

WHEAT EXECUTIVE.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

IX.

FEBRUARY AND MARCH, 1918.

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WHEAT EXECUTIVE.

WEDNESDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY 1918, AT 5 P.M.

Present :

— Sir JOHN BEALE, K.B.E. (*Chairman*).
Monsieur E. VILGRAIN.
Monsieur J. MONNET.
Commendatore B. ATTOLICO, C.B.
Mr. L. P. SHELDON.
Sir GEORGE SALTMARSH.

Mr. J. NIMMO.
Captain R. FILLIOUX.
Monsieur GENESTAL.

Captain F. B. ELLIOT.
Mr. J. H. GORVIN.
Dr. G. C. DIXON (*Secretary*).

Mr. S. F. MENDEL attended.

237. The Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and signed as correct.

238. *Freight Committee Minutes* of 12th, 19th December, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th January were confirmed.

Sir George Saltmarsh reported—

Supplies for Greek the Army.—(a) That an application received through the Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement for an additional supply of Cereals to meet the requirements of the Greek Army had been refused.

(b) That a cable had been received from Lord Granville reporting that M. Venizelos viewed with dismay the above decision as he was under the impression that the 282,000 tons of Cereals allocated to Greece were intended to supply civilian needs only.

(c) That a letter had been sent to the Foreign Office enclosing a copy of the Agreement approved by M. Venizelos in which no mention of any particular section of the Greek population was made. Approved.

239. *Purchases Committee Minutes* of the 20th, 28th December, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st January were confirmed.

240. *Allied Cereal Requirements.*—(a) Wheat Executive Report No. 2 (233) regarding the Cereal position for all the Allies was submitted. Monsieur Monnet reported that he was unable to give his approval at present and requested that the matter might be postponed for further consideration. Agreed.

Commendatore Attolico requested that in so far as the Report dealt with the revised Italian Requirement the following fact might be put on record :—"That the suggested increase of the Italian Requirement by 400,000 tons has done nothing as regards immediate arrivals to improve the cereal situation in Italy."

(b) Cable sent to President Wilson on 2nd February (234) by the Prime Ministers of France, Italy, and the United Kingdom, emphasising the necessity for large shipments of Cereals from United States to the Allied European countries during February, March, and April was submitted.

(c) Letter from the Chairman of the Wheat Export Co. to Mr. Hoover dated 24th January (235) with reference to the supply of Cereals available for shipment to the Allies was read.

241. *Oats for the Allies.*—(a) Letter from the Ministry of Shipping dated 28th January (236) enclosing copy of a letter sent to the Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement dated 28th January (237) regarding the arrangements to be made for conveyance of Oats to France and Italy was read. It was agreed—

(i) That Monsieur Monnet should prepare a Memorandum on the Oats situation generally.

(ii) That the Memorandum should be circulated to members of the Wheat Executive for consideration.

- (iii) That a meeting of the Wheat Executive should be called as soon as possible, when the Memorandum would be discussed.

(b) Letter from Commendatore Attolico dated 10th February (238) was read, requesting that arrangements should be made for the diversion to Italy for February arrival of some cargoes of Oats destined to France or the United Kingdom. Captain Fillioux reported that the February arrivals of Oats in France showed a serious deficiency, and that it was impossible at present to divert any cargoes to Italy. It was referred to Mr. Mendl and Mr. Nimmo to explain the position to the War Office and to endeavour to arrange for the diversion to Italy for February arrival of a cargo or cargoes originally destined for the United Kingdom.

242. *Australian Wheat.*—(a) Extract from a cable received from Mr. Love dated 12th February (239) was read, with reference to the appointment of a French representative to assist in the oversight of the French share of the Australian Wheat purchase. Referred to Sir John Beale and M. Vilgrain to adjust the matter. Commendatore Attolico agreed, subject to the reservation that no actual allocation to any Ally of any particular portion of the Wheat purchased should be made. Agreed.

(b) *Purchase of New Crop Wheat.*—The Chairman reported that negotiations for the purchase of the entire exportable surplus of the 1917 Australian Wheat Crop and the balance of the 1916 Wheat Crop had been commenced, and enquired if the Italian and French Governments would be prepared to participate in the purchase. Agreed in principle provided the necessary financial arrangements could be made.

243. *Argentine Grain.*—The Chairman reported—

(a) That the Wheat Convention had been signed on the 14th January by the Argentine Minister for Foreign Affairs and the French and British Ambassadors.

(b) That the French Government had appointed General Pierrot as their representative in the Argentine, who would work in close touch with Mr. Gibson, the representative of the Royal Commission.

244. *North America.*—Cable from the Wheat Export Co. dated 11th February (240) was read, stating that Grain and Grain Products were to be given priority in transport to the seaboard.

245. *Wheat from India.*—Cable from the Viceroy dated 6th February (241) was read, to the effect that in order to obtain additional supplies of Wheat an increase on the f.o.b. price to the equivalent of 58s. per quarter had been agreed to by the Indian Government.

246. *Supplies for Portugal.*—Letter from Major Casqueiro of the Portuguese Delegation dated 12th February (242) stating that all contracts made by the Portuguese Government for the supply of Cereals from overseas had been cancelled was read. Decided :—

(a) That instructions should be sent to the Wheat Export Co. to load with Cereals or Flour the "Ida," "Arraiz," and "Mormugao," provided that the necessary financial arrangements had been made in New York by the Portuguese Government.

(b) To request that vessels to be loaded with Cereals for Portugal should in future be directed to the Argentine rather than to North American ports, to assist in relieving as far as may be the congestion in North America.

247. *Cereal Supplies for Switzerland.*—The Chairman reported that a request had been received through the Foreign Office from the Swiss Government for the purchase in Canada of 2,000 tons of Wheat and 2,000 tons of Oats suitable for seed purposes, and enquired what action should be taken. Decided :—

(a) To send a cable to the Wheat Export Co. requesting them to purchase on behalf of the Swiss Government the Grain required.

(b) To inform the Foreign Office of the action taken.

248. *Cereal Supplies for Sweden.*—The Chairman reported :—

(a) That the Foreign Office were negotiating a rationing agreement with the Swedish Government.

(b) That arrangements would probably be made for the Cereals authorised under the agreement to be purchased through the Wheat Executive.

- (c) That it was essential for 100,000 tons of Wheat to be loaded on Swedish tonnage for June arrival in Sweden. Decided :—(i) That arrangements should be made to provide the 100,000 tons of Wheat required by June; (ii) That, if necessary, a representative of the Swedish Government should be invited to attend the meetings of the Wheat Executive when the needs of his country are being discussed.

249. *Cereal Supplies for Spain.*—The Chairman reported that the Spanish Government had formulated a request that Messrs. Louis Dreyfus & Co. should be allowed to purchase in the Argentine the Wheat needed to meet the Spanish requirements. Agreed, provided that Messrs. Louis Dreyfus & Co. were instructed to work in close conjunction with the Wheat Commissioner in the Argentine.

250. *Statements.*—The following Statements were submitted :—

- (a) Requirements and Arrivals of Cereals for all purposes dated 7th February (243).
 (b) To Load Position as on 5th February (244).
 (c) Statement of Sinkings in proportion to Arrivals, dated 8th February (245).

WEDNESDAY, 13TH MARCH 1918, AT 5 P.M.

Present :

Sir JOHN BEALE, K.B.E. (*Chairman*).
 Commendatore B. ATTOLICO, C.B.
 Monsieur J. MONNET.
 Mr. L. P. SHELDON.
 Sir GEORGE SALTMARSH.

Captain R. FILLIOUX.
 Monsieur GENESTAL.
 Lieut. PROFUMO.

Captain F. B. ELLIOT.
 Mr. J. H. GORVIN.
 Dr. G. C. DIXON (*Secretary*).

Mr. S. F. MENDEL } attended.
 Mr. S. MITCHELL }

251. The Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and signed as correct.

252. Freight Committee Minutes of the 6th, 20th and 27th February were confirmed.

Sir George Saltmarsh reported :—

- (a) *Demurrage and Dispatch.*—That Clauses dealing with the delivery of cargoes discharging in Allied countries had been approved, and that they were being put into operation in respect of vessels arriving at the port of discharge on and after 1st March 1918. Approved.
 (b) *Delays to Neutral Vessels in U.S.A. Ports.*—That from information received, it appeared that Neutral Vessels on Allied Service were still being delayed in United States Ports owing to bunkering regulations. Mr. Sheldon reported that he was in communication with his Government on the subject, but that he was at present unable to give any assurance that guarantees already given would be waived, or that similar guarantees would not be required in future. It was agreed that a formal letter should be sent to Mr. Sheldon, pointing out the importance to the European Allies of the quick despatch of these vessels from the loading ports, and suggesting that the whole position might be discussed with representatives of the American Shipping Mission.

253. *Purchases Committee Minutes* of the 8th, 14th, 21st and 28th February were confirmed.

Mr. Mendl reported :—

- (a) *Argentine Wheat.*—That the quantity of Argentine Wheat purchased to date on behalf of the Allies amounted to about 700,000 tons.

(b) *Supplies for the Belgian Army.*—That a request for a monthly quantity of 3,600 tons of Flour and a reserve stock of 10,000 tons for the Belgian Army had been received through the Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement, and that it had been decided—

(i) to send the following cable to the Wheat Export Co. :—

“Please provide as from 1st March 3,600 tons flour monthly for Belgian Army to be counted as part of the French allocation and to be shipped Belgian tonnage. Arrange with Mali.” Approved;

(ii) that the question of providing an additional 10,000 tons of Flour as a reserve stock had been deferred pending receipt of information regarding the quantity of Flour already provided for the Belgian Army since 1st December 1917. Approved.

254. *Allocation of Neutral Vessels.*—The following allocation was agreed :—

Italy.—“O. A. Knudsen.”

255. *Tonnage Programme.*—Letters from the Ministry of Shipping dated 27th February (246) and 7th March (247) and to the Ministry of Shipping dated 1st March (248) were submitted. The Chairman stated that, in view of the decisions arrived at in the above letters, it would be necessary for the Wheat Executive to provide the Shipping Controller at regular intervals with details of the quantity of Cereals to be lifted on behalf of the European Allies and the country to which the boats must be directed. It was agreed that the necessary information should be prepared by the Freight Committee as and when required.

256. *Cereal Supplies for Switzerland.*—(a) Cable from Mr. Crosby to Mr. Sheldon dated 12th March (249) giving information respecting the vessels loading in the United States with Breadstuffs Cereals for Switzerland was read. Decided that a cable should be sent to the Wheat Export Co. enquiring what steps were being taken to load Swiss steamers, and what quantity of Cereals would be necessary to meet the Swiss requirement until the end of March.

(b) Cable from Mr. Crosby to Mr. Sheldon dated 7th March (250) urging the necessity for maintaining the supply of Breadstuffs Cereals required to fill the Swiss ration was read. Letter from the Chairman to Mr. Sheldon dated 9th March (251) was read and approved.

(c) Letter from the Foreign Office dated 21st February (252) enclosing a Note from the Swiss Minister dated 19th February (253) agreeing on behalf of the Swiss Government to purchases of Cereals being made through the Wheat Executive alone was read. Letter to the Foreign Office dated 22nd February (254) was read and approved.

257. *Supplies of Breadstuffs for Holland.*—The Chairman reported that a proposal had been received through the Foreign Office that, in order to facilitate negotiations at present in progress for the use by the Allies of Dutch tonnage, 50,000 tons of Breadstuffs should be provided by the Wheat Executive for the Dutch Government before 15th April, and a further 50,000 tons at a later date. Mr. Sheldon reported the receipt of a cable from his Government stating that they were prepared to provide the first 50,000 tons of Breadstuffs provided that the Dutch tonnage was placed at the disposal of the Allies immediately. The advisability of providing through the Wheat Executive the additional 50,000 tons of Breadstuffs was discussed.

Decided :—(i) That if the provision of this extra quantity of Breadstuffs was essential to the success of the negotiations regarding Dutch tonnage it should be forthcoming.

(ii) That arrangements should be made for the Breadstuffs to be placed at the disposal of the Dutch Government at a South American port by 1st May 1918.

(iii) That the above decisions were dependent upon the condition that the Dutch tonnage should be placed at the disposal of the Allies at once, or that it should be requisitioned.

Commendatore Attolico submitted that a suggestion should be made to the effect that, if the negotiations proved successful, the Wheat Executive should be allowed a prior claim on the tonnage for the carriage of Cereals. Agreed.

258. *North America.*—(a) Cables No. 871 and 898 from Lord Reading, dated 2nd (255) and 4th March (256) respectively, regarding the quantity of Breadstuffs available in the United States for shipment to the European Allies were read.

Cables No. 1405 and 1313 to Lord Reading dated 12th (257) and 8th March (258) respectively were read and approved.

(b) Cable No. 574 from the Wheat Export Co. dated 12th March (259), and Cable No. 73 from Mr. Hoover to Mr. Sheldon dated 13th March (260), regarding the Cereal situation, were read. Decided that the Wheat Executive should continue its meeting on Friday, 15th March, at 10 a.m., to discuss the cable to be sent in reply to that received from Mr. Hoover.

259. *Wheat Position in India*.—Cable from the Viceroy dated 2nd March (261) was read outlining the programme of shipment of wheat from India to the Allies, based on the assumption that the exportable surplus would amount to about 1,800,000 tons.

Sir George Saltmarsh reported that the following modifications in the programme had been suggested: (a) that effort should be made to increase the May shipment from 50,000 to 100,000 tons; (b) that as it is anticipated that the Ministry of Shipping will be unable to allocate any tonnage to Calcutta, the Calcutta allotment from May to August should be transferred to West Coast Ports. Approved.

260. *The Oats Position*.—The Chairman reported that there was a serious shortage of Oats in the United Kingdom for use by transport horses, and that a demand had been put forward by the Board of Trade for the importation of 300,000 tons of Oats, shipment to start immediately and to extend over approximately the next six months, and that this question would have to be considered when deciding the permanent arrangements under which the Wheat Executive would provide Oats for the Allies. Monsieur Monnet suggested that such a demand should be placed before the Inter-Allied Maritime Transport Council. It was generally agreed that the Wheat Executive would have no objection to the importation of the above quantity of Oats provided that their movement did not unduly hamper the transport of Breadstuff Cereals on railways in the exporting country, nor unduly decrease the quantity of tonnage available for their carriage to the Allies.

