mills) 3/		8	8	8
Winter seeding		55	60	66
Disappearance unaccounted for 4/		43	15	
Total disappearance		519	589	
Carryover:				
Stocks, March 1 as given below		287	357	
March 1 - June 30	1925	1926	1927	1928
Supply:				
Stocks, March 1 -				
On farms	112	100	130	130
In country mills and elevators	68	76	86	
Commercial visible (Bradstreet's)	76	48	61	78
In merchant mills and elevators 1/	--	57	70	
In transit 1/	--	6	10	
Imports (grain only)	1	3	3	--
Available supply accounted for	257	290	360	
Supply not accounted for 4/	69	21		
Probable total supply	326	311	360	
Distribution:				
Exports (grain only)	35	24	33	
Mill grindings (commercial mills) 2/	146	160	171	
Mill grindings (custom and small mills) 3/	2	2	2	
Spring seedings	29	27	29	
Feed and loss	--	--	1	
Total disappearance	212	213	236	
Carryover:				
Stocks as above -				
Total on hand July 1	114	98	124	

1/ Compiled from U. S. Census estimate. Estimated to represent all merchant mills. March 1 stocks are interpolated figures. 2/ Census monthly returns raised to 100 per cent of the Biennial censuses of 1923 and 1925. 3/ A minimum estimate of small commercial mills and custom mills. 4/ Used as a balancing factor only.

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Flour: Supply and distribution in terms of wheat

Item	July 1-February 28			March 1-June 30		
	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28	1925	1926	1927
	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels
Supply:						
Stocks, March 1 1/				32	31	33
Stocks, July 1 1/	28	31	29			
Imports	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mill grindings (commercial mills) 2/	374	383	379	146	160	171
Mill grindings (custom and small mills) 3/	8	8	8	2	2	2
Total available supply	410	422	416	180	193	206
Accounted for:						
Exports	29	45	44	16	14	18
Stocks, end of period	31	33		28	31	29
Total accounted for	60	78		44	45	47
Available for consumption	350	344		136	148	159

Division of Statistical and Historical Research.

1/ Russell's Commercial News as published in Survey of Current Business.
2/ Census monthly returns raised to 100 per cent of the Biennial Censuses of 1923 and 1925.
3/ A minimum estimate of small commercial mills and custom mills.

Wheat: Market receipts in United States and supply, United States and world, by months, 1926-27 and 1927-28

Month	Receipts of inspected wheat at all inspection points 1/		Receipts at 11 primary markets 2/		Bradstreet's United States visible supply 3/		World visible supply 2/3/	
	1926-27	1927-28	1926-27	1927-28	1926-27	1927-28	1926-27	1927-28
	Cars	Cars	1,000 bu	1,000 bu	1,000 bu	1,000 bu	1,000 bu	1,000 bu
July	121,768	79,421	65,503	50,997	16,486	25,516	142,820	183,092
Aug.	103,502	91,406	65,971	76,811	34,575	37,533	145,809	181,502
Sept.	69,952	97,744	45,295	78,687	72,884	71,908	182,870	205,049
Oct.	52,306	80,279	30,079	70,457	84,724	88,755	225,197	237,122
Nov.	39,904	56,801	27,377	41,526	81,175	98,675	230,916	299,735
Dec.	32,433	38,087	18,746	21,912	78,910	100,013	300,304	346,746
Jan.	32,720		18,918	21,510	70,811	94,336	378,641	399,296
Feb.	34,101		18,834	20,878	62,317	83,720	381,025	422,671
Mar.	30,992		16,953		61,271		373,378	
Apr.	26,934		12,933		53,827		344,516	
May	31,215		16,997		42,402		288,741	
June	33,566		17,819		31,115		231,686	
Total	609,393		355,425					

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. 1/ Grain Division.
2/ Compiled from Chicago Daily Trade Bulletin. 3/ On 1st of month.

Wheat: United States milling and export trade, July-June, 1926-27 and 1927-28

Month	Wheat ground in United States mills 1/		Inspections of United States wheat for export 2/		Exports of wheat 3/	
	1926-27	1927-28	1926-27	1927-28	1926-27	1927-28
	1,000 bu	1,000 bu	1,000 bu	1,000 bu	1,000 bu	1,000 bu
July	48,187	42,090	19,141	8,278	16,083	8,397
Aug.	52,206	47,986	23,926	14,580	28,995	23,402
Sept.	53,975	52,373	21,317	21,252	23,700	33,748
Oct.	53,276	54,121	10,934	15,058	17,589	29,236
Nov.	47,981	48,679	10,445	10,009	14,230	20,731
Dec.	44,335	46,209	8,687	6,173	9,662	6,917
Jan.	42,870	46,033	6,364	4,844	8,078	5,956
Feb.	39,792		3,711		4,889	
Mar.	44,514		5,810		5,084	
Apr.	41,505		8,157		11,263	
May	42,447		5,490		8,960	
June	42,623		3,325		7,459	
Total	553,711		127,307		156,250	

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. 1/Census raised to 100 per cent. 2/Grain Division. 3/Compiled from reports of Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

DURUM WHEAT: Inspections in the United States and Canada, years beginning July 1, 1925-26 and 1926-27, months reported 1927-28 and earlier years

Country	Year beginning July 1		Amounts reported for			
	1925-26	1926-27	Months	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	from July 1	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
United States -						
Inspections in U. S. a/	4,170	611	to Jan.	279	555	2,238
Inspections in Canada, eastern division......	22,802	19,327	Jan.	12,848	16,420	13,783
Total U. S. wheat...	26,972	19,938	Jan.	13,127	16,975	16,021
Canada -						
Inspections in western division b/	7,512	13,047	Feb.	6,406	11,705	13,185

Official sources.
a/ Does not include durum in wheat classified as mixed. b/ Includes a small amount of mixed wheat.

DURUM WHEAT: Inspection by grade in the western grain division of Canada, 1925-26 to 1927-28

Year	Percentage of total cars inspected graded							
	August 1 to February 29				August 1 to July 31			
	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	Total 1st 3 grades	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	Total 1st 3 grades
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
1923-24	1.2	22.1	52.3	75.6	2.0	22.7	49.2	73.9
1924-25	0.7	14.8	46.6	62.1	0.6	13.7	43.3	57.6
1925-26	3.7	29.4	18.7	51.8	3.4	27.3	18.6	49.3
1926-27	0.2	5.3	7.8	13.3	0.2	4.7	7.3	12.2
1927-28	0.1	7.8	34.8	42.7	---	---	---	---

Board of Grain Commissioners, Winnipeg.

Wheat prices

The trend of wheat prices continues upward and as measured by the weighted average cash price of all classes and grades at six principal markets the trend has been upward since the last of October. Starting from the low point of $1.21 per bushel, reached the last of October, the average price advanced to $1.35 for the week ending March 2 which equaled the price of a year ago. This is the highest level reached since the last week in August.

During the first two months of the new year the weekly weighted average cash prices of the major classes of wheat generally have been somewhat more irregular than a year ago, with prices below those of last year excepting for No. 2 soft red winter which has ranged from 9 to 29 cents above last year. No. 2 red winter advanced from $1.47 the first week of January to $1.61 the week ending March 3. The higher prices of this grade of wheat compared with last year's prices reflect the short soft red winter wheat crop and present low supplies of this class of wheat. Prices of No. 2 amber durum have ranged from 79 to 21 cents below last year's prices which probably reflect the materially large crop of last year compared with a short crop the year before and to some extent increased competition of other countries since durum wheat is on an export basis. The price of No. 2 hard winter and No. 1 dark northern spring have been only slightly under last year's prices and during one week in February the price of No. 2 hard winter went two cents above and equaled last year's price at the beginning of the year. The production of hard winter last year was considerably less than the year before but considerably more hard red spring wheat was produced last year. However large premiums have been paid this year for high protein grades in both classes which may account for the average prices being nearly as high as last year during the same period.

In the past two years wheat prices have declined temporarily in the latter half of March again turning upward in April. These declines are largely due to the prospect for or the actual release of large Canadian supplies by the opening of the Lakes. Last year the temporary decline was followed by a marked rise culminating about the first of June. See charts at end of report.

Future closing prices, since the first of the year, have been quite steady except for a rather sharp advance during the last half of February compared with steady and slightly increasing prices during the same period a year ago. Chicago May futures fluctuated between $1.32 and $1.31 during January. The price then dropped to $1.30 by the end of the first week of February, remained the same a week later then advanced to $1.38 by the end of the second week in March, compared with $1.39 a year ago. Chicago May futures have ranged from 21 cents under Liverpool futures at the beginning of the year to 13 cents under on March 8. The spread between May futures at Minneapolis and Winnipeg has been running at about nine cents in favor of Winnipeg since the first of the year. During the most of January, May futures at Winnipeg and Liverpool were slightly above last year's prices, but since then have dropped to a level slightly below.

Wheat: Weighted average price per bushel of reported cash sales at stated markets, by weeks, July 1, 1926 - March 10, 1928

Week ending	All classes and grades six markets 1926-27	All classes and grades six markets 1927-28	No. 2 hard winter Kansas City 1926-27	No. 2 hard winter Kansas City 1927-28	No. 1 dark northern spring Minneapolis 1926-27	No. 1 dark northern spring Minneapolis 1927-28	No. 1 amber durum Minneapolis 1926-27	No. 1 amber durum Minneapolis 1927-28	No. 2 red winter St.Louis 1926-27	No. 2 red winter St.Louis 1927-28
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
July 1	139	144	132	140	162	153	146	151	137	147
8	141	146	131	141	175	158	152	156	139	147
15	143	143	139	139	182	160	155	156	144	143
22	143	138	137	136	183	156	158	153	143	141
29	140	136	136	134	167	161	159	149	141	139
Aug. 5	137	134	133	133	167	155	163	152	135	137
12	135	139	132	137	164	160	164	164	133	143
19	135	138	130	138	157	154	156	161	133	144
26	136	137	131	137	156	149	160	143	132	146
Sept. 2	134	134	131	132	148	144	139	134	133	143
9	135	133	128	132	145	143	135	135	134	145
16	139	128	132	129	150	136	142	126	136	148
23	136	126	133	129	151	134	139	122	137	140
30	135	127	137	131	152	136	143	123	140	143
Oct. 7	137	126	137	132	153	133	142	122	139	149
14	137	128	137	131	153	136	145	126	139	147
21	141	126	140	128	153	137	153	124	141	142
28	142	121	141	125	153	131	161	120	141	141
Nov. 4	140	123	138	128	149	132	163	121	137	143
11	141	126	139	130	150	135	166	130	139	142
18	135	127	134	131	145	133	155	130	134	142
25	135	127	136	134	144	134	160	128	134	142
Dec. 2	137	126	137	132	146	134	164	127	138	140
9	140	128	139	134	149	137	172	132	139	147
16	138	129	137	131	146	137	178	132	137	146
23	141	128	138	132	149	138	181	133	136	142
30	139	128	137	129	147	138	174	135	134	143
Jan. 6	137	132	136	136	146	142	172	138	137	147
13	139	130	138	132	147	139	166	132	138	149
20	138	131	138	134	147	142	163	129	137	153
27	140	131	138	132	147	145	171	127	137	152
Feb. 3	138	131	137	131	146	143	165	128	138	152
10	137	130	136	129	146	140	157	126	137	152
17	136	131	135	133	146	140	160	127	135	155
24	134	134	134	136	146	145	158	129	132	158
Mar. 3	135	135	135	135	146	145	154	133	132	161
10	136		135		146		163		133	

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from trade papers of markets specified.

WHEAT: Closing price per bushel of futures, by weeks, September 16-March 16, 1926-27 and 1927-28

		Chicago		Minneapolis		Winnipeg		Liverpool	
		1926-27	1927-28	1926-27	1927-28	1926-27	1927-28	1926-27	1927-28
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
						December			
September	16	137	131	142	129	132	130	157	151
	23	138	130	142	128	134	130	158	152
	30	141	131	145	128	138	130	159	152
October	7	137	131	142	129	134	131	160	153
	14	140	132	143	129	135	132	166	153
	21	146	123	148	121	145	125	176	150
	28	143	124	145	122	141	125	173	149
November	4	141	124	144	123	139	126	170	148
	11	138	126	141	123	137	127	172	148
	18	133	127	136	124	134	132	165	151
	25	137	128	137	124	132	132	167	152
						May			
December	2	140	135	144	130	135	138	152	150
	9	139	134	141	130	134	137	151	150
	16	139	130	141	126	133	135	150	148
	23	141	129	142	125	136	135	151	148
	30	138	130	140	127	134	136	149	149
January	6	139	132	140	128	134	137	148	150
	13	139	131	140	128	134	136	147	150
	20	140	132	141	129	135	137	148	150
	27	142	131	142	127	139	136	150	149
February	3	142	130	142	126	139	135	150	147
	10	141	130	141	125	138	134	148	146
	17	141	132	140	127	139	136	149	148
	24	140	135	139	130	139	139	149	148
March	2	142	135	141	130	144	139	152	150
	9	139		138		142		150	
	16	136		135		140		149	

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from Chicago Daily Trade Bulletin.