261. *Statements*.—The following Statements were submitted:—

- (a) Requirements and Arrivals of Cereals for all purposes dated 9th March (262).
- (b) To Load Position as on 6th March (263).
- (c) Statement of Sinkings in proportion to Arrivals dated 8th March (264).

SPECIAL MEETING, FRIDAY, 15TH MARCH 1918, AT 10 A.M.

Present:

Sir JOHN BEALE, K.B.E. (*Chairman*).
 Commendatore B. ATTOLICO, C.B.
 Monsieur J. MONNET.
 Mr. L. P. SHELDON.
 Sir GEORGE SALTMARSH.

Captain R. FILLIOUX.
 Monsieur GENESTAL.
 Captain F. B. ELLIOT.

Mr. J. H. GORVIN.
 Dr. G. C. DIXON (*Secretary*).

Mr. S. F. MENDL } attended.
 Mr. S. MITCHELL }

262. *Supplies for Holland*.—With reference to Minute 257, Cable No. 1022 from Lord Reading dated 12th March (265) was read respecting the arrangements to be made for providing the second 50,000 tons of Breadstuff Cereals to Holland. It was decided that the information provided in the above cable did not necessitate any alteration in the decisions arrived at at the previous Meeting.

263. *North America*.—(a) *Cereal Situation*.—Referring to Minute 258, a draft cable (266) to be sent to Mr. Hoover in reply to his Cable No. 73 regarding the Cereal situation in North America was considered and considerable amendments were made. It was agreed that the cable as amended should be discussed further at a Special Meeting of the Wheat Executive to be held on Saturday, 16th March, at 10.15 a.m.

(b) Commendatore Attolico suggested that the Wheat Executive should record that a shortage of stocks in any country is accepted as a reason for that country proposing additional diversions, and it was agreed that the following statement should be recorded on the Minutes: "The Wheat Executive, having decided to adopt the procedure for future allocations of tonnage which is detailed in the telegram to Mr. Hoover, also place on record that if the representative of any country is of the opinion that his country's stock or reserve position makes it necessary for that country to secure arrivals in addition to the arrivals secured by the agreed system of repartition, he shall be entitled to claim the diversion to his country of steamers which, under that system, would otherwise be directed to one of the other two countries, and the Wheat Executive shall fully consider any such claim."

(c) *Stock Position.* Cable from Monsieur Vilgrain to Monsieur Tardieu (267) and cable sent to Lord Reading dated 14th March (268) with reference to the stock positions in France and Italy respectively were submitted.

264. *Supplies for Switzerland.*—Letter from the Swiss Minister to the Foreign Office dated 8th March (269) was read, in which the appointment of Mr. Arthur Palliser to represent the Swiss Government on the Wheat Executive when the needs of Switzerland are being discussed was reported. The Chairman reported that he had written to Mr. Palliser suggesting that a meeting should take place on Saturday the 16th March at 11 o'clock, when the Cereal situation in Switzerland could be discussed. Approved.

265. *Australia.*—The Chairman reported that a cable had been received from Mr. Love informing the Commission that Mr. Paxton had tendered his resignation, and suggested that a joint cable should be sent to Mr. Paxton expressing on behalf of the Royal Commission and Wheat Executive appreciation of his work on their behalf. Agreed.

SPECIAL MEETING, SATURDAY, 16TH MARCH 1918, AT 10.15 A.M.

Present :

Sir JOHN BEALE, K.B.E. (*Chairman*).
Commendatore B. ATTOLICO, C.B.
Monsieur J. MONNET.
Mr. L. P. SHELDON.
Sir GEORGE SALTMARSH.

Captain R. FILLIOUX.
Monsieur GENESTAL.
Captain F. B. ELLIOT.

Mr. J. H. GORVIN.
Dr. G. C. DIXON (*Secretary*).

Mr. S. F. MENDL }
Mr. S. MITCHELL } attended.

266. *North American Position.*—Referring to Minute 263 (a), the proposed cable (270) to be sent to Mr. Hoover was read, amended, and generally approved, subject to ratification by Monsieur Monnet.

267. *Supplies for Switzerland.*—Mr. Palliser attended, and the position as regards supplies of Breadstuff Cereals for Switzerland was discussed. It was decided that Mr. Palliser should provide the Wheat Executive with the following information:—

(i) The quantities of Breadstuff Cereals which have already been purchased (showing the position in each exporting country separately) arrived or to arrive, and the additional quantity required to supplement the above under the rationing agreement.

(ii) Details of the quantity of tonnage allotted to the carriage of Breadstuffs and all other commodities.

(iii) Details of the financial arrangements made for the purchase of cereals in the exporting countries.

APPENDICES.

233. Wheat Executive Report No. 2, dated 28th January.
234. Cable to President Wilson from the Prime Ministers of France, Italy and the United Kingdom, dated 2nd February, on the position of Cereal Shipments to the Allies.
235. Letter from the Chairman, the Wheat Export Co., to Mr. Hoover, dated 24th January, as to the Cereal Supply.
236. Letter from the Ministry of Shipping, dated 28th January, as to the conveyance of Oats to France and Italy.
237. Letter from the Ministry of Shipping to the Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement, dated 28th January, as to the conveyance of Oats to France and Italy.
238. Letter from Commendatore Attolico, dated 10th February, as to the diversion of Oats to Italy.
239. Extract from Paraphrase Cable from Mr. Love, dated 12th February, as to the appointment of a French representative in Australia.
240. Paraphrase Cable from the Wheat Export Co., dated 11th February, as to the priority of Cereals in transport to the American seaboard.
241. Paraphrase Cable from the Viceroy of India, dated 6th February, on the price of Indian Wheat.
242. Letter from Major Casqueiro, dated 12th February, as to the cancellation of Portuguese contracts.
243. Statement of Requirements and Arrivals of Cereals, dated 7th November.
244. Statement of the "To Load" Position as on 5th February.
245. Statement of Sinkings in proportion to Arrivals of Wheat and Maize, dated 8th February.
246. Letter from the Ministry of Shipping, dated 27th February, as to the Tonnage Programme.
247. Letter from the Ministry of Shipping, dated 7th March, as to the Tonnage Programme.
248. Letter to the Ministry of Shipping, dated 1st March, as to the Tonnage Programme.
249. Cable from Mr. Crosby to Mr. Sheldon, dated 12th March, as to Tonnage for Swiss Requirements.
250. Cable from Mr. Crosby to Mr. Sheldon, dated 7th March, as to the Cereal Supplies for Switzerland.
251. Letter to Mr. Sheldon, dated 9th March, as to the Representation of Switzerland on the Wheat Executive.
252. Letter from the Foreign Office, dated 21st February, on the Purchasing by Switzerland through the Wheat Executive.
253. Note from the Swiss Minister, dated 19th February, on the Purchasing by Switzerland through the Wheat Executive.
254. Letter to the Foreign Office, dated 22nd February, on the Representation of Switzerland on the Wheat Executive.
255. Paraphrase Cable 871 from Lord Reading, dated 2nd March, as to the Export of Breadstuffs from the United States to the European Allies.
256. Paraphrase Cable 898 from Lord Reading, dated 4th March, as to the Export of Breadstuffs from the United States to the European Allies.
257. Cable 1405 to Lord Reading, dated 12th March, as to the Export of Breadstuffs from the United States to the European Allies.
258. Cable 1313 to Lord Reading, dated 8th March, as to the Export of Breadstuffs from the United States to the Allies.
259. Cable 574 from the Wheat Export Co., dated 12th March, as to the Cereal situation in the United States.
260. Cable 73 from Mr. Hoover to Mr. Sheldon, dated 13th March, as to the Cereal situation in the United States.
261. Cable from the Viceroy of India, dated 2nd March, on the Indian Wheat Programme.
262. Statement as to the Requirements and Arrivals of all Cereals, dated 9th March.
263. Statement as to the "To Load" Position as on 6th March.
264. Statement of Sinkings in Proportion to Arrivals, dated 8th March.
265. Cable 1022 from Lord Reading, dated 12th March, as to Breadstuffs for Holland.
266. Draft Cable to Mr. Hoover as to the Cereal Position in North America.
267. Letter to Professor Attolico embodying Cable from Monsieur Vilgrain to Monsieur Tardieu, as to the Stock Position in France and Italy.
268. Cable to Lord Reading, dated 14th March, as to the Stock Position in France and Italy.
269. Letter from the Swiss Minister to the Foreign Office, dated 8th March, as to the Representation of Switzerland on the Wheat Executive.
270. Draft Cable to Mr. Hoover on the Cereal Position in North America.

Appendix 233.

28th January 1918.

REPORT BY THE WHEAT EXECUTIVE, No. 2.

1. The Wheat Executive desire to draw the immediate attention of the Governments of the various countries they represent to the grave situation resulting from the fact that the definite requirements stated in their Report No. 1, dated the 15th November 1917, have not been realised in practice.

2. In that Report they stipulated that the shipments from the North American continent should reach 1,100,000 tons of breadstuff cereals monthly in December, January, and February. When it was realised that the December shipments were falling behindhand an exchange of telegrams with America took place, with the result that a conference was held at Washington on the 22nd and 23rd of January with Mr. Hoover and assistants, and advices since received indicate that shipments from North America will probably not exceed the following totals unless further urgent measures are taken :—

						Tons.
December (actual shipment)	-	-	-	-	-	475,000
January (estimated shipment)	-	-	-	-	-	700,000
February (estimated shipment)	-	-	-	-	-	850,000
March (estimated shipment)	-	-	-	-	-	1,000,000

a deficiency of 875,000 tons on the programme set out in Table I. attached to the Report of 16th November. In addition to this the November shipment actually realised a deficiency of 402,000 tons on the figures contemplated on the 16th November.

3. The report of the 16th November further required that financial arrangements to enable the purchase of exportable surplus of the crop in the Argentine should be completed by the end of the month. The negotiations were, unfortunately, protracted, and as the loan convention was not finally ratified until the 21st January, it was not possible to give general instructions to direct tonnage to the Argentine until the second week of January, with the result that the shipment will probably not exceed—

						Tons.
February	-	-	-	-	-	200,000
March	-	-	-	-	-	400,000

4. Not only have the requirements stated in the Report of the 16th November not been achieved in practice, but in addition the Italian Government have put in a demand that an increased importation requirement for that country should be accepted. The demand is based, among other reasons, on the losses sustained in the Italian retreat. The Paris conference referred the demand to the Wheat Executive for consideration, and it has now been agreed to increase the Italian requirement by 400,000 tons.

5. In view of the altered conditions a revised programme of shipment has been drawn up, which is set out in the table attached to this report, showing the shipments expected, having regard to the conditions set out above, and showing also the proposed allocation of the shipments between the various countries so as to secure that, as far as possible, each country receives a fair share of the cereals available. If this programme is fulfilled in practice, each of the three countries will receive arrivals which will result in the following deficiencies on the total requirement :—

Country.	1st February.		1st March.		1st April.		1st May.		1st June.	
	Metric Tons.	Per Cent.	Metric Tons.	Per Cent.	Metric Tons.	Per Cent.	Metric Tons.	Per Cent.	Metric Tons.	Per Cent.
United Kingdom	906,000	25	1,134,000	26	1,268,000	25	1,222,000	21	1,037,000	16
France - -	705,000	24	785,000	22	865,000	21	895,000	19	775,000	15
Italy - -	741,000	26	741,000	22	741,000	19	741,000	17	691,000	14

These deficiencies will be increased by the amount of war and marine losses.

6. Each delegate will report separately to his own country as to its individual position resulting from the importation set out in the table. In a joint report it is sufficient to say that, even if the programme detailed in the table is worked up to in full, or even slightly exceeded, each one of the three countries has to face a period of acute difficulty if not actual shortage.

7. The difficulties are due to the fact that for the past four months it has only been possible to obtain an important volume of cereals from one continent—North America. The position will be greatly eased from the date that large supplies can also be obtained from the Argentine and India, if sufficient tonnage is placed at the disposal of the Wheat Executive.

ESTIMATED SHIPMENTS OF CEREALS (EXCLUDING OATS) TO THE ALLIES, 1918.
(Thousands of Metric Tons.)

Month of Arrival.	Country.	North America.	Argentine.	India.	South Africa.	Australia.	Total.
February		January Shipment.	December Shipment.	December Shipment.	December Shipment.	November Shipment.	
	United Kingdom -	312	22	41	23	2	401
	France - - -	199	3	7	5	36	250
	Italy - - -	180	46	68	6	—	300
	Greece - - -	9	—	30	—	—	39
	Total, February -	700	71	146	34	38	990
March		February Shipment.	January Shipment.	January Shipment.	January Shipment.	November Shipment.	
	United Kingdom -	393	28	35	38	1	495
	France - - -	177	20	5	—	40	250
	Italy - - -	255	25	20	—	—	300
	Greece - - -	25	8	—	6	—	39
	Total, March -	850	81	60+8*	44	41	1,084
April		March Shipment.	February Shipment.	February Shipment.	February Shipment.	December Shipment.	
	United Kingdom -	575	40	20	40	—	675
	France - - -	216	70	—	—	14	300
	Italy - - -	209	80	11	—	—	300
	Greece - - -	—	10	19	10	—	39
	Total, April -	1,000	200	50	50	14	1,314
May		April Shipment.	March Shipment.	March Shipment.	March Shipment.	January Shipment.	
	United Kingdom -	684	40	50	40	—	814
	France - - -	252	175	20	—	3	450
	Italy - - -	64	175	111	—	—	350
	Greece - - -	—	10	19	10	—	39
	Total, May -	1,000	400	200	50	3	1,653

* Indo-China.

NOTE.—1. The above statement assumes that, taking past deficiencies into account, the proportion of requirements, including crop releases, of the United Kingdom, France and Italy from 1st February to end of June is 38·9, 31·1 and 30·0 per cent. respectively.

2. Though this table shows shipments over a lengthened period, it is intended to be a definite guide to the earlier shipments only. The shipments in later months will be revised from time to time so as to adjust inequalities arising as a result of actual shipments in any one exporting country differing from the above programme. No allowance has been made for war and marine losses.