Wheat: Cash closing price per bushel at Minneapolis and Winnipeg, by weeks, July 2, 1926 - March 11, 1928

Week ending	Minneapolis No. 1 dark northern		Winnipeg No. 1 northern	
	1926-27	1927-28	1926-27	1927-28
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
July 2	159	150	152	159
9	172	153	156	163
16	180	152	162	163
23	178	149	161	162
30	167	148	160	162
Aug. 6	163	148	155	157
13	159	153	153	163
20	152	150	152	163
27	151	147	150	159
Sept. 3	145	143	145	154
10	142	142	145	152
17	146	137	145	142
24	147	137	143	142
Oct. 1	147	143	142	142
8	148	142	140	142
15	147	142	139	147
22	149	139	147	147
29	148	135	147	141
Nov. 5	146	135	145	141
12	145	138	145	141
19	140	140	140	148
26	140	141	139	150
Dec. 3	143	142	135	144
10	145	144	134	143
17	143	143	131	139
24	145	144	135	138
31	144	144	134	138
Jan. 7	142	147	133	140
14	144	148	134	141
21	144	148	135	145
28	145	150	139	144
Feb. 4	144	149	140	141
11	144	146	139	140
18	143	148	139	141
25	143	151	140	144
Mar. 4	142	153	143	145
11	143		145	

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from Minneapolis Daily Market Record.

The Continental European Wheat Situation a/

There has been a widespread renewal of buying activity on Continental European wheat markets following the general quietness of January which had extended up to the 10th or 12th of February, according to L. V. Steere at Berlin. This renewal has been important enough to bring about a rise in the world wheat prices. European millers have again been forced to come into the market, following the period of many weeks during which they held back because of dull flour business and the expectation of lower grain prices under the pressure of the new southern hemisphere crop. Flour sales are improved and there is a good demand for foreign wheat. It appears that bakers, wholesalers and millers have been able to reduce flour stocks considerably in recent weeks and that the revival of demand has been especially marked in the case of wheat flour, at least partially in reflection of the relatively high price of rye. Domestic offers have been declining especially in Germany and France, apparently as a result partly of spring work and partly from the expectation of better prices.

At the same time the market has gained some strength from unfavorable crop reports in Europe, particularly in France, where weather conditions have been bad, and also from Russia where there are rumors of a possibility of reduced acreage in southern Russia. The possibility of Russia's having to import wheat this spring has also had some influence, but can be disregarded as of only passing significance.

The situation with regard to stocks of grain and flour in Continental Europe has an unusual degree of uncertainty this season because of the lack of knowledge as to the amount of unmillable grain in farmers hands. Actual stocks of wheat are undoubtedly much larger than a year ago when they were probably below normal. Stocks of wheat in the hands of German farmers on January 15 were practically double those of last year, while reports from France and Italy, and other countries, also indicate larger supplies, although probably not as much increased as in the case of Germany. If allowance is made for unmillable grain, for reseeding requirements in some sections, and for the probability of a larger carryover than the small one of last year, it appears that grain stocks are not materially above normal. The low quality of much of the wheat in Northern Europe also detracts to some extent from the significance of stock figures because of the necessity for increased imports for mixing purposes.

While flour stocks are reported as considerably reduced in recent weeks because of lower milling activity and slow buying, it does not appear that they are actually low, at least in millers' hands. The weakness of the flour market, however, has doubtless resulted in the reduction of stocks in the hands of wholesalers and bakers. Trade reports now seem much more optimistic as to the outlook for flour consumption in the immediate future, the prospects for more stable business being materially improved by the renewed firmness and strength of the grain market.

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a/ By Acting Agricultural Commissioner, Loyd V. Steere, Berlin, Germany, February 27, 1928. Supplemented by cable of March 5.

WHEAT, INCLUDING FLOUR: Net imports into European importing countries 1924-25 to 1926-27 and estimates of probable imports as indicated by production and early trade estimates

Country	Year beginning July 1					Net imports reported		
				1927-28 estimate				
	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	Minimum	Maximum	Month	1926-27	1927-28
	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels		Million bushels	Million bushels
						July to:		
Great Britain...	216	188	217	205	230	Jan.	120	103
Italy...........	96	64	88	95	105	Jan.	41	38
Germany.........	71	56	93	80	100	Jan.	54	58
France..........	41	34	53	50	60	Dec.	12	39
Belgium.........	39	39	42	40	42	Dec.	18	22
Netherlands.....	26	27	28	27	29	Jan.	17	19
Czechoslovakia..	23	19	20	16	18	Jan.	11	10
Greece..........	22	a/(22)	a/(22)	(20)	(20)	b/		b/
Irish Free State	19	18	19	18	21	Dec.	9	8
Austria.........	16	15	17	15	16	c/	4	4
Switzerland.....	14	14	17	15	17	Jan.	11	12
Sweden..........	11	6	6	6	7	Jan.	3	5
Norway..........	5	6	6	5	6	Dec.	3	4
Denmark.........	6	6	7	7	8	Dec.	3	5
Finland.........	4	5	5	4	5	Nov.	2	2
Poland..........	14	d/ (2)	7	2	7	Jan.	d/e/	2
Total above countries....	623	517	647	605	691		308	331

a/ Rough approximation. b/ Not available for 1927. c/ August and September imports only. d/ Net exports. e/ Less than 500,000 bushels.

Developments since the first of the new year indicate a good import business in some of the important deficit countries. In Germany, the continued heavy imports of wheat and the indications that rye imports from now on will be relatively smaller, point to the possibility that takings of foreign wheat between now and the end of June may equal last year's, even though this would mean a record disappearance. German wheat and rye prices have been rising since about the first of February.

Wheat and rye prices per bushel in Germany, December, 1927, to March 5, 1928

Date	Wheat Hamburg domestic	Rye Berlin domestic
	Cents	Cents
1927 -		
December 2	154.3	145.8
7	152.4	144.0
14	146.5	138.0
21	147.2	142.8
28	147.2	142.8
1928 -		
January 4	151.1	145.2
11	144.6	142.2
18	143.9	142.2
25	144.6	142.8
February 1	143.3	138.6
8	141.3	139.1
15	143.9	140.3
22	147.2	143.3
29	148.5	142.8
March 5	150 0	148.8

French imports promise to decline from now on, but takings for the season as a whole will not differ greatly from last season. There seems to be some possibility, even, that import requirements may prove larger than now expected, as reports indicate that considerable reseeding of winter damaged grain will be necessary.

Imports into Italy always increase heavily in the second half of the season, and this year should be no exception, although there is some reason to doubt that takings will reach the maximum figure given in the accompanying estimates. Buying is now active in that country.