J. H. G.

Appendix 234.

THE POSITION OF CEREAL SHIPMENTS TO THE ALLIES.

The British Section, Supreme War Council (Versailles).
D. 7.30 p.m., 2nd February 1918.
R. 10.5 p.m., 2nd February 1918.

No. B.L. 140.

Urgent.

Following from Prime Minister for Mr. Balfour :—

Following telegram agreed at Versailles has been sent through the French Foreign Office to Washington.

Begins

"The Prime Ministers of France, Great Britain and Italy, now meeting at Versailles, desire the following message to be given in their joint name to President, Inter-Allied Wheat Executive :—

"1. Shipments of cereals for bread from North America were in December over 500,000 tons less than programme accepted by Paris Conference in November, and in January will be probably over

Appendix 234—continued.

400,000 tons less than that of programme. This deficiency of 900,000 tons was due to railway congestion, car shortage and bunkering difficulties, aggravated by exceptionally severe frost.

"2. These deficient shipments, following previous importation below requirements, will cause a most serious situation throughout Allied Europe in March, April and May, and position can only be relieved by very large shipments from North America in February, March and April.

"3. The Wheat Executive fully realize and appreciate the great efforts which are being made by Mr. Hoover and the American Food Administration to help them at this grave period.

"They are aware that Mr. Hoover recognises the gravity of situation, and is in agreement with them as to needs of European Allies, but they point out that to ship an average of 1,000,000 tons of breadstuff cereals, quantities which they regard as minimum, in February and in March must involve a great effort by the Railway and Fuel Administrations, as well as Food Administration, and they beg that instructions may be given so that this shipment may be a definite first charge on American effort until period of stress is passed.

"We decided to forward this report to you and to inform you that, in our opinion, the need of bread cereals in Europe cannot be exaggerated, and to request you to give instructions asked for.

"Arrangements have been made to provide the shipping required, although this has only been possible by reduction of the importation of munitions to such an extent as would not have been contemplated but for the critical character of the food situation.

"It is our deliberate conviction that food shortage, with its effect on the moral of the population, which has been one of the principal causes of the breakdown of Russia, is the greatest danger at present threatening each of the European Allies."

Appendix 235.

Private and Confidential.

THE CEREAL SUPPLY.

Wheat Export Co., Inc., New York,
24th January 1918.

DEAR MR. HOOVER,

We confirm conference with you in Washington, at which were present Mr. Barnes, Mr. Bell, Dr. A. Taylor, Mr. George Zabriskie and Mr. Whitmarsh.

We drew your attention to the following facts:—

(1) That the Inter-Allied Council in Europe agreed that it was necessary that 1,100,000 tons should be shipped during January and 1,100,000 tons during February of foodstuffs from the United States. This programme was agreed to by you at a meeting which we held with you in New York on 27th December and as per your letter of 1st January.

(2) On the 15th January we were informed by the Milling Division of the U.S.F.A. Grain Corporation that they were unable to make us sufficient allocations of flour to meet our requirements and that the shortage would be no less than 370,000 tons.

(3) We informed London of the above fact and stated that the stocks which would be available for shipment during January and February would be only 1,620,000 tons, divided: 700,000 tons during January and 920,000 during February.

(4) There have been several occasions when, after definite allocations of flour have been made at certain mills, those mills have failed to complete deliveries within the contract period.

(5) We read to you a cable received from the Wheat Executive, London, pointing out that, owing to short shipments from this country during the latter months of last year and prospective short shipments during January and February, the crisis with regard to food supplies had already arrived. On the basis of a shipment of 700,000 tons during January and 920,000 tons during February, it may, with the greatest difficulty, be possible for the Allies to carry on, but these short shipments necessitate a shipment of 1,100,000 tons during March.

(6) Owing to the very large proportion of sacked goods which we are receiving, the loading of our steamers is being delayed, and port facilities are congested to a most abnormal extent. It is not reasonable to expect that we shall be able to ship during January and February every single bag and bushel of foodstuffs in our stocks. It is necessary for us to have a margin. It is therefore of urgent importance that as large a quantity as possible of bulk grains should be allotted to us in order to make it physically possible to load the necessary quantities on board our ships. These allocations should be made to us forthwith, as any delay will mean that it is impossible for the goods to be loaded during January and February.

After discussion you agreed to the following:—

(1) To allocate to us forthwith 50,000 tons of wheat for immediate despatch to the seaboard.

(2) You made us an offer of 50,000 tons of rice in bags. This rice is already at or near ports in the Gulf of Mexico. We have cabled to London asking to be allowed to buy this rice at about 7 cents per pound, and await their reply.

(3) We note that arrangements are being made to commandeer 30 per cent. of the output of all controlled mills, and that you hope that a larger proportion than 30 per cent. will be forthcoming from these mills. We understand that 30 per cent. of the output of the mills equals about 280,000 tons per month. It is of importance that as far as possible flour should be routed to the seaboard in whole trainloads, and we understand that arrangements are being so made.

(4) It is of the utmost importance that we should buy a large quantity of corn. The movement of corn is retarded owing to the lack of empty cars in the interior. We note that you are bringing strong pressure to bear on the Railway Administration to see that empty cars are provided for this trade. We, on our part, are bringing all possible pressure to bear to help

B 2

Appendix 235—continued.

you in this matter. We have been, and shall continue to be, in daily close touch with the Grain Corporation as to the quantities and positions of corn purchased by us.

(5) As regards March shipment from the seaboard, we note that you will take this matter up again at an early date. We may mention that we are anxious to buy a minimum of 300,000 tons of corn for March shipment from seaboard.

Certain statements were made by Dr. Taylor with regard to the quantities of wheat asked for by the Wheat Executive on behalf of the Allies. These statements appear to vary somewhat from the statements which we have in this office, and we think that it is desirable that our position should be made quite clear. We should therefore welcome a visit from Dr. Alonzo Taylor when next he is in New York, so that he may satisfy himself that the quantities of wheat asked for are not in any way excessive. We are writing to Dr. Taylor asking him to arrange to see us when next in New York.

We must thank you and your colleagues for your courtesy and sympathy towards us at a most trying time. As stated above, the crisis has already arrived in Europe, as the short shipments up to the end of February will deplete food reserves to danger point.

We find it very difficult to convey to you the feelings of consternation and alarm at the present situation. It is perfectly clear, from cables we have received, that the slightest failure on our part to ship the quantities mentioned can only have the most disastrous results.

Yours very truly,
THE WHEAT EXPORT CO., INC.,
(Signed) H. T. ROBSON, Chairman.

Herbert C. Hoover, Esq.,
U.S. Food Administration,
Washington, D.C.

Appendix 236.

THE CONVEYANCE OF OATS TO FRANCE AND ITALY.

L/30170/18.

Ministry of Shipping,
28th January 1918.

SIR,

I HAVE to enclose for your information a copy of a letter addressed to the Chairman of the Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement with respect to the arrangements for the conveyance of oats for France and Italy.

In view of the fact that your Executive is responsible for the joint purchase of all cereals for all the Allies, the allocation of a special block of vessels for the conveyance of a single cereal for France and Italy appears to be anomalous, and it would be convenient to this Ministry, as doubtless also to your Executive, if the requirements for tonnage for oats were included with the requirements for tonnage for all cereals.

I should be glad to know whether you are in a position to arrange, as far as your Executive is concerned, for this change to take place as from the conclusion of the voyages now current, or otherwise as may prove convenient.

The Chairman,
Wheat Executive,
Trafalgar House,
Waterloo Place, S.W.1.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) J. A. SALTER.

Appendix 237.

THE CONVEYANCE OF OATS TO FRANCE AND ITALY.

Ministry of Shipping,
28th January 1918.

SIR,

WITH reference to Transport Department letter of 27th June 1916, respecting the number of British vessels to be retained in the service of France and Italy, I am directed by the Shipping Controller to refer to the arrangements then made for the supply of vessels to the two countries for the carriage of steel and oats.

The arrangement made in the letter quoted was that Great Britain should be responsible for the conveyance of a specified quantity of oats, the quantity being based upon the amount of tonnage in the service on 1st April 1916, and being reduced as a result of subsequent losses. Since that date this arrangement has continued, the tonnage supplied by Great Britain having no reference to the requirements of France and Italy for steel and oats in relation to their other requirements and to the general tonnage situation, except that occasional additional assistance has been given to meet particular emergencies.

It appears desirable that this arrangement should now be terminated. In the first place the new Inter-Allied arrangements decided upon at the Paris Conference provide for an allocation of tonnage among the different Allies which has regard to the whole of their tonnage and their import requirements. Apart, however, from the completion of these general arrangements, the present development of the work of the Wheat Executive, which purchases all cereals on behalf of all the Allies and already makes arrangements with the Ministry of Shipping with regard to the supply and allocation of tonnage for all other cereals, makes the retention of the old special arrangements for military oats anomalous and anachronistic. The Shipping Controller therefore desires me to state that he proposes to regard the arrangement under which a

Appendix 237—continued.

specific quantity of oats and steel was to be conveyed in British ships as terminated on the conclusion of the voyages now current, or otherwise as may in practice be found more convenient, and that he proposes to arrange with the Wheat Executive for the inclusion of requirements for the conveyance of oats with their other freight arrangements. A separate communication will be made with regard to steel after discussion with the Ministry of Munitions.

It will be realised that the acceptance on 3rd November 1917 of the principle that the indispensable food requirements of France, Italy and Great Britain should have priority over other imports, and the large additional assistance which is in consequence being given by Great Britain, necessarily have the effect of rendering obsolete previous arrangements with regard to specific supply services for the Allies.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) J. SALTER.

Appendix 238.**THE DIVERSION OF OATS TO ITALY.**

Immediate.

Italian Government Commission,
Empire House, Kingsway, W.C.2,
10th February 1918.

DEAR SIR JOHN,

I HAVE received the following telegram from Rome :—

"S.S. 'Sturton,' carrying 6,010 tons oats, was torpedoed on Thursday. This leaves only two floating cargoes of substitutes for February arrival, totalling 10,000 tons. Depôts depleted and only stocks remaining are on steamers under discharge, while the home yield is exhausted, so that we are compelled to proceed with the progressive slaughter of our national horses for lack of fodder. The situation is extremely anxious, so much so that, in order to lighten our responsibility, I have at once notified the military authorities, and asked them to address direct the Allied Commands, especially as the British and French troops in Italy ask to be supplied with oats. The immediate diversion of some cargoes for February arrival is essential."

Perhaps you will be kind enough to call a special meeting for Tuesday to consider the oats problem. When oats were scheduled under the Wheat Executive Scheme I was definitely told that, in order to obtain tonnage for the purpose, I must apply to the Wheat Executive. I have been doing so all along, with what results you know. I cannot very well continue in this way, as the present situation is such that the only sufferer of temporisation is Italy.

I am sure that you will appreciate in what an unbearable position this places me, and that you will join efforts with me definitely to clear the situation. With this object I renew my request for a special Wheat Executive meeting on Tuesday.

Sir J. Field Beale,
Chairman, Wheat Executive,
Trafalgar House, S.W.1.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) B. ATTOLICO.

Appendix 239.

EXTRACT FROM PARAPHRASE CABLE FROM MR. LOVE TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION ;
RECEIVED 12TH FEBRUARY 1918.

French Government have cabled their Consul, Melbourne, enquiring whether he could take charge after allocation of French share (about 600,060 tons) wheat our contract also ; whether could supervise shipments, make inspections, &c.

Should be glad to know whether position has been changed or procedure altered.

Owing conditions here, think proposal out of question, and in this opinion Wheat Board concurs. Consul talked matter over with me but was told knew nothing of any alterations.

Appendix 240.

PARAPHRASE CABLE FROM THE WHEAT EXPORT CO. TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION,
DATED 11TH FEBRUARY 1918.

No. 248.

Have conferred with Railway and Food Administrations, with the result that former has issued instructions earmarking all suitable cars for exclusive carriage of grain and grain products. Weather has greatly improved and we anticipate that numbers of empty cars involved in block in East will be moved to West. Scheme for movement of cargoes as much as possible in full train loads has been arranged in order to hasten matters.

Administration at last seems fully alive to situation and to need of making supreme effort to sacrifice other demands in favour of grain.

Improvement already noted in movements of corn and oats.

Will keep you in close touch with situation, but fear almost impossible to carry out full programme of 920 February even with all this effort.

Appendix 241.

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM FROM THE VICEROY, REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT,
DATED 6TH FEBRUARY 1918.

P.—Wheat.

With reference to our telegram of 29th January. After consultation with United Provinces Government, have reached conclusion that the offer of enhanced prices is only possible method of obtaining supplies. An increase on f.o.b. price to equivalent of 58s. per qr. is agreed to by Government of United Provinces. A further increase would be considered if this measure did not produce desired result. The present estimate of exportable surplus is 175,000 tons up to end of April, this including quantities already in sight. It is hoped that the increase of price may result in more being forthcoming and shall take all possible steps to secure larger supply. We will telegraph again as soon as results of higher price are known.

First wheat forecast shows that whereas 31,383,000 acres were sown in 1917, 33,912,000 acres have been sown this season, giving an increase of 2,529,000 acres. Last year's forecast, however, was made a month earlier. Comparison with final figures for last year shows increase of 972,000 acres; speaking generally, crop condition good, but Punjab and Central Provinces are in need of rain.

Appendix 242.

THE CANCELLATION OF PORTUGUESE CONTRACTS.

Urgent.

Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement,
India House, Kingsway, W.C.,
February 12th, 1918.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 4th January ult., I beg to state that I am directed by our Minister of Foreign Affairs to inform you that all contracts made by the Portuguese Government for the supply of cereals from overseas have been cancelled, and that our Government undertakes not to make any purchases of cereals from overseas except through the Royal Commission on Wheat Supplies.

As it appears that all obstacles have now been removed which prevented you from allowing the Wheat Export Co. in New York to load the S.S. "Arraiz," I request that you should most urgently instruct this agency to arrange for the loading of the said steamer.

It would be highly convenient if a substantial proportion of wheat could be obtained instead of only rye to load this vessel.

Regarding the other two steamers, "Ida" and "Mormugao," which are on their way to New York, I request that you also instruct the Wheat Export Co. to arrange for their loading as soon as they arrive.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) JOAO B. CASQUEIRO.