The Netherlands and Belgium have been having relatively heavy takings to date and the indications are that requirements during the balance of the season will be nearly as important. Dutch and Belgian mill and port stocks are in no way excessive. There has been a large business in Belgium recently, with speculations chiefly in Manitoba red durum. Holland is also buying actively.

In Central Europe there are good flour sales with improved business in wheat. Rumania is exporting only limited quantities.

WHEAT BALANCES SEASON JULY 1 TO JUNE 30

GERMANY	1926-27 1,000 bushels	1927-28 1,000 bushels
Production	95,429	120,521
Net Imports		
July-January	53,884	57,823
February-June	39,532	23,000 - 42,000
"Apparent Utilization"	188,845	201,000 - 220,000
FRANCE		
Production	231,767	284,355
Net Imports		
July-December	12,981	39,113
January-June	43,934	11,000 - 21,000
"Apparent Utilization"	288,682	334,000 - 344,000
ITALY		
Production	221,243	195,808
Net Imports		
July-January	40,822	38,419
February-June	47,274	57,000 - 67,000
"Apparent Utilization"	309,339	291,000 - 301,000
CZECHOSLOVAKIA		
Production	34,130	37,870
Net Imports		
July-December	11,464	10,472
January-June	7,091	6,037 - 8,000
"Apparent Utilization"	52,685	54,000 - 55,000

WHEAT BALANCES SEASON JULY 1 TO JUNE 30, CONT'D

	1926-27 1,000 bushels	1927-28 1,000 bushels
BELGIUM		
Production	12,801	14,449
Net Imports		
July-December	18,241	22,355
January-June	23,857	18,000 - 20,000
"Apparent consumption"	42,098	54,000 - 56,000
POLAND		
Production	47,080	54,229
Net Imports		
July-January	(-16)	2,484
February-June	7,514	0 - 4,500
"Apparent consumption"	54,578	57,000 - 61,000
HOLLAND		
Production	5,487	5,096
Net Imports		
July-January	16,433	19,011
February-June	11,118	8,000 - 10,000
"Apparent consumption"	33,038	32,000 - 34,000

Winter wheat area and conditions

Total winter wheat acreage for 14 countries reported to date amounts to 124,174,000 acres, which is 4 per cent above the acreage in those countries last year when they included 51 per cent of the estimated total world winter and spring acreage exclusive of Russia and China. The increase is largely in the United States, which has increased the amount sown by 10 per cent over last year. The total acreage reported for foreign countries is 76,277,000 acres, which is only 348,000 acres of 0.5 per cent greater than that sown for the 1927 harvest.

It is too early as yet to form any accurate opinion on the size of the harvest of this winter crop, but early prospects point to no material change in production. In the United States abandonment would have to be heavy or spring growing conditions poor to offset the effect of the 10 per cent increase in winter acreage, especially since the abandonment of 12.9 per cent of the winter acreage last year was slightly above the 10 year average of 12.35 per cent of the fall seedings.. Growing conditions about equal to the average in the 13 foreign countries reporting acreage would produce a crop of about 1,034 million bushels, compared with about 1,055 million last year, when the world total winter and spring crop was 3,539 million bushels exclusive of Russia and China.

Conditions this winter appear to be somewhat less favorable than those of last year, especially in France, Germany and Poland, where frost has done some damage. In France the condition of the crop in January was equal to that of last year, about 1 per cent above the 10 year average. This would seem to indicate no extensive frost damage in December, but the frost damage will more probably show up in a later downward revision of area rather than in condition of the standing crop. Poland is reported as having lost some winter wheat area through winter killings, and frost is believed to have caused some damage in Germany also. The crop is generally satisfactory in the Danubian countries, except Austria and Czechoslovakia, which are not important wheat producers. Italy reports excellent conditions with the possible exception of slight frost damage in the north, whereas last year conditions were favorable except for drought in the south. No definite report of total wheat acreage is published as yet for Italy; but in 8 provinces which last year accounted for about three-fifths of the total Italian wheat area, an increase of 10 per cent is reported this year.

There has been some delay in preparation of the soil for spring sowing in some parts of Europe, but reports to date do not indicate that it has been greater than usual for Europe as a whole. In North Africa conditions appear to be satisfactory except for wet weather in parts of Algeria. Last year conditions had been unfavorable early in the season, but improved materially later, resulting in good yields.

Russian new crop prospects are in considerable doubt with reports conflicting. It seems probable that the winter wheat area will be little if any larger than last year, considering the abandonment of winter killed areas, and many reports point to a decrease in Ukraine, North Caucasus and the Volga regions, where wheat is an important winter cereal. The condition of winter crops when they went under snow cover was below last year in the country as a whole, and especially in the Ukraine and North Caucasus. Seed shortage may hamper the State Planning Board in its effort to increase the spring sowing.

CEREAL CROPS: Acreage and production, average 1909-1913, annual 1924-1928

Crop and countries reporting area in 1928 a/	Harvest year: Average 1909-1913	1925	1926	1927	1928	Percent 1928 is of 1927
AREA WINTER WHEAT	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
United States	28,382	31,269	39,887	43,465	47,897	110.2
Canada	1,019	794	1,008	979	1,009	103.1
Europe (7)	40,553	37,694	37,660	36,511	37,296	102.2
North Africa (3)	6,531	7,686	7,957	7,059	7,216	102.2
Asia (2)	29,354	31,910	30,600	31,380	30,756	98.0
Total 14 countries	105,839	109,353	117,112	119,394	124,174	104.0
WINTER RYE						
United States	2,236	3,974	3,578	3,670	3,802	103.6
Canada	117	832	737	586	542	92.5
Europe (7)	22,232	19,620	19,339	19,460	20,254	104.1
Total 9 countries	24,585	24,426	23,654	23,716	24,598	103.7

Crop and countries reporting production in 1927 a/	Average 1909-1913	1924	1925	1926	1927	Percent 1927 is of 1926
PRODUCTION WHEAT	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	Percent
United States	690,108	864,428	676,429	831,040	871,691	[illegible].9
Canada	197,119	262,097	395,475	407,136	440,025	[illegible].1
North America (4)	898,908	1,137,110	1,081,494	1,248,709	1,323,455	106.0
Europe (27)	1,346,573	1,049,767	1,389,568	1,206,642	1,262,042	104.6
Africa (4)	92,047	85,312	104,559	89,976	105,340	117.1
Asia (5)	394,130	411,710	385,419	381,176	390,472	102.4
Southern Hemisphere, 3 countries prev. rept'd.	244,073	365,605	315,669	391,652	362,719	92.6
Union of South Africa	6,034	7,132	7,844	9,029	6,605	73.2
Southern Hemisphere(4)	250,107	372,737	323,513	400,681	369,324	92.2
Total above countries (44)	2,981,765	3,056,636	3,284,553	3,327,184	3,450,633	103.7
Est. world total excl. Russia and China	3,041,000	3,141,000	3,389,000	3,421,000	3,539,000	103.4
RYE						
United States	36,093	65,466	46,456	40,795	58,572	143.6
Canada	2,094	13,751	9,158	12,179	14,951	122.8
Europe (24)	976,496	651,091	938,135	745,817	796,615	106.8
Argentina	640	1,457	4,733	3,268	6,693	204.8
Total above countries (27)	1,015,323	731,765	998,482	802,059	876,831	109.3
Est. world total excl. Russia and China	1,025,000	742,000	1,012,000	812,000	887,000	109.2

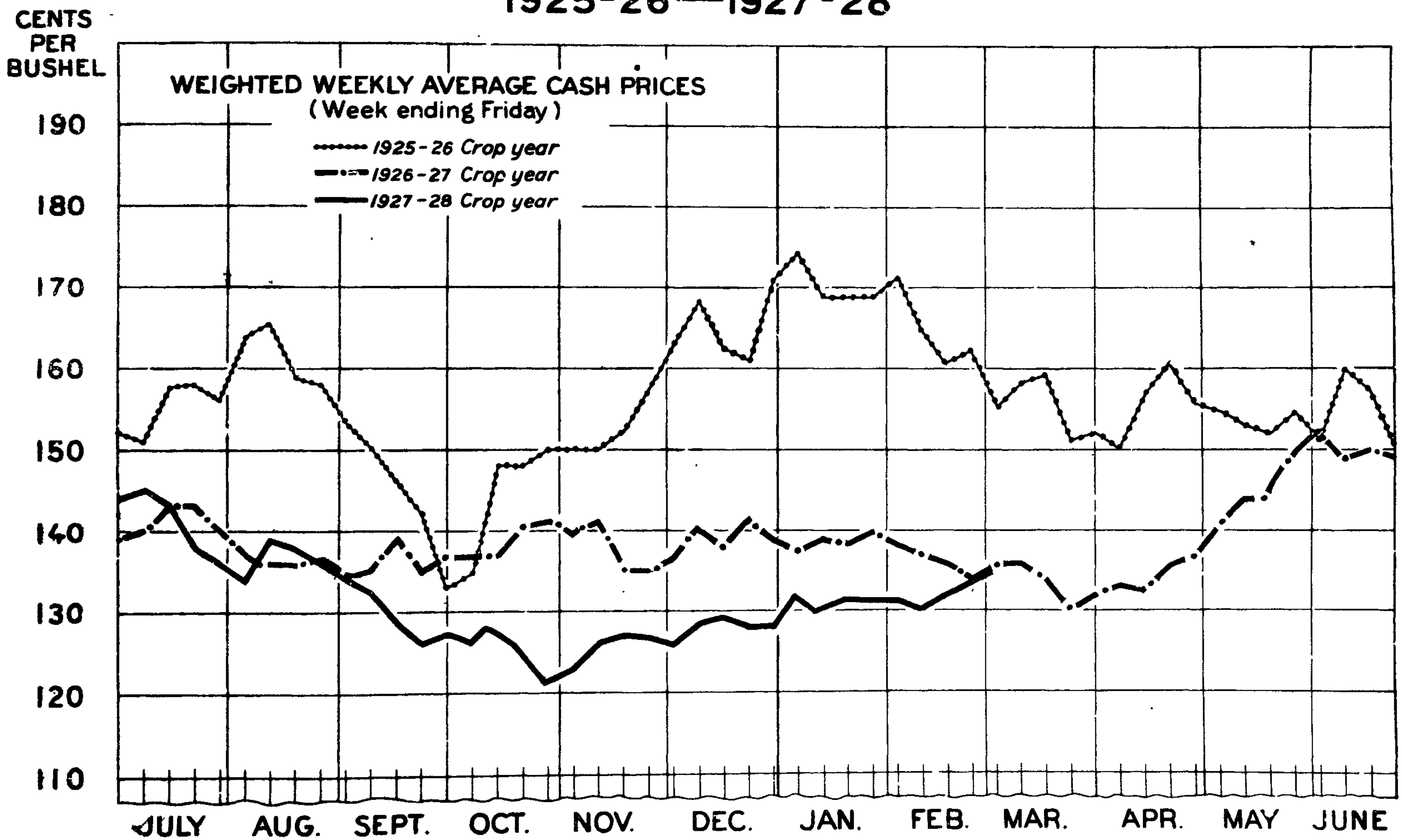
a/ Figures in parenthesis indicate the number of countries included.

WHEAT: Summary of statistics, 1926 and 1927

Item	1926-27	1927-28
	1,000 bus.	1,000 bus.
Production:		
Est. world excl. Russia and China	3,421,000	3,539,000
44 countries reporting to date, excl. Russia	3,327,184	3,450,635
Europe, excluding Russia, 27 countries	1,206,042	1,262,042
Russia	809,650	749,560
United States	831,040	871,691
Canada	407,136	440,025
Argentina	220,827	238,832
Australia	160,587	109,000
Carryover at beginning of crop year:		
United States, July 1	98,000	124,000
Canada, July 31	35,600	a/ (30,000)
Argentina, January 1	35,339	a/ (16,000)
Australia, January 1	----	a/ (4,000)
Trade movement beginning July 1:		
United States exports to March 3 less imports through January	160,439	165,415
Canada, exports through February less imports through September	194,951	189,148
Argentina, exports to March 3	59,757	92,812
Australia, exports to March 3	47,320	41,891
Imports of importing countries reported to date	308,000	331,000
Supplies on hand and interior distribution -		
United States -		
Farm stocks, March 1 and visible supply March 3	190,355	207,956
Mill grindings, July 1 to February 29	391,000	387,000
Canada -		
Receipts at country elevators and platform loadings to February 29	305,422	349,962
Visible supply western Grain Division, March 2	97,268	120,938
Stocks at Ft. William-Pt. Arthur, Vancouver and Prince Rupert	53,491	70,518
Receipts, Ft. William-Pt. Arthur, Vancouver and Prince Rupert, August 1 to March 2	232,904	264,036
Shipments, Ft. William-Pt. Arthur, Vancouver and Prince Rupert, August 1 to March 2	197,682	223,071
Argentina -		
Exportable surplus March 3	138,000	124,000
Australia -		
Exportable surplus March 3	91,000	56,000
England and Wales -		
Stocks on farms, January 1	20,860	25,700
Port stocks and afloat for United Kingdom March 3	75,900	77,600
Germany -		
Total stocks on farms, January 15	29,127	51,439
Stocks available for sale January 15	27,696	41,589

a/ Preliminary estimate.