The Chairman,
The Wheat Executive,
Trafalgar House,
Waterloo Place, S.W.

Appendix 243.

REQUIREMENTS AND ARRIVALS OF CEREALS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.
UNITED KINGDOM.

Position as on 4th February 1918.

Cereal Year 1917-1918.

Metric Tons.

Month.	Home Crops, Wheat, and 50 per cent. Barley.	Actual Importation Requirement.*	Total Requirement, including Crop.	Arrived and Expected.			Total Arrivals.	Total Arrivals and Crop.	Per cent. of Total Requirement for the Month.	Per cent. of Deficiency on Theoretical Requirements from the beginning of Cereal Year to Date.
				Wheat.	Maize, Barley, and Rye.	Rice, Products of Maize, Oats, and Rye.				
1917.										
September	149,250	580,700	729,950	325,292	51,298	70,066	446,656	595,906	81.6	18.4
October -	149,250	592,886	742,136	231,454	42,708	90,878	365,040	514,290	69.3	23.9
November	149,250	615,671	764,921	220,644	102,262	72,810	395,716	544,966	71.2	24.4
December	149,250	640,110	789,360	229,285	47,352	23,189	299,826	449,076	56.9	27.0
1918.										
January -	149,250	682,645	831,895	232,153	50,346	49,858	332,357	481,607	57.9	29.1
February -	149,250	732,686	881,936	331,383	103,349	48,230	482,962	632,212	71.7	26.5
March -	149,250	774,307	923,557	365,001	120,628	47,858	533,487	682,737	73.9	23.6
April -	149,250	822,471	971,721							
May -	149,250	822,471	971,721							
June -	149,250	822,471	971,721							
July -	149,250	822,471	971,721							
August -	149,250	822,471	971,721							

* Average monthly importation requirement :—

Wheat -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	393,700
Maize, barley and rye (or rice)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	139,000
Rice, products of maize and oats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48,000
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	580,700

Pulses excluded from arrivals :—

1917	September	-	-	-	17,130	1918	January -	-	-	-	-	29,308
	October	-	-	-	23,085		February	-	-	-	-	10,722
	November	-	-	-	15,563		March	-	-	-	-	9,433
	December	-	-	-	24,726							

7th February 1918.

Appendix 243—continued.

REQUIREMENTS AND ARRIVALS OF WHEAT AND SUBSTITUTES.

FRANCE.

Position on 2nd February 1918.

Metric Tons.

Month of Arrival.	Wheat Crop.	Actual Importation Requirement.	Total Requirements, including Crop.	Arrived and Expected.			Total Arrivals.	Total Crop and Arrivals.	Per cent. of Consumption Requirement for the Month.	Per cent. of Deficiency on Theoretical Requirement from beginning of Cereal Year to Date.
				Wheat.	Maize, Barley, and Rye.	Rice, and Products of Maize and Oats.				
1917.										
September	258,300	321,700*	580,000	125,395	1,631	19,184	146,210	404,510	69·7	30·3
October	258,300	337,654	595,954	142,332	10,238	13,564	166,134	424,434	71·2	28·5
November	258,300	354,806	613,106	192,839	13,327	21,356	227,522	485,822	79·2	24·4
December	258,300	368,949	627,249	197,254	14,929	15,335	227,518	485,818	77·4	22·4
1918.										
January	258,300	386,628	644,928	137,861	36,553	7,563	181,977	440,277	68·3	22·7
February	258,300	415,864	674,164	139,475	18,607	21,057	179,139	437,439	64·9	23·0
March	258,300	455,318	713,618	260,794	10,545	6,293	277,632	535,932	75·1	20·8
April	258,300	490,855	749,155	114,784	—	—	114,784	373,084		
May	258,400	490,855	749,255	19,700	—	—	19,700	278,100		
June	258,400	490,855	749,255							
July	258,400	490,855	749,255							
August	258,400	490,855	749,255							

* Average monthly importation requirement on basis of 20 per cent. of total flour being provided by diluent cereals :—

Wheat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	169,200
Maize, barley, and rye	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	139,200
Rice, products of oats and maize	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,300
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	321,700

† Excluded from arrivals :—

(a) By sailing vessels, 13,945 metric tons at Dakar ; 71,423 metric tons on passage to Dakar.

(b) By steamers, 6,466 metric tons at Port Said.

Pulses.—December	-	-	-	-	1,500	March	-	-	-	-	302
January	-	-	-	-	1,872	April	-	-	-	-	4,000
February	-	-	-	-	140						

8th February 1918.

Appendix 243—continued.

REQUIREMENTS AND ARRIVALS OF WHEAT AND SUBSTITUTES.

ITALY.

Position as on 2nd February 1918.

Metric Tons.

Month of Arrival.	Wheat Crop.	Importation Requirement Weighted by Deficiencies.*	Importation Requirement, including Crop.	Arrived and Expected.			Total Arrivals.	Total Crop Arrivals.	Per cent. to Consumption Requirements for the Month.	Per cent. of Deficiency on Theoretical Requirement from beginning of Cereal Year to Date.
				Wheat.	Maize, Barley, Rye.	Rice, Products of Maize and Oats.				
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
1917.										
September	258,300	300,000	558,300	84,475	4,985	4,754	94,214	352,514	63·1	36·9
October -	258,300	322,865	581,165	133,755	9,485	1,445	144,685	402,985	69·3	32·3
November	258,300	345,137	603,437	115,062	17,148	8,282	140,492	398,792	66·1	31·1
December	258,300	374,372	632,672	116,727	21,645	3,675	142,047	400,347	63·3	30·4
1918.										
January -	258,300	403,413	661,713	178,554	49,754	5,640	233,948	492,248	74·4	26·7
February -	258,300	427,622	685,922	134,707	45,998	48,966	229,671	487,971	71·1	24·3
March -	258,300	460,614	718,914	264,004	40,809	54,675	359,488	617,788	85·9	19·3
April -	258,300	480,839	739,139	213,373	18,800	24,300	256,473	514,773		
May -	258,400	480,839	739,239	69,000	—	4,000	73,000	331,400		
June -	258,400	480,839	739,239							
July -	258,400	331,467	589,867							
August -	258,400	281,467	539,867							

* Average monthly importation requirement is 283,300 tons per month, made up as follows:—

Wheat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	181,700
Maize, barley, rye, rice, and products of oats and maize	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	101,600
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	283,300

NOTE.—1. Column 2 is based on the revised importation requirement in the Cereal Year of 3,400,000 metric tons. The deficiencies in September–December have been spread over the period September–June, and the deficiencies from January onwards over the period January–August 1918.

2. 5,000 tons of wheaten flour to be imported by rail included in February arrivals. Excluded from arrivals 13,600 tons of Australian wheat on passage and to load in sailing vessels and 4,171 tons of pulses.

8th February 1918.

Appendix 243—continued.

REQUIREMENTS AND ARRIVALS OF CEREALS FOR BREWING AND ANIMAL CONSUMPTION
(EXCLUDING OATS).†

UNITED KINGDOM.

Position as on 4th February 1918.

Cereal Year 1917-1918.

Metric Tons.

Month.	Home-grown Crops, 50 per cent. Barley.	Actual Monthly Importation Requirement of Maize and Barley.	Total Requirements, including Crop.*	Arrived and Expected.	Total Crop and Arrivals.	Per cent. of Total Require- ments for the Month.	Per cent. of Deficiency on Theoretical Requirement from the beginning of Cereal Year to Date.
1917.							
September - - -	47,650	114,300	161,950	53,621	101,271	62·5	37·5
October - - -	47,650	119,816	167,466	47,021	94,671	56·5	39·5
November - - -	47,650	127,095	174,745	80,794	128,444	73·5	33·2
December - - -	47,650	132,239	179,889	48,890	96,540	53·6	35·0
1918.							
January - - -	47,650	142,658	190,308	48,418	96,068	50·5	36·2
February - - -	47,650	156,121	203,771	25,526	73,176	35·9	39·3
March - - -	47,650	177,887	225,537	26,008	73,658	32·7	41·4
April - - -	47,650	208,263	255,913				
May - - -	47,650	208,263	255,913				
June - - -	47,650	208,263	255,913				
July - - -	47,650	208,263	255,913				
August - - -	47,650	208,263	255,913				

* Average monthly minimum importation requirement :—

Barley	-	-	-	-	-	46,600	33,800
Maize	-	-	-	-	-	-	33,900
Total	-	-	-	-	-	46,600	67,700

† It is assumed that the home-grown crop of oats (3,332,000 metric tons) will suffice for civil requirements. The oats requirement of the Army in this country will, it is hoped, be met by an import of 30,000 tons per month in September-December, the requirements for the remainder of the year being met by the home-grown crop.

8th February 1918.

REQUIREMENTS AND ARRIVALS OF OATS AND SUBSTITUTES.

UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE AND ITALY.

Position on 5th February 1918.

Metric Tons.

Month.	United Kingdom.		France.		Italy.	
	Average Importation Requirement.	Total Arrivals.	Average Importation Requirement.	Total Arrivals.	Average Importation Requirement.	Total Arrivals.
1917.						
September - - -	139,395	40,877	50,000	43,338	60,096	41,854
October - - -	139,395	30,565	50,000	29,883	60,096	44,335
November - - -	139,395	129,118	50,000	40,504	60,096	31,433
December - - -	139,395	108,816	50,000	43,462	60,096	54,460
1918.						
January - - -	144,475	113,135	50,000	34,545	60,096	20,468
February - - -	144,475	203,727	50,000	17,921	60,096	20,810
March - - -	144,475	203,202	50,000	74,332	60,096	26,600
April - - -	144,475		50,000	7,000	60,096	38,850
May - - -	144,475		50,000		60,096	
June - - -	144,475		50,000		60,096	
July - - -	144,475		50,000		60,096	
August - - -	144,475		50,000		60,096	

7th February 1918.

Appendix 244.

TO LOAD POSITION AS ON 5TH FEBRUARY 1918.
UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE, AND ITALY.

Tons of 2,240 lbs.

FEBRUARY.						MARCH.	
Shipment to Date.	Exporting Country.	All Cereals excluding Oats.	Freight.	Oats.	Allied Military Freight.	All Cereals excluding Oats.	Freight.
15,066	N. America :						
27,053	Canada - -	224,934	224,930	} 210,689	{ 180,891	—	—
31,231	N. Range - -	1,071,375	395,950			11,380	—
	Gulf - -	333,769	241,770			—	—
—	Pacific Coast - -	11,495	27,000	—	—	—	—
4,982	Plate - - -	118,650*	171,340	—	—	—	155,000
—	India :			Barley and Gram.			
—	Karachi - -	80,010	3,000	123,794	82,142	—	—
—	Bombay - -	54,830	4,000	1,080	—	—	—
—	Calcutta - -	6,870	—	—	—	—	—
—	For orders - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	Total India -	141,710	7,000	124,874†	82,142	—	—
—	Australia - -	Wheat available.	4,400	—	—	—	—
2,330	S. Africa - -	45,370	45,370	—	—	51,000	49,130
—	Madagascar (butter beans).	5,545	895	—	—	—	—
—	Brazil (beans) -	14,910	—	—	—	7,840	—
22,930	Burma (rice and beans).	91,300‡	70,000	—	—	—	—

* Including Plate maize, February, 50,080 tons.

† Barley, 68,124 tons ; Gram, 56,750 tons.

‡ Including beans, February, 1,130 tons.

§ Cable No. 151 from Wheat Export Co. give the following figures for the February position :—

Cereals available at Seaboard.			Tons.	Estimated Tonnage.
Canada	-	-	240,000	301,000
Range	-	-	315,000	504,000
Gulf	-	-	365,000	361,000
Pacific Coast	-	-	25,000	25,000
Total	-	-	945,000	1,191,000

NOTE :—105,000 tons Canadian wheat, 5,890 tons barley, for winter storage at Fort William not included in above figures.

9th March 1918.

Appendix 244—continued.

F.O.B. PURCHASES (INCLUDING PURCHASES BY WHEAT EXECUTIVE) AND FREIGHT PROVIDED FOR
UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE AND ITALY.

Position as on 5th February 1918.

Tons of 2,240 lbs.

FEBRUARY.

	Wheat.	Flour.	Maize.	Gro- ceries.	Pulse.	Rice.	Barley.	Rye.	Total.	Freight.	Oats.	Oats Freight.
N. America :												
Canada -	148,990	56,880	8,940	7,680	—	—	36,680	5,460	264,630	224,930	210,689	180,891
N. Range -	32,730	131,760	37,160	159,610	8,010	—	114,460	27,790	511,520	395,950	—	—
U.S.A. Food Administration.	—	650,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	650,000	—	—	—
Gulf -	118	590	69,150	2,590	—	50,000	75,250	6,230	203,928	241,770	51,968	50,800
Total -	181,838	839,230	115,250	169,880	8,010	50,000	226,390	39,480	1,630,078	862,650	262,657	231,691
U.S.A. Adminis- tration.	—	25,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25,000	—	—
Pacific Coast -	—	8,900	—	2,595	—	—	—	—	11,495	2,000	—	—
Plate -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	F/O	93,800	—	—
Rosario -	44,000	—	25,430	—	—	—	—	—	69,430	—	—	—
B. Aires -	11,000	—	24,650	—	—	—	900	—	36,550	69,340	315	—
B. Blanca -	10,570	—	—	—	—	—	2,100	—	12,670	8,200	1,511	—
Total -	65,570	—	50,080	—	—	—	3,000	—	118,650	171,340	1,826	—
Brazil -	—	—	—	—	Beans. 14,910	—	—	—	14,920	—	—	—
India :											Barley & Gram.	
Karachi -	15,590	—	40,000	—	24,420	—	—	—	80,010	3,000	123,794	82,142
Bombay -	23,720	—	—	—	31,110	—	—	—	54,830	4,000	1,080	—
Calcutta -	—	—	—	—	6,870	—	—	—	6,870	—	—	—
Total -	39,310	—	40,000	—	62,400	—	—	—	141,710	7,000	124,874	82,142
Burmah -	—	—	—	—	Beans. 1,130	90,170	—	—	91,300	70,700	—	—
Australia -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,400	—	—
Madagascar -	—	—	—	—	Beans. 5,545	—	—	—	5,545	895	—	—
S. Africa :												
Cape Town -	—	—	45,820	—	—	—	—	—	45,820	—	—	—
Durban -	—	—	126,300	14,740	—	—	—	—	141,040	—	—	—
Beira -	—	—	13,210	—	—	—	—	—	13,210	—	—	—
E. London -	—	—	40	—	—	—	—	—	40	—	—	—
Algoa Bay -	—	—	1,070	—	—	—	—	—	1,070	—	—	—
Total -	—	—	186,440	14,740	—	—	—	—	201,180	82,000	—	—

Canada, 105,000 tons wheat, 5,890 tons barley for winter storage at Fort William not included in above figures.