WHEAT: PRICE OF ALL CLASSES AND GRADES AT SIX MARKETS
1925-26—1927-28



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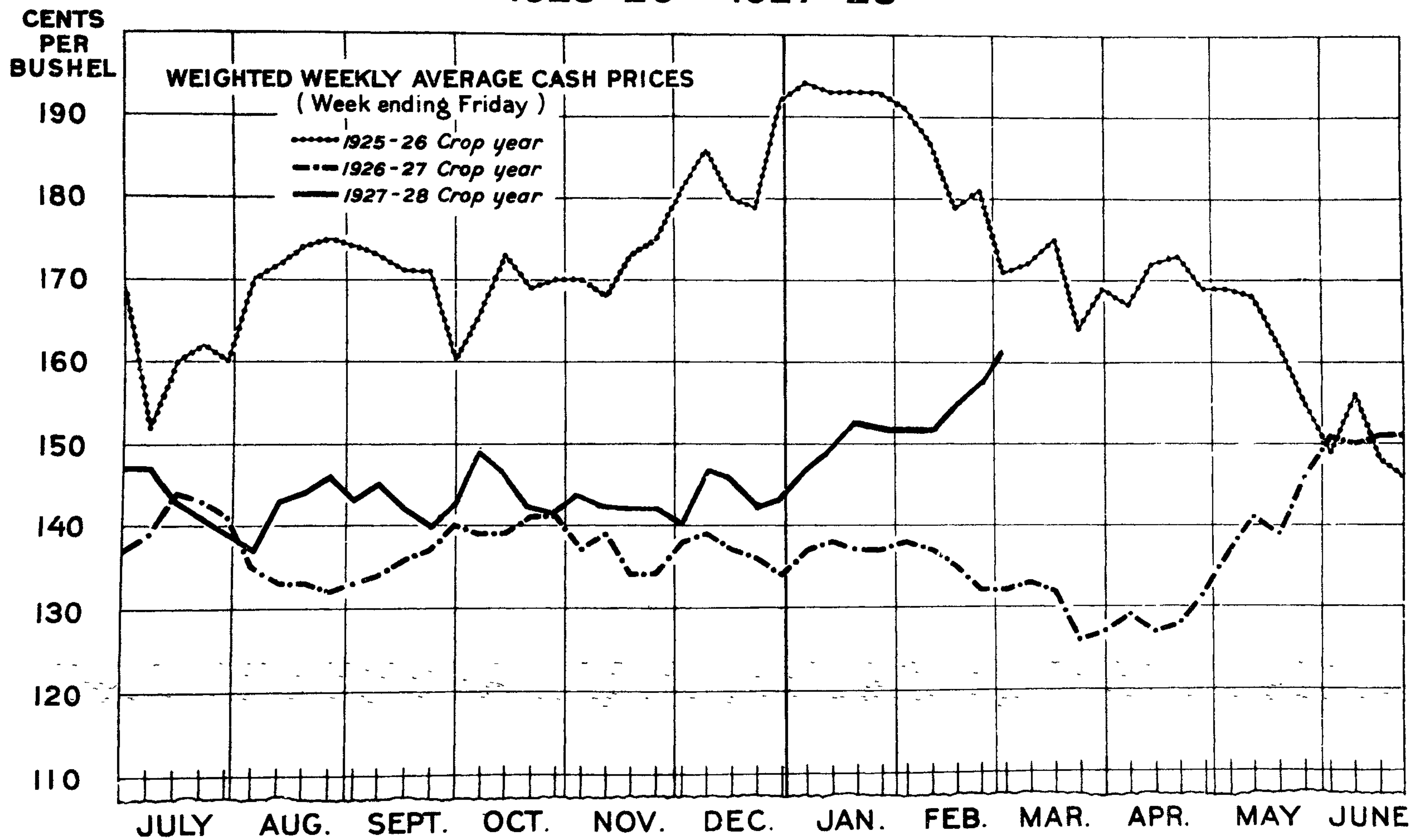
WHEAT: PRICE OF NO. 2 RED WINTER AT ST. LOUIS 1925-26—1927-28



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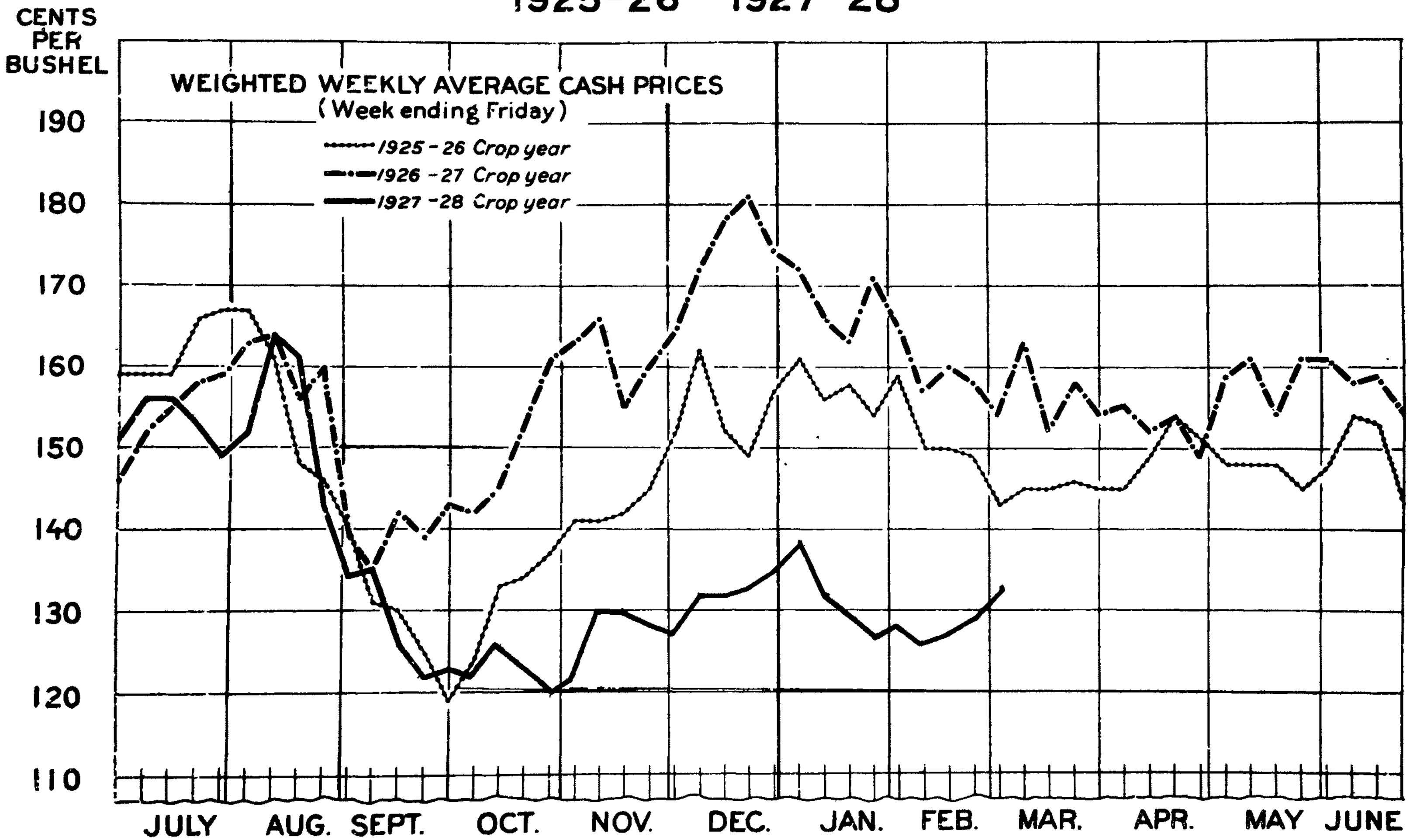
WH-11

WHEAT: PRICE OF No. 2 AMBER DURUM AT MINNEAPOLIS
1925-26—1927-28



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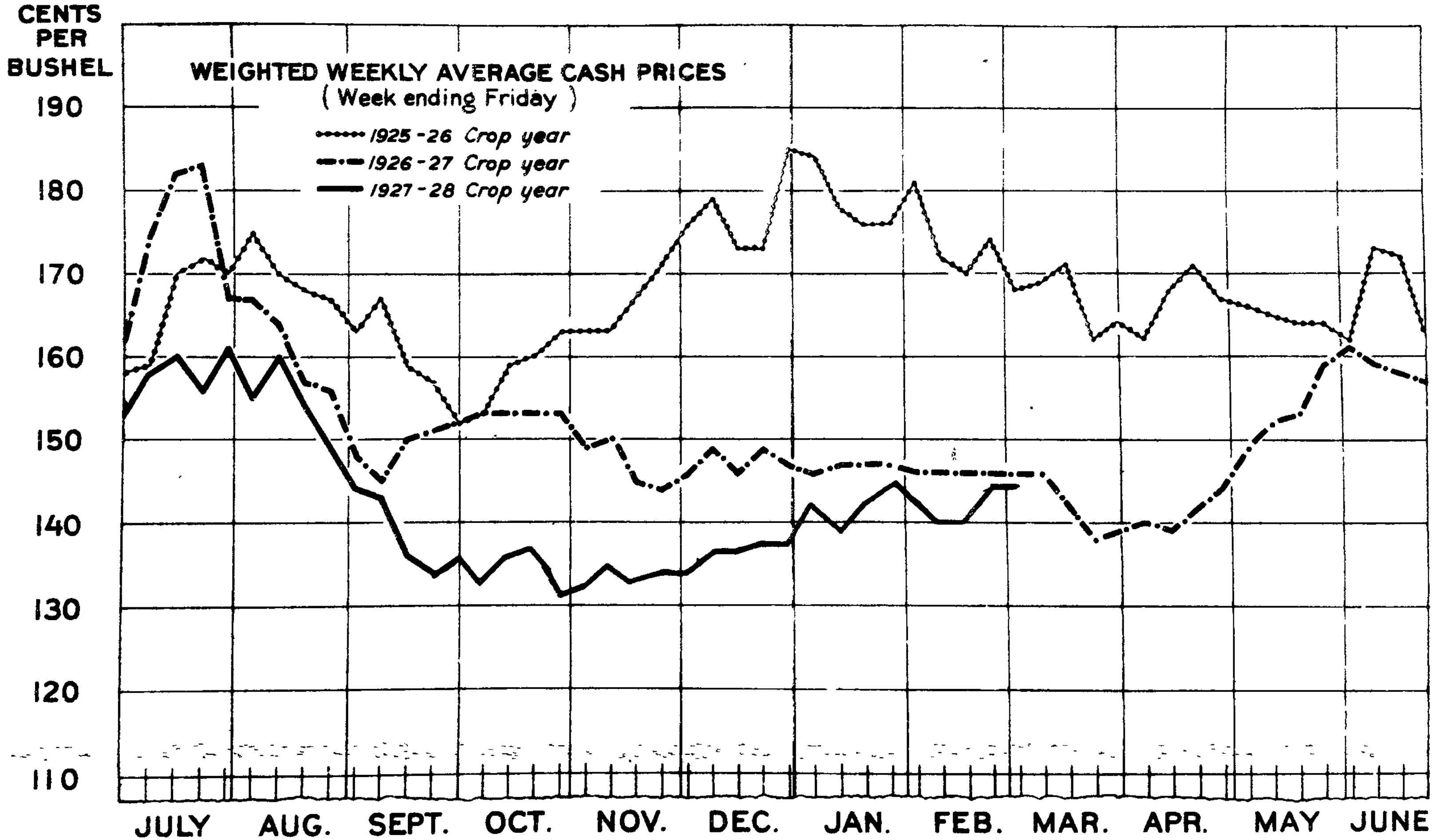
WH-1