9th February 1918.

Appendix 244—continued.

F.O.B. PURCHASES (INCLUDING PURCHASES BY WHEAT EXECUTIVE) AND FREIGHT PROVIDED FOR UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE, ITALY AND GREECE.

Position as on 5th February 1918.

Tons of 2,240 lbs.

	MARCH.						APRIL.				
	Flour.	Maize.	Groceries.	Pulse.	Total.	Total Freight.	Maize.	Groceries.	Pulse.	Total.	Freight.
N. America :											
Canada -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
N. Range -	460	—	9,320	1,600	11,380	—	—	—	—	—	—
U.S.A. Food Administration.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gulf -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total -	460	—	9,320	1,600	11,380	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pacific Coast -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plate -	—	—	—	—	—	F.O. 128,000	—	—	—	—	—
Rosario -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
R. Aires -	—	—	—	—	—	27,000	—	—	—	—	—
B. Blanca -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total -	—	—	—	—	—	155,000	—	—	—	—	—
Brazil -	—	—	—	—	Beans. 7,840	—	—	—	Beans 2,700	2,700	—
India :											
Karachi -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bombay -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Calcutta -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burmah -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Australia -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madagascar -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
S. Africa :											
Cape Town -	—	2,100	—	—	2,100	—	8,482	—	—	8,482	—
Durban -	—	7,100	7,300	—	14,400	—	8,482	7,400	—	15,882	—
Beira -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
E. London -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Algoa Bay -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total -	—	9,200	7,300	—	16,500	12,500	16,964	7,400	—	24,364	—

9th February.

Appendix 244—continued.

F.O.B. SHIPMENTS FROM N. AMERICA, 1ST—6TH FEBRUARY 1918 INCLUSIVE.

Tons of 2,240 lbs.

—	Wheat.	Flour.	Maize.	Groceries.	Pulse.	Barley.	Rye.	Total.	Grand Total.
Canada (including Portland.	8,738	4,703	—	91	—	1,534	—	15,066	15,066
N. Range :									
Canadian - - -	4,941	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,941	
U.S.A. - - -	—	463	—	5,788	—	781	3,406	10,438	
U.S.A. Food Administration.	1,073	10,601	—	—	—	—	—	11,674	27,053
Gulf :									
U.S.A. - - -	—	87	—	407	—	23,057	2,336	25,887	
U.S.A. Food Administration.	612	4,732	—	—	—	—	—	5,344	31,231
Pacific :									
U.S.A. - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
U.S.A. Food Administration.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total - - -	15,364	20,586	—	6,286	—	25,372	5,742	73,350	73,350

9th February 1918.

Appendix 245.

SINKINGS IN PROPORTION TO ARRIVALS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

All Cereals.

Tons of 2,240 lbs.

Month of Arrivals.	—	North America.	Argentine.	India and Burma.	Australia.	South Africa.	Russia.	China.	Japan.	Siam.	Brazil.	Other Countries.	Total.
1917.													
September -	Arrivals -	464,761	10,268	35,302	17,055	19,255	—	—	1,335	5,250	—	—	553,226
	Casualties -	13,560	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,560
	Per cent. -	2·8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2·4
October -	Arrivals -	344,255	26,575	61,028	6,043	1,612	547	293	1,879	19,900	—	—	462,132
	Casualties -	3,461	5,561	—	—	1,551	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,573
	Per cent. -	1·0	17·3	—	—	49·0	—	—	—	—	—	—	2·2
November -	Arrivals -	407,036	—	72,224	—	43,554	—	—	3,595	4,050	—	—	530,459
	Casualties -	—	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50
	Per cent. -	—	—	·06	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	·009
December -	Arrivals -	311,574	26,906	15,653	—	11,994	—	3,398	4,659	—	7,200	1,047	382,431
	Casualties -	17,708	5,547	10,898	—	4,379	—	—	548	—	—	—	39,080
	Per cent. -	5·4	17·1	41·0	—	26·7	—	—	10·5	—	—	—	9·2
1918.													
January -	Arrivals -	280,314	28,493	49,795	2,677	32,008	—	2,612	6,860	—	—	655	403,414
	Casualties -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Per cent. -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total, Sept. 1917 to Jan. 1918.	Arrivals -	1,807,940	92,242	234,002	25,775	108,423	547	6,303	18,328	29,200	7,200	1,702	2,331,662
	Casualties -	34,729	11,108	10,948	—	5,930	—	—	548	—	—	—	63,263
	Per cent. -	1·8	10·7	4·5	—	5·2	—	—	2·8	—	—	—	2·6

8th February 1918.

Appendix 245—continued.

SINKINGS IN PROPORTION TO ARRIVALS IN FRANCE.

All Cereals.

Month of Arrivals.	—	North America.	Argentine.	India.	Australia.	South Africa.	Indo-China.	England.	Other Countries.	Total.
1917.										
September	Arrivals -	51,863	7,444	57,181	11,117	—	17,487	—	1,118	146,210
	Casualties -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Per cent. -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
October	Arrivals -	64,488	19,721	37,951	28,548	—	11,814	3,097	515	166,134
	Casualties -	3,442	—	11,276	—	—	—	—	—	14,718
	Per cent. -	5.1	—	22.9	—	—	—	—	—	8.1
November	Arrivals -	107,280	—	51,272	16,810	6,238	15,200	26,396	4,326	227,522
	Casualties -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Per cent. -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
December	Arrivals -	171,463	5,417	13,986	10,658	—	14,848	9,347	1,800	227,519
	Casualties -	—	—	6,239	—	—	2,530	—	—	8,769
	Per cent. -	—	—	30.8	—	—	14.5	—	—	3.7
1918.										
January*	Arrivals -	138,974	9,998	—	11,117	5,147	4,663	2,205	9,873	181,977
	Casualties -	4,408	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,408
	Per cent. -	3.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.4
Total, Sept. 1917 to Jan. 1918.	Arrivals -	534,068	42,580	160,390	78,250	11,385	64,012	41,045	17,632	949,362
	Casualties -	7,850	—	17,515	—	—	2,530	—	—	27,895
	Per cent. -	1.4	—	9.8	—	—	3.8	—	—	2.8

* NOTE.—6,077 M. tons excluded above ; extent of damage unknown.

9th February 1918.

SINKINGS IN PROPORTION TO ARRIVALS IN ITALY.

All Cereals.

Month of Arrivals.	—	North America.	Argentine.	India.	South Africa.	Total.
1917.						
September	Arrivals -	23,419	6,154	64,641	—	94,214
	Casualties -	—	—	11,977	—	11,977
	Per cent. -	—	—	15.6	—	11.3
October	Arrivals -	30,330	18,359	95,996	—	144,685
	Casualties -	—	—	8,106	—	8,106
	Per cent. -	—	—	7.8	—	5.3
November	Arrivals -	59,368	6,304	74,820	—	140,492
	Casualties -	6,805	—	12,785	—	19,590
	Per cent. -	10.3	—	14.6	—	12.2
December	Arrivals -	80,283	13,599	32,998	10,050	136,930
	Casualties -	11,163	—	10,667	—	21,830
	Per cent. -	12.2	—	24.4	—	13.7
1918.						
January	Arrivals -	135,372	64,211	23,182	4,536	227,301
	Casualties -	3,570	—	5,332	—	8,902
	Per cent. -	2.6	—	18.7	—	3.8
Total, September to January.	Arrivals -	328,772	108,627	291,637	14,586	743,622
	Casualties -	21,538	—	48,867	—	70,405
	Per cent. -	6.1	—	14.3	—	8.6

9th February 1918.

Appendix 245—continued.

SINKINGS IN PROPORTION TO ARRIVALS IN GREECE.

All Cereals.

Metric Tons.

Month of Arrivals.						—			India.	
September	-	-	-	-	-	Arrivals	-	-	14,653	
						Casualties	-	-	—	
						Per cent.	-	-	—	
October	-	-	-	-	-	Arrivals	-	-	4,950	
						Casualties	-	-	—	
						Per cent.	-	-	—	
November	-	-	-	-	-	Arrivals	-	-	17,796	
						Casualties	-	-	5,861	
						Per cent.	-	-	24.8	
December	-	-	-	-	-	Arrivals	-	-	19,610	
						Casualties	-	-	4,862	
						Per cent.	-	-	19.9	
January	-	-	-	-	-	Arrivals	-	-	25,535	
						Casualties	-	-	5,026	
						Per cent.	-	-	16.4	
Total, September 1917 to January 1918						-	Arrivals	-	-	82,544
							Casualties	-	-	15,749
							Per cent.	-	-	16.0

8th February 1918.

Appendix 246.

THE TONNAGE PROGRAMME.

30538/18.

Ministry of Shipping.

27th February 1918.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of yesterday with respect to the request for the diversion of tonnage to carry wheat to France, I am directed by the Shipping Controller to inform you that, since the dispatch of the Ministry's letter of the 25th instant, official information has been received from the Italian Government that the French Government has now undertaken to supply French coal up to the agreed amount until the 1st April, before which time the situation will have been reviewed by the Allied Maritime Transport Council, and that in these circumstances the Controller is now prepared to divert 50,000 tons as requested in the earlier letter. Immediate action is being taken accordingly.

With regard to the further request contained in the last paragraph of your letter that steps should be taken to arrange for a further diversion of 100,000 tons, I have to inform you that this request is receiving very careful consideration, but that the Ministry is anxious to obtain precise information as to the extent to which the actual supply of coal from France to Italy will reduce the amount of British tonnage which must be sent to Italy with coal instead of across the Atlantic with wheat. A further communication will be made to you as soon as possible.

With regard to the question of procedure in relation to the Agreement of 3rd November which was raised in your letter of the 18th December, and has been subsequently discussed with you on several occasions, it may be convenient to preface the following preliminary remarks.

The automatic allocation of British tonnage to supplement tonnage under a particular Ally's control in order to secure shipments in exact proportions to the diversion of cereals between the Allies for each month as shown in the Wheat Executive figures, would only necessarily follow from the agreement on the following assumptions:—

- that the general priority given to indispensable food in that agreement was to be interpreted as giving an absolute priority to cereals both over other foodstuffs and other imports;
- that the allocation and use of the tonnage under the Allies' control had been in exact conformity with such an absolute priority for cereals; and
- that the arrangements to secure equality in the supply of cereals in accordance with the Wheat Executive plan implied an obligation to find corresponding shipment not only over the period of the cereal year but in each particular month.

With regard to (a) and (b), I am to remark that no such absolute priority for cereals was in fact apparently intended, and that no Ally has in fact allotted tonnage even approximately in accordance with such a principle. It is sufficient to mention as an example the question of the supply of coal to Italy and France to which reference has already been made.

In view of these considerations, and the examination of the use of tonnage in relation to import programmes which is now proceeding, and of the fact that the Allied Maritime Transport Council will shortly meet, but has not yet done so, the Controller desires to make it clear that, in consenting to the

Appendix 246—continued.

diversion of tonnage, he is doing so not in pursuance of an obligation imposed by the Agreement of the 3rd November, but in order to assist (as in previous cases) in what you state as Chairman of the Wheat Executive is an actual emergency in the French cereal position requiring immediate help.

With this preface I am to state that the Controller agrees with the procedure suggested in your letter of the 18th February, viz., that the Wheat Executive should inform the Ministry of Shipping about the 15th of each month of the amount of cereals proposed to be shipped in the ensuing month, and the proportions in which the total of such cereals should be divided among the various importing countries, with the exception that it would be preferable that the statement should be sent somewhat earlier, say on the 1st of each month, with subsequent corrections, and with the reservation that no *obligation* to divert tonnage in correspondence is implied by the adoption of this procedure, such diversion being necessarily dependent upon the consideration of other factors, *e.g.*, allocation and use of the Allies' tonnage, and being subject also to arrangements which may in future be made by the Allied Maritime Transport Council.

I am to add that, in requesting the diversion of tonnage in your earlier letter, the Controller assumes that he may take it that you have in mind the Food Controller's recent memorandum to the Cabinet (G. T. 36011), and that you have made any communications which may be necessary with the Food Controller, so that it is unnecessary for him to do so.

The Chairman,
Wheat Executive,
Trafalgar House,
Waterloo Place, S.W.1.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) GRAEME THOMSON.

Appendix 247.

THE TONNAGE PROGRAMME.

30538/18.

SIR,

Ministry of Shipping,
7th March 1918.

I AM directed by the Shipping Controller to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 1st instant respecting the procedure to be adopted for the application of the Agreement of the 3rd November 1917.

The principles and procedure proposed by the Wheat Executive for the application of that Agreement are in the main in accordance with the views of the Shipping Controller. It is, however, necessary to make these subject to the following observations:

It is unfortunately impossible to make the execution of the programme of the Wheat Executive entirely independent of the condition of other programmes, as ships are interchangeable between wheat and other commodities, any addition to the number required for other commodities reducing those available for wheat.

No Ally has interpreted the November 3rd Agreement as in practice implying an absolute priority for the execution of the programmes of the different Executives and Departments for cereals or foodstuffs generally over all other services. The mere fact that Great Britain, France and Italy have all continued overseas vessels in the coal service is sufficient proof of this. In no event moreover would any Ally claim under the November 3rd Agreement a supplement of tonnage belonging to any other Ally unless it were admitted that the Ally claiming assistance had adjusted its shipping and supply services so as to contribute in proportion to its means at least as much as the Ally from whom the tonnage was being requested. This must obviously be a question which would be extremely difficult to determine, though the machinery of the Allied Maritime Transport Council may assist.

In the meantime it is clear that an Ally from whom tonnage is requested must retain the right in the event of a difference of opinion as to the use and allocation of the tonnage (or the arrangement of a supply service affecting tonnage) of an Ally requesting assistance, to give expression to its own opinion by withholding in all or in part a diversion which would otherwise have been arranged.

With these prefatory remarks the Controller is prepared to agree that, information being communicated in the manner proposed in the previous correspondence, a division of the shipping allotted to cereals should be normally made as among the Allies in accordance with the allotments of wheat recommended by the Wheat Executive, this arrangement being a working practice adopted for the time being (and not admitted as following necessarily from the 3rd November Agreement), being subject to cancellation by notice, and not extending beyond cereals, and being in any case (and apart from actual cancellation by notice) subject to the proviso indicated (viz., that it is conditional upon the Ally from whom tonnage is requested being at the time satisfied as to the allocation of the tonnage and the arrangement of the supply services of the Ally claiming, and that diversions may be withheld in whole or in part if this condition is not satisfied), and being further subject to any arrangements that may be made by the Allied Maritime Transport Council.

The Controller believes that, while it has been necessary to safeguard the above proposals by provisos designed to secure that no undue share of the burden of the cereal programme is placed upon a particular Ally, the arrangement is such as both to avoid the practical difficulties to which allusion has been made in the discussion of this subject and also to give effect to the intention of the 3rd November Agreement.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) GRAEME THOMSON.

The Chairman,
Wheat Executive,
Trafalgar House,
Waterloo Place, S.W.1

Appendix 248.

THE TONNAGE PROGRAMME.

JFB/GE.

Sir,

1st March 1918.

I HAVE to acknowledge receipt of your letter, No. 30538, of the 27th February. I note with great pleasure—

- (1) that immediate action has been taken to divert 50,000 tons for the transport of cereals to France ;
- (2) that the request for further diversions of 100,000 tons is receiving careful attention ; and
- (3) that the Shipping Controller agrees with the procedure suggested in my letter of the 18th December.

I must, however, add that the Wheat Executive maintain their objection to the provision of tonnage for the transport of wheat to France being made dependent on such questions as the supply of coal to Italy, with which the Wheat Executive are in no sense concerned. The view of the Wheat Executive is that indispensable cereal supplies for human consumption are entitled to priority, and that, therefore, such questions cannot be relevant in a discussion as to the amount of cereals which any country ought to receive in a given period of time.

The "preliminary remarks" on page 2 of the letter under reply seem to indicate that the Wheat Executive have not made quite clear the grounds on which they have, from time to time, based their requests for diversions of tonnage. They have not intended to claim an automatic allocation of British tonnage to supplement tonnage under a particular Ally's control, or that cereals have an absolute priority over other foodstuffs ; but they do claim that, in pursuance of the 3rd November Agreement, a working arrangement should be established under which they would be able to make forward arrangements to provide cereals for transport in the reasonable expectation that, provided sufficient notice of their requirements is given, maritime transport would be forthcoming from one source or another to move those cereals from the exporting countries to the country they indicate as needing the import.

I had, personally, been under the impression that this view of the situation was in strict accordance with the views both of the Ministry of Shipping and of the War Cabinet. I see that on page 2 of Paper G.T. 3388, a very clear statement is made as to the method of the Wheat Executive, and the whole paper appears to be founded on the assumption that the Wheat Executive's minimum requirements would be met. I further note that the proposals in the paper were approved by the Cabinet.

No doubt, discussions on this question will assume far less importance when the Allied Maritime Transport Council gets into its full stride, but it is essential that some clear principle should be laid down to guide the operations until that event occurs, and I feel somewhat strongly that unless some such working arrangement as that claimed above is adopted, it will not be possible to carry on the work of the Wheat Executive as harmoniously as in the past.

In reply to the last paragraph of your letter, I have neither seen Paper G.T. 36011, nor have I any knowledge of a Cabinet Meeting founded on it.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) J. FIELD BEALE,
Chairman.

The Secretary,
Ministry of Shipping.

Appendix 249.

TONNAGE FOR SWISS REQUIREMENTS.

Cable from American Embassy, Paris, dated 12th March 1918, to Mr. Sheldon, received
13th March 1918, 9 a.m.

No. 48.

Following from Department.

"3993, March 9th, 6 p.m. For McFadden, Number 8. Embassy 3303. March 6th. Your number 5 29,828 tons wheat, rye, or equivalent in flour, have been put in transit for Switzerland since December 1. One ship, carrying 1,167 tons rye and 2,057 tons flour, included in foregoing, has been delayed by accident Chesapeake Bay, and must discharge about 1,500 tons damaged flour, which Wheat Export Company propose to replace. Five ships now under charter to Swiss are now loading cargoes furnished by Export Company. These cargoes will approximate about 14,500 tons of wheat, rye, flour, and a little barley. No other shipments can be definitely predicted, although it is probable that at least three Dutch ships, with carrying capacity of about 17,000 tons, will shortly be available for voyage to Cette in Swiss service, and will be furnished cereal cargoes by Export Company. Please repeat the foregoing to Legation, Berne. Polk Acting."

Appendix 250.

CEREAL SUPPLIES FOR SWITZERLAND.

Telegram from the American Embassy, Paris, to Mr. Sheldon, dated 7th March 1918 11 m. ;
received 8th March 1918, 9 a.m.

No. 35.

Referring our general conversation. Political situation in Switzerland is represented to me by French and other authorities as being difficult, and French have gone so far as to take from their own relatively small stores of wheat to send immediate relief to Switzerland. Furthermore, it is very desirable that our own Government should obtain Swiss francs to cover payments for our army purchases in Switzerland, and this could be done if wheat were shipped from United States direct.

Think it would be advisable to present at least first of these considerations above named to Wheat Executive as they were perhaps ignorant of the situation when the determination was made to have wheat for Swiss account shipped from Argentine.—CROSBY.

Appendix 251.

REPRESENTATION OF SWITZERLAND ON THE WHEAT EXECUTIVE.

JFB/GE.

MY DEAR SHELDON,

9th March 1918.

I HAVE received your letter of yesterday covering copy of telegram from Mr. Crosby. I quite see Mr. Crosby's point, but the difficulty is that the Wheat Executive have not yet been placed in real control of the importation to Switzerland. A few days ago I saw an ambassadorial note to the effect that Switzerland agreed, and would nominate a representative on the Wheat Executive to make arrangements, and a partner in one of the London firms asked us, informally, whether we would approve him if appointed. We gave him an affirmative reply, but since then nothing has happened, and I really do not know how Switzerland is going to be supplied for the next few months.

The whole position is very unsatisfactory, and I, for one, shall be greatly relieved when it is placed on a proper business-like footing.

L. P. Sheldon, Esq.,
American Embassy.

Yours truly,
(Signed) J. FIELD BEALE.

Appendix 252.

PURCHASING BY SWITZERLAND THROUGH THE WHEAT EXECUTIVE.

32449/X/1143.

Urgent.

SIR,

Foreign Office, S.W.1,
February 21st, 1918.

WITH reference to the Foreign Office letter No. 23409 of the 9th instant, I am directed by Lord Robert Cecil to transmit to you herewith a copy of a note from the Swiss Minister agreeing, on behalf of the Swiss Government, that Swiss purchases of cereals should be made through the sole channel of the Wheat Executive, and that a Swiss representative should attend meetings of the Executive.

2. It will be observed that to this agreement (which is described as a "concession") two conditions are attached, of which the second is that the monthly delivery of 30,000 tons of cereals to Switzerland should be guaranteed. Subject to the concurrence of the Wheat Executive, and to any observations which they may wish to offer on the other points raised in Monsieur Carlin's note, it is proposed to reply that, while His Majesty's Government will, if the Swiss Government agree to co-operate with the Wheat Executive, continue to make every effort to secure the delivery of the quantities in question, no guarantee can be given by them.

The Director of Contracts,
Royal Commission on Wheat Supplies.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient humble Servant,
(Signed) EYRE A. CROWE.

Appendix 253.

Urgente.

XVII.A. 9/18.

(32449.)

MONSIEUR LE SECRÉTAIRE D'ÉTAT,

Légation de Suisse,

le 19 février 1918.

J'ai l'honneur de remercier Votre Excellence de l'assurance qu'Elle a bien voulu me donner à l'alinéa 2 de Sa note du 8 courant, No. 23409/X/1143, à savoir que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté apprécie pleinement les difficultés de la Suisse quant à son ravitaillement et que Votre Gouvernement, conjointement avec ses Alliés, fait et continuera à faire tout effort possible pour mitiger ces difficultés.

2. Désireux de s'arranger le plus complètement et le plus rapidement possible avec la "Wheat Executive," mon Gouvernement, en se référant aux alinéas 3 et 4 de votre note précitée, vient de décider d'accepter la proposition que vous avez bien voulu me faire à différentes reprises et tendant à ce que le Gouvernement de la Confédération s'abstienne de faire directement des achats de céréales panifiables, mais s'en remette pour de soin à la "Wheat Executive," ou il aurait un représentant chaque fois qu'il s'agirait de marchandises destinées à la Suisse.

3. Mais il est bien entendu que cette concession n'est faite :—

- (a) que pour les céréales panifiables, soit le froment et le seigle et jusqu'à l'époque seulement ou la livraison des deux cent quarante mille tonnes, prévue par l'arrangement de Paris du 5 décembre dernier, sera complète, soit jusqu'au le septembre prochain, ainsi qu'à la condition ;
- (b) que soit garantie la livraison mensuelle à la Suisse de trente mille tonnes de céréales panifiables, dont, selon le dit arrangement, au moins vingt mille tonnes doivent être du froment.

4. Je me réserve de Vous désigner plus tard la personne qui sera chargée de représenter la Suisse dans la Wheat Executive pour les affaires concernant la Confédération.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Secrétaire d'État, les nouvelles assurances de la plus haute considération avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être,

Son Excellence,
le très Honorable A. J. Balfour,
&c., &c., &c.,
Foreign Office.

de Votre Excellence, &c.,
(Signed) CARLIN.

Appendix 254.

THE REPRESENTATION OF SWITZERLAND ON THE WHEAT EXECUTIVE.

JFB/GE.

SIR,

22nd February 1918.

I AM desired by the Royal Commission on Wheat Supplies to acknowledge receipt of Foreign Office letter of the 21st February No. 32449/X/1143 enclosing copy of a note from the Swiss agreeing, on behalf of the Swiss Government, that purchases of cereals should be made through the sole channel of the Wheat Executive, and that a Swiss representative should attend the meetings of the Wheat Executive.

The Royal Commission suggest that the proposed reply should be slightly differently worded. Under the arrangement now come to it will be for the Wheat Executive to do their best to provide supplies of breadstuff cereals for shipment, but if the word "delivery" is used in the reply it might indicate that they were also charged in some way with supplying the maritime transport. It is suggested that the last few words in the reply should read—

" effort to provide breadstuffs cereals in the quantities indicated. No guarantees can be given by
" them."

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) J. FIELD BEALE,
Chairman.

Appendix 255.

PARAPHRASE TELEGRAM FROM LORD READING (WASHINGTON) TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE
DATED 2ND MARCH 1918.

No. 871.

Following message for C. J. Phillips, Lord Rhondda, and Sir J. Field Beale (Wheat Export Chairman).

Yesterday Hoover called on me to discuss food shipment prospects. Politically he stands in difficult position. Wheat stocks in U.S.A. are low, maize is plentiful, but maize milling facilities are limited. I was very much disturbed by a statement made by Hoover that position might be such that no wheat could be included in shipments from North America in April.

I made suggestion that compulsory order might be issued in U.S.A. to reduce American consumption in order to provide amount for export to Allies, and pointed out that for fat products we were already severely rationed. To this Hoover replied that he must have for his information statistics of reserve stocks of Great Britain, France, and Italy before advising adoption of compulsory measures. To my mind this attitude is quite reasonable and cannot be gainsaid.

Appendix 255--continued.

He must, therefore, be provided with statistics showing reserve stocks and weekly consumption, and until this has been done no progress whatever can be made in negotiations. Hoover wishes to make comparison of relative necessities of America, Great Britain, France and Italy.

The matter is very urgent as time is valuable. It is most necessary that I should have complete information. Do not refer me, however, to figures already in my possession (group indecypherable). I can use them in explanation of position as it now stands, but I am in need of latest figures based on results of shipments actually made in February, when, as you doubtless know, shipments of cereals only reached 576,000 tons.

Appendix 256.

PARAPHRASE CABLE FROM LORD READING (WASHINGTON) TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE
DATED 4TH MARCH 1918.

No. 898.

Please give following message to Lord Rhondda and Sir J. Field Beale. Begins—

Italian Ambassador, M. Tardieu, and I have been in consultation. As a result we earnestly ask you to despatch particulars asked for below, and to do this with all convenient speed in order that it may be submitted to Mr. Hoover.

Undoubtedly position is serious. Hoover is again disappointed in quantities of breadstuffs available in U.S.A. for despatch to European Allies. He is trying to substitute pork and (?beef) products to meet deficiency. Representatives of France and Italy do not consider that these will be of real help, and hold that breadstuffs are essential. It should be remarked, moreover, that it would not be until after May that these beef and pork products would, for the most part, be available for food.

We would seem to have satisfied Hoover that reserve stock of breadstuffs in Great Britain, France, and Italy are sufficiently low for him to be justified in seeking authority to curtail home consumption of exportable breadstuffs by drastic measures.

He holds, reasonably in our view, that he must be enabled to compare the cereal position in U.S.A. with that in Great Britain, France, and Italy.

It behoves us, therefore, to give him following information :—

- (1) What is total quantity of breadstuffs which may be expected to arrive from elsewhere than North America in our three countries between March 1st and May 1st.
- (2) What is total breadstuffs in reserve available for each of our three countries, allowing for obligations to Belgium, Greece, &c.
- (3) What will be total consumption for the three months from March 1st to May 1st.

To attempt to furnish a reply from figures in our possession is unsatisfactory, and as these figures are of the very gravest importance and must be disclosed, we desire that you should inform us of exact position.

Appendix 257.

12/3/18.

CABLE TO LORD READING FROM LORD RHONDDA AND SIR JOHN BEALE.

No. 1405.