WHEAT: PRICE OF NO. 1 DARK NORTHERN SPRING AT MINNEAPOLIS 1925-26—1927-28



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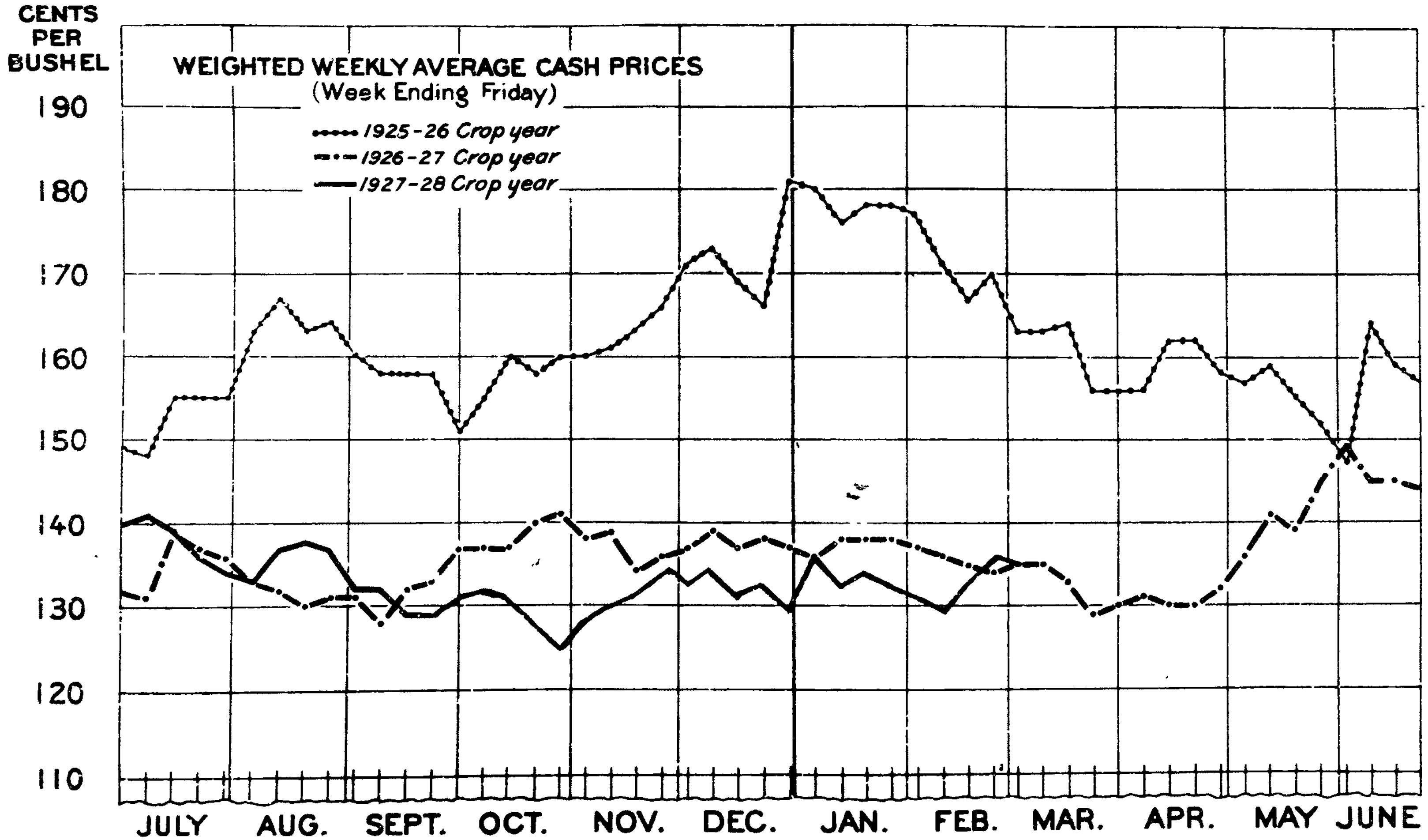
WH-11

WHEAT: PRICE OF NO.2 HARD WINTER AT KANSAS CITY 1925-26—1927-28



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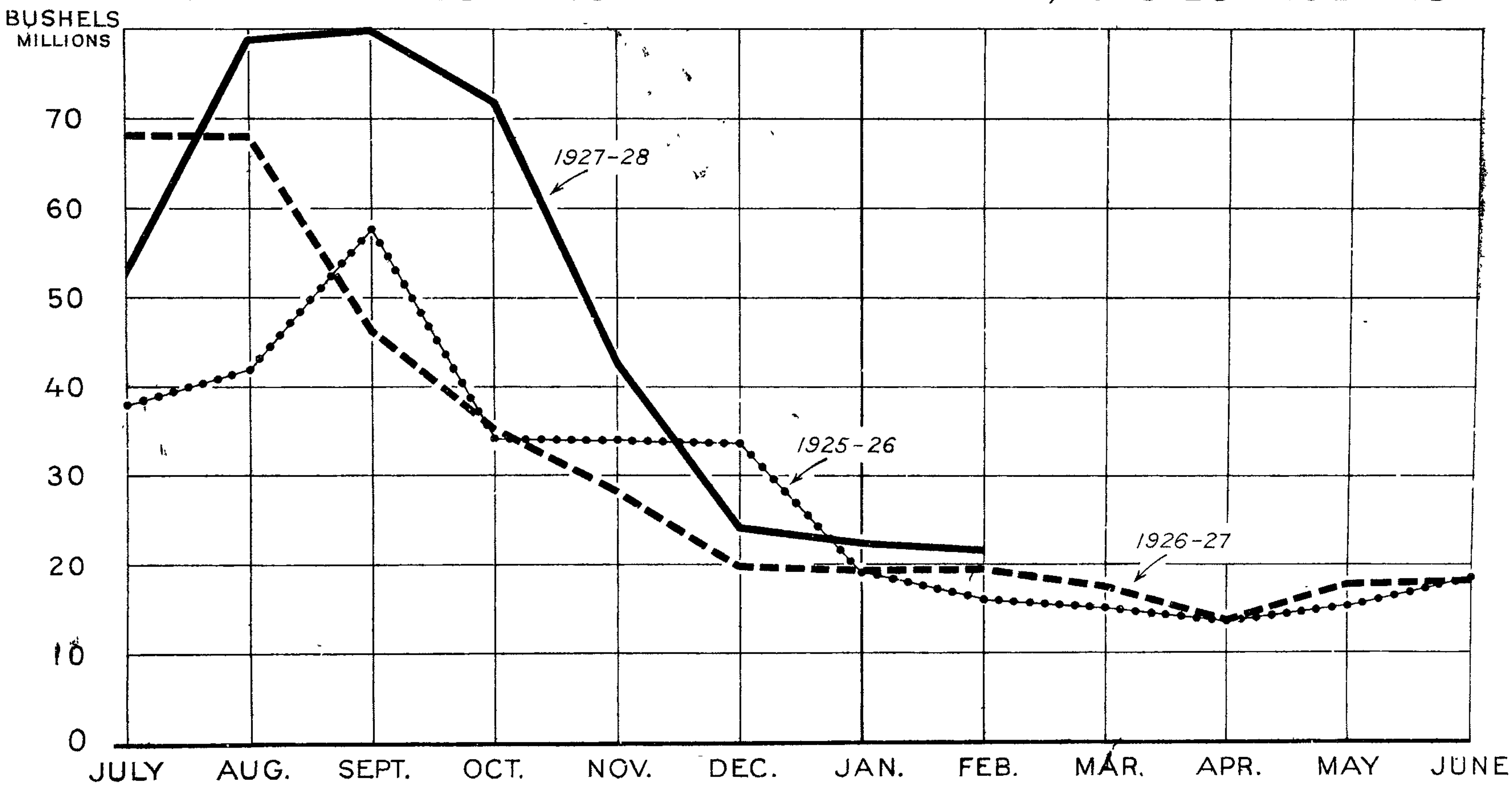
WHEAT: RECEIPTS AT 13 PRIMARY MARKETS, 1925-26 – 1927-28



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