In reply to your 871. Total stocks in United Kingdom on 1st March are as follows:—In port granaries, warehouses, mills, and bakeries—wheat 628, barley 143, maize 66, rye 55, flour as flour 617—stop. Estimated stocks on farms—wheat 459, barley 159—stop. Of the above, we estimate total available for breadstuffs in port granaries, mills, and bakeries 1,588, or 9½ weeks' supply, and on farms 538, or 3½ weeks' supply, a total of 13 weeks' supply—stop. Actual consumption for bread from 1st September to first March, 166 a week, but we estimate future consumption at 163·5 a week—stop. Flour expressed as equivalent wheat—stop. Assuming shipment to all Allies from North America amounts to 800 in March and 600 in April, estimated future stocks are—1st April, farms 449, or 2½ weeks' supply; other stock 1,310, or 8 weeks. 1st May—farms 361, or 2½; other stock 1,166, or 7½. 1st June—farms 270, or 1½; other stock 1,021, or 6½—stop. All stock figures in thousands of metric tons—stop. These figures indicate clearly the reasons of our anxiety—stop. It is extremely difficult accurately to forecast the future position at this moment—stop. The standard of milling extraction from wheat was raised in December and January and is now 92 per cent., and perhaps, in consequence of resulting poor quality flour, January–February consumption shows a substantial decrease on previous months, but it is doubtful if this high standard of extraction can be maintained, and also doubtful whether lessened apparent consumption may not be due to increased consumption of household stocks owing to large number of prosecutions and fines for hoarding—stop. French and Italian figures not yet received; will cable them soonest possible.

Appendix 258.

CABLE TO LORD READING FROM LORD RHONDDA AND SIR JOHN BEALE DATED 8TH MARCH 1918.

No. 1313.

Your 898. In reply to your three questions :—

1. Total breadstuff arrivals in United Kingdom—March ; 29 from Argentine, 17 India, 25 South Africa—total 71—stop. France ; 23 Argentine, 5 India, 29 Australia—total 57. Italy ; 46 Argentine, 64 India, 7 Australia, 6 South Africa, 8 shipped from United Kingdom *via* France—total 131. April, United Kingdom ; 74 Argentine, 20 India, 15 Australia, 31 South Africa—total 140. France ; 55 Argentine, 16 India, 27 Australia—total 98. Italy ; 57 Argentine, 16 India, 3 Australia, 16 South Africa—total 92. Grand total arrivals in two months—United Kingdom, France and Italy, 1st March to 1st May—589. But please understand traffic considerations may make variations of this figure necessary.

2. Total unshipped purchases of breadstuffs at present made in Argentine—330 India, 150 rice, 130 wheat and maize ; much of wheat still up country and cannot be shipped in March. Large purchases have been made of maize in South Africa, but port and rail facilities restrict shipment to 50 a month. The Indian figures exclude one month's allowance for Greece, but no allowance made for Belgium, as it is assumed they will draw their supplies from North America.

3. United Kingdom consumption March and April 1,553, France 1,160, Italy 1,083. When you advise us amount of March shipment from North America Wheat Executive will advise you how the total should be divided among the three countries. Figures in thousands of metric tons. If shipments of pork and beef can be arranged they will undoubtedly assist European Allies, especially United Kingdom, but in no country can they be regarded as in any way a substitute for the minimum breadstuff requirement. We cannot urge too strongly that export of breadstuffs from North America should be maintained at a high figure in March, April, and May. Though large shipments will still be necessary in later months, the need will not be so desperately urgent when substantial supplies commence to arrive from India. Please understand that the immediate effect of a shortage of arrivals of breadstuffs in the three European countries must make it impossible to maintain proper distribution which involves local shortage. In United Kingdom, France, and Italy the proper and regular supply of bread to the armies and big industrial centres of population does and must depend on importation of the minimum requirement. We repeat that we will reply 871 directly 1st March figures are available, and we are sure you will realise the urgent importance that we should know the amounts to be shipped each month at the earliest possible date, and, if possible, at least six weeks in advance, as without this knowledge it is impossible properly to direct shipping.

Appendix 259.

PARAPHRASE TELEGRAM FROM THE WHEAT EXPORT CO. (NEW YORK), TO THE WHEAT COMMISSION, DATED 12TH MARCH 1918.

No. 574.

Have had an interview with Food Administrator. He tells us that so serious is the cereal position in the United States that our purchase or receiving of further allotments is to be deprecated. This applies to April at any rate and may possibly extend also to later months of the year. Meanwhile during next fortnight he will undertake the reorganisation of distribution of cereals in this country. At present moment the amount of cereal supplies stated in millions of bushels is as follows :—On farms 111 ; at terminal elevators 14 ; at mills and in country elevators 66 ; flour and wheat in course of distribution 42 ; giving a total amount of 233. This total will be employed in following ways :—Already purchased by us for export 16 ; spring seeds 30 ; unavailable reserves 25 ; in course of distribution 42. This leaves a balance of 120 available for consumption up to 15 July, and in normal times requirements for this period would be 200. The difference must be met by dilution of the loaf, but the small corn-milling capacity of the country limits the supply of diluents. Working on the basis of the March estimates as set out in my telegram No. 465, we have now secured for April as follows :—Canada Wheat Flour 265, Barley 25 ; United States Wheat 11, Flour 185, Barley 65, Corn 90, Rye, Peas and Beans 10, Products 100—total 751, including only 78 Wheat March/April.

Please inform me the number of weeks' reserve this calculation will give for 1 June.

With reference to the Argentine position, the Corn Trade Board hold the opinion that 1,400,000 tons is an excessive amount to furnish for Neutrals. They consider that nothing ought to be required by Spain ; that Norway should have 100, Sweden 100, Switzerland 100, Holland 100, Belgian Relief 250. This would leave balance of 750 for United States and Brazil, and of this at least 300 should be reserved for the United States. With regard to Australia, it will not be possible to secure large quantities for arrival on Pacific coasts sufficiently soon to relieve the situation.

Will you please pass the whole of situation under review on the basis of (? future) shipments from the United States after the close of April, except corn, oats, also except flour as can be replaced by arrivals of wheat from Argentine and (?) Australia.

For May the estimates of Canadian Wheat Flour are 300, for June 300.

Appendix 260.

CABLEGRAM FROM MR. HOOVER TO MR. SHELDON, RECEIVED 13TH MARCH 1918.

No. 73.—We very much desire tabulation cereal arrivals for February from all quarters to England, France and Italy, also table of stocks in England and France of wheat and diluents—stop. Cable as rapidly as figures are available without waiting to have them complete—stop. Our breadstuff situation is in most serious condition, and general stocktaking on 1st March indicates supply in the country of less than 50 per cent. our normal consumption of wheat and inadequate capacity for milling diluents to make up more than 30 per cent.; under these circumstances it is utterly impossible for the Allies to continue their policy of endeavouring to maintain their stocks; it will be necessary for us even on above percentage to totally exhaust the stocks of the country on the 1st August, and I see no reason why Allied countries cannot walk parallel with us—stop. For a better understanding it is therefore necessary for us to know what the actual mobile stocks are in each of these countries—stop. By mobile stocks we mean stocks in ports, warehouses and mill; does not include bakers, retailers, or wholesalers who do not act on behalf of the Government—stop. It is also necessary to consider separately the agricultural population from the Town population; the latter can be supplied only from mobile stocks, while the former can be supplied from their own produce—stop. As to the latter it is only necessary to determine if the agricultural population has not sufficient supplies to carry it to harvest and base all calculations on town populations—stop. The French in fact pursue above method of analysis—stop. Robson claims English monthly consumption 750,000 tons wheat and diluents; this consumption is 30 per cent. higher than American of last two months, and I am totally unable to confirm any of his estimates—stop. Consider only way of arriving at positions is to start fresh March 1st consideration of stock in all quarters arrival at all quarters, between now and harvest, and base all operations on total exhaustion mobile stocks August 15th.—HOOVER.

Appendix 261.

COPY OF TELEGRAM FROM VICEROY, REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT,
DATED 2ND MARCH 1918.

P.—Wheat surplus during the coming season. Please refer to your telegram dated 6th February. From such information as is now available, Wheat Commissioner estimates that, under present climatic conditions the exportable surplus will be about 1,800,000 tons, there having been an entire failure in the winter rains. This figure may be increased to 1,900,000 if favourable rain falls before the middle of this month. We propose the following programme of shipments on the assumption that the exportable surplus will be 1,800,000 tons.

From Karachi.—May 50,000 tons, June 200,000, July 200,000, August 200,000, September 200,000, October 100,000, November 100,000, December 100,000, January 100,000, February 75,000, March 100,000—Total 1,425,000 tons.

From Calcutta.—May 30,000, June 30,000, July 35,000, August, 30,000—Total 125,000 tons.

From Bombay.—May 50,000, June 50,000, July 50,000, August 5,000, December 45,000, January 50,000—Total 250,000 tons.

It has been found necessary to modify the programme of the Royal Commission as indicated above owing to the limited capacity of the North Western Railway and of the port of Karachi, neither of which is able to deal with more than 200,000 tons of wheat monthly in addition to their military requirements of coal and grain. Our programme detailed above is allowing for these requirements continuing to the same extent as last year. While recognising that our proposal to increase exports from Calcutta may involve difficulties with regard to shipping, we hope it may be found possible to overcome such difficulties. There is a grave danger, unless assistance can be given with regard to the present railway position either that it will not be possible to get the maximum quantity of wheat conveyed to ports, or else that essential traffic will be interrupted. It is not proposed to make any shipments in April, as it is anticipated that the present buying operations will exhaust the balance of the old crop. We consider it important to leave an interval of some weeks after these cease, in order to bring down the internal prices. If buying of new crop were to commence in the Punjab at the present rates this might seriously reduce the total quantity obtainable by causing prices there to rise to danger level. The programme detailed above is provisional only and is subject to such changes as may be imposed by circumstances and by the working of the railway.

Appendix 262.

REQUIREMENTS AND ARRIVALS OF CEREALS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION, BREWING, AND MUNITIONS.

Cereal Year 1917-18.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Position as on 2nd March 1918.

Metric Tons.

Month.	Home Crops, Wheat and 50 per cent. Barley.	Actual Importation Requirement.*	Total Requirement, including Crop.	Arrived and Expected.			Total Arrivals.	Total Arrivals and Crop.	Per cent. of Total Requirement for the Month.	Per cent. of Deficiency on Theoretical requirements from the beginning of Cereal Year to Date.
				Wheat.	Maize, Barley, and Rye.	Rice, Products of Maize, Oats and Rye.				
1917.										
September	149,250	627,300	776,550	325,292	68,324	70,066	463,682	612,932	78·9	21·1
October -	149,250	642,174	791,424	231,454	77,387	90,878	399,719	548,969	69·4	25·2
November	149,250	666,420	815,670	220,644	153,011	72,810	446,465	595,715	73·0	24·6
December	149,250	690,859	840,109	229,285	69,916	23,189	322,390	471,640	56·1	28·2
1918.										
January -	149,250	736,918	886,168	232,153	64,817	49,858	346,828	496,078	56·0	29·8
February -	149,250	792,645	941,895	295,904	94,088	43,372	433,364	582,614	61·9	29·0
March -	149,250	852,525	1,001,775	302,524	126,365	41,783	470,672	619,922	61·8	27·7
April -	149,250	928,896	1,078,146	298,000	112,000	40,000	450,000	599,250	55·6	27·1
May -	149,250	1,048,620	1,197,870							
June -	149,250	1,048,620	1,197,870							
July -	149,250	1,048,620	1,197,870							
August -	149,250	1,048,620	1,197,870							

* Average monthly importation requirement :—

(1) Human consumption—									
Wheat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	393,700
Maize, barley, rye (or rice)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	113,600
Rice, products of maize and oats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48,000
(2) Cereals for munitions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,400
(3) Barley for brewing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46,600
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	627,300

Pulses excluded from arrivals :—

1917	September	-	-	-	17,130	1918	January	-	-	-	29,308
	October	-	-	-	23,085		February	-	-	-	17,506
	November	-	-	-	15,563		March	-	-	-	14,486
	December	-	-	-	24,726		April	-	-	-	4,000

9th March 1918.

Appendix 262—continued.

REQUIREMENTS AND ARRIVALS OF WHEAT AND SUBSTITUTES.

FRANCE.

Position on 2nd March 1918.

Metric Tons.

Month of Arrival.	Wheat Crop.	Actual Importation Requirements.*	Total Requirements, including Crop.	Arrived and Expected.			Total Arrivals.†	Total Crop and Arrivals.	Percent. of Consumption Requirement for the Month.	Percent. of Deficiency on Theoretical Requirement from beginning of Cereal Year to Date.
				Wheat.	Maize, Barley, and Rye.	Rice, and Products of Maize and Oats.				
1917.										
September	258,300	321,700	580,000	125,395	1,631	19,184	146,210	404,510	69·7	30·3
October -	258,300	337,654	595,954	142,332	10,238	13,564	166,134	424,434	71·2	28·5
November	258,300	354,806	613,106	192,839	13,327	21,356	227,522	485,822	79·2	24·4
December	258,300	368,949	627,249	197,254	14,929	15,335	227,518	485,818	77·4	22·4
1918.										
January -	258,300	386,628	644,928	140,011	36,808	7,563	184,382	442,682	68·6	22·6
February -	258,300	415,520	673,820	138,113	13,694	25,103	176,910	435,210	64·6	23·0
March -	258,300	455,288	713,588	119,116	35,643	3,548	158,307	416,607	58·4	23·8
April -	258,300	514,684	772,984	226,000	26,000	3,000	255,000	513,300	66·4	22·2
May -	258,400	579,505	837,905	112,000	—	7,000	119,000	377,400		
June -	258,400	579,505	837,905	7,000	—	—	7,000	265,400		
July -	258,400	579,505	837,905							
August -	258,400	579,505	837,905							

* Average monthly importation requirement on basis of 20 per cent. of total flour being provided by diluent cereals:—

(i) Human consumption—							
Wheat -	-	-	-	-	-	-	169,200
Maize, barley, rye	-	-	-	-	-	-	130,900
Rice, products of oats and maize	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,300
(ii) Cereals for munitions	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,300
Total							321,700

† Excluded from arrivals:—

(a) By sailing vessels, 21,284 metric tons at Dakar; 52,304 metric tons on passage to Dakar.

(b) By steamers, 4,126 metric tons at Port Said; 4,011 metric tons on passage to Port Said.

Pulses.—December	-	-	1,500	March	-	-	3,143
January -	-	-	1,967	April	-	-	2,500
February	-	-	1,165	May -	-	-	1,500

9th March 1918.

Appendix 262—continued.

REQUIREMENTS AND ARRIVALS OF WHEAT AND SUBSTITUTES.

ITALY.

Position as on 2nd March 1918.

Metric Tons.

Month of Arrival.	Wheat Crop.	Importation Requirement weighted by Deficiencies.†	Importation Requirement, including Crop.	Arrived and Expected.			Total Arrivals.	Total Crop and Arrivals.	Percent of Consumption Requirements for the Month.	Percent of Deficiency on Theoretical Requirement from beginning of Cereal Year to Date.
				Wheat.	Maize, Barley, Rye.	Rice, Products of Maize and Oats.				
1917.										
September	258,300	300,000	558,300	84,475	4,985	4,754	94,214	352,514	63·1	36·9
October	258,300	322,865	581,165	133,755	9,485	1,445	144,685	402,985	69·3	32·3
November	258,300	345,137	603,437	115,062	17,148	8,282	140,492	398,792	66·1	31·1
December	258,300	374,372	632,672	116,727	21,645	3,675	142,047	400,347	63·3	30·4
1918.										
January	258,300	403,413	661,713	176,939	50,302	5,640	232,881	491,181	74·2	26·7
February	258,300	427,775	686,075	146,341	52,849	42,492	241,682	499,982	72·9	24·0
March	258,300	458,790	717,090	147,592	67,355	68,709	283,656	541,956*	75·6	21·0
April	258,300	493,817	752,117	226,000	34,000	22,000	282,000	540,300	71·8	18·8
May	258,400	546,771	805,171	185,000	6,000	3,000	194,000	452,400		
June	258,400	546,771	805,171	51,000	—	—	51,000	309,400		
July	258,400	397,399	655,799							
August	258,400	347,399	605,799							

* Including S.S. "Glenlee," 1,200 tons flour.

† Average Monthly Importation Requirement is 283,300 tons per month made up as follows :—

Human consumption—

Wheat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	181,700
Maize, barley, rye, rice and products of oats and maize	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	101,600

283,300

NOTE.—6,777 metric tons flour to be imported by rail included in March arrivals :—

Excluded from arrivals by sailing vessels. 7,933 tons on passage to Dakar.

,, ,, Pulses, 4,106 tons.

9th March 1918.

Appendix 262—continued.

REQUIREMENTS AND ARRIVALS OF OATS AND SUBSTITUTES, FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.

UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE AND ITALY.

Position on 2nd March 1918.

Metric Tons.

Metric Tons.

Month of Arrival.	UNITED KINGDOM.						FRANCE.		ITALY.
	Army at Home.	Army Abroad.					France.	Salonica.	
		France.	Italy.	Egypt.	Salonica.	Total.			
Average Monthly Requirement, September-December, 1917.	30,480	94,448	—	33,731		128,179	35,000	15,000	60,000
September - - - -	—	30,717	—	10,160		40,877	43,338	—	41,854
October - - - -	23,672	16,991	—	1,516	12,058	30,565	29,883	—	44,355
November - - - -	6,299	84,366	—	17,499	27,253	129,118	40,504	—	31,433
December - - - -	—	82,612	—	21,120	5,358	109,090	31,160	12,302	54,460
Average Monthly Requirement, January-February, 1918.	—	87,884	5,588	23,368	16,489*	133,329	42,900	17,100	60,000
January - - - -	—	65,824	—	16,593	30,719*	113,136	35,444	12,676	20,468
February - - - -	—	83,719	3,878	24,560	3,340*	115,497	21,877	5,561	9,407
Average Monthly Requirement, March - August, 1918.	—	75,692	4,674	17,272	16,459*	114,097	42,900	17,100	60,000
March - - - -	—	54,113	—	27,550	11,195	92,858	46,021	10,492	38,147
April - - - -	—	67,000	—	16,000	10,000	93,000	25,000	16,800	54,905
May - - - -	—	71,000	—	19,000	15,000	105,000	700	—	4,800
June - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
July - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
August - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Including 1,219 metric tons for Italian Army sold on c.i.f. basis.

† In addition requirement for Mesopotamia 11,176 metric tons per month.

9th March 1918.

Appendix 263.

UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE, AND ITALY.

TO LOAD POSITION AS ON 6TH MARCH 1918.

Tons of 2,240 lbs.

March.						April.		May.
Shipments from 1st March to Date.	Exporting Country.	All Cereals, excluding Oats.	Freight.	Oats.	Allied Military Freight.	All Cereals, excluding Oats.	Freight.	All Cereals, excluding Oats.
46,765	N. America :							
23,390	Canada -	243,235	242,000	} 129,064	121,932	{ 569,052	—	144,405
31,558	N. Range -	341,610	342,000					
	Gulf -	348,442	348,000					
24,863	Pacific Coasts -	10,595	2,000	—	—	—	—	—
33,235	Plate - -	531,120*	333,800	158,826	69,700	—	124,100	—
8,514	India :			Barley and Gram.				
3,560	Karachi -	176,120	20,616	187,592	—	—	—	—
—	Bombay -	72,870	39,700	180	—	—	—	—
—	Calcutta -	6,870	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	For orders -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12,074	Total India	255,860	60,316	187,772†	97,330	—	13,400	—
—	Australia -	Wheat available.	—	—	—	—	—	—
15,225	South Africa -	35,775	35,775	—	—	51,000	38,925	—
—	Madagascar - (Butter beans).	6,550	—	—	—	500	—	—
—	Brazil (beans) -	22,990	—	—	—	3,600	—	—
3,449 601	Burmah - - (Rice & beans).	173,760‡	167,600	—	—	75,000	20,000	100,000
—	Siam - -	6,000	6,000	—	—	—	—	—
—	China - -	27,120 f.o.b.	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	Japan - -	27,170 c.i.f.	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Including Plate Maize on March, 40,020 tons. † Barley, 87,935 tons : Gram, 99,837 tons. ‡ Including Beans, March, 280 tons.
§ Cables Nos. 465 and 483 from Wheat Export Co. give the following figures for the March Position :—

Cereals available at Seaboard.				Tons.	Estimated Tonnage.
Canada	-	-	-	290,000	508,000
Range	-	-	-	365,000	557,000
Gulf	-	-	-	380,000	317,000
Pacific Coasts	-	-	-	65,000	65,000
Total	-	-	-	1,100,000	1,447,000

|| Cable No. 470 from Wheat Export Co. gives for the April Position :—Estimated cereals available at seaboard, 910,000 tons.

9th March 1918.

Appendix 263—continued.

F.O.B. PURCHASES (INCLUDING PURCHASES BY WHEAT EXECUTIVE) AND FREIGHT PROVIDED FOR
UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE, ITALY AND GREECE.

Position as on 6th March 1918.

Tons of 2,240 lbs.

MARCH.

	Wheat.	Flour.	Maize.	Gro- ceries.	Pulse.	Rice.	Barley.	Rye.	Total.	Freight.	Oats.	Oats Freight.
N. America :												
Canada -	20,160	59,760	8,940	7,150	—	—	32,190	4,710	132,910	242,000	129,061	121,932
N. Range -	13,270	109,760	126,980	155,561	11,830	5,960	134,780	22,620	580,761			
Administration	121,020	434,130	—	—	—	—	—	—	555,150			
Gulf -	118	20	125,470	2,760	300	33,500	67,040	4,310	233,518	342,000	—	—
Total -	154,568	603,670	261,390	165,471	12,130	39,460	234,010	31,640	1,502,339	932,000	163,678	158,282
Pacific Coast -	—	8,000	—	2,595	—	—	—	—	10,595	2,000	—	—
Plate -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	f.o.	261,500	—	—
Rosario -	224,320	—	16,300	—	—	—	—	—	240,620	12,300	—	—
B. Aires -	234,920	—	23,720	—	—	—	—	—	258,640	60,000	—	—
B. Blanca -	31,860	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31,860	—	—	—
Total -	491,100	—	40,020	—	—	—	—	—	531,120	333,800	158,826	69,700
Brazil -	—	—	—	—	Beans. 22,990	—	—	—	22,990	—	—	—
India :											Barley & Gram.	
Karachi -	112,330	—	41,190	—	22,600	—	—	—	176,120	20,616	187,592	—
Bombay -	45,730	—	—	—	27,140	—	—	—	72,870	39,700	180	—
Calcutta -	—	—	—	—	6,870	—	—	—	6,870	—	—	—
Total -	158,060	—	41,190	—	56,610	—	—	—	255,860	60,316	187,772	97,330
Burmah -	—	—	—	—	Beans. 280	173,480	—	—	173,760	167,600	—	—
Siam -	—	—	—	—	—	6,000	—	—	—	6,000	—	—
Australia -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madagascar -	—	—	—	—	Bans. 6,550	—	—	—	6,550	—	—	—
S. Africa :												
Cape Town -	—	—	47,920	—	—	—	—	—	47,920	—	—	—
Durban -	—	—	98,400	14,090	—	—	—	—	112,490	—	—	—
Beira -	—	—	12,830	—	—	—	—	—	12,830	—	—	—
E. London -	—	—	36	—	—	—	—	—	36	—	—	—
Algoa Bay -	—	—	1,070	—	—	—	—	—	1,070	—	—	—
Total -	—	—	160,256	14,090	—	—	—	—	174,346	74,700	—	—
China -	—	27,120	F.O.B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Japan -	—	27,170*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* C.I.F. Suez, Ismalia, Kantara or Port Said, one port of discharge only.

Appendix 263—continued.

F.O.B. PURCHASES (INCLUDING PURCHASES BY WHEAT EXECUTIVE) AND FREIGHT PROVIDED FOR
UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE, ITALY AND GREECE.

Position as on 6th March 1918.

Tons of 2,240 lbs.

	APRIL.					MAY.					
	Maize.	Groceries.	Pulse.	Total.	Total Freight.	Wheat.	Groceries.	Pulse.	Barley.	Total.	Total Freight.
N. America :											
Canada - -	—	—	—	—	—	135,210	—	—	9,195	144,405	—
N. Range	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	440	—	440	—
Administration	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gulf - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - -	—	—	—	—	—	135,210	—	440	9,195	144,845	—
Pacific Coast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plate - -	—	—	—	—	47,600 f.o.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rosario - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B. Aires - -	—	—	—	—	76,500	—	—	—	—	—	—
B. Blanca - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - -	—	—	—	—	124,100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brazil (beans)	—	—	3,600	3,600	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
India :											
Karachi - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bombay - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Calcutta - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - -	—	—	—	—	13,400	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burma (rice)	—	75,000	—	75,000	20,000	—	100,000	—	—	100,000	—
Siam - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Australia - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madagascar (beans).	—	—	500	500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
S. Africa :											
Cape Town - -	8,480	—	—	8,480	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durban - -	8,480	7,400	—	15,880	—	—	3,300	—	—	3,300	—
Beira - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
E. London - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Algoa Bay - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - -	16,960	7,400	—	24,360	—	—	3,300	—	—	3,300	—
China - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Japan - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

9th March 1918,

Appendix 263—continued.

F.O.B. SHIPMENTS FROM N. AMERICA TO UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE, ITALY.

1st—6th March 1918 inclusive.

Tons of 2,240 lbs.

	Wheat.	Flour.	Maize.	Groceries.	Pulse.	Rice.	Barley.	Rye.	Total.	Grand Total.
Canada (including Portland.)	29,790	13,875	—	660	—	—	2,440	—	46,765	46,765
N. Range :										
Canadian	3,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,000	
Australian	428	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	428	
U.S.A.	—	1,420	—	3,515	137	—	3,820	2,570	11,462	
U.S.A. Food Administration.	—	7,840	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,840	
U.S.A. Food Administration against Canadian Wheat.	—	660	—	—	—	—	—	—	660	23,390
Gulf :										
U.S.A.	—	68	2,503	946	—	6,278	10,278	—	20,073	
U.S.A. Food Administration.	3,976	7,509	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,485	31,558
Pacific :										
U.S.A. Food Administration.	—	24,863	—	—	—	—	—	—	24,863	24,863
Total -	37,194	56,235	2,503	5,121	137	6,278	16,538	2,570	126,576	126,576

Appendix 264.

SINKINGS EACH MONTH IN PROPORTION TO ARRIVALS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

All Cereals.

(Tons of 2,240 lbs.)

Month of Arrival.		North America.	Argentine.	India and Burma.	Australia.	South Africa.	Russia.	China.	Japan.	Siam.	Brazil.	Other Countries.	Total.
1917.													
September	Arrivals	464,761	10,268	35,302	17,055	19,255	—	—	1,335	5,250	—	—	553,226
	Casualties	13,560	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,560
	Per cent.	2.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.4
October	Arrivals	344,255	26,575	61,028	6,043	1,612	547	293	1,879	19,900	—	—	462,132
	Casualties	3,461	5,561	—	—	1,551	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,573
	Per cent.	1.0	17.3	—	—	49.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.2
November	Arrivals	407,036	—	72,224	—	43,554	—	—	3,595	4,050	—	—	530,459
	Casualties	—	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50
	Per cent.	—	—	.06	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.009
December	Arrivals	311,574	26,906	15,653	—	11,994	—	3,398	4,659	—	7,200	1,047	382,431
	Casualties	17,708	5,547	10,898	—	4,379	—	—	548	—	—	—	39,080
	Per cent.	5.4	17.1	41.0	—	26.7	—	—	10.5	—	—	—	9.2
1918.													
January	Arrivals	230,303	28,493	49,795	2,857	31,988	—	2,612	6,853	—	—	631	403,532
	Casualties	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Per cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
February	Arrivals	376,782	15,539	34,124	2,309	27,084	—	2,630	5,024	—	4,900	1,521	469,913
	Casualties	6,805	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,805
	Per cent.	1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.4
Total, Sept. 1917 to Feb. 1918.	Arrivals	2,184,711	107,781	268,126	28,264	135,487	547	8,933	23,345	29,200	12,100	3,199	2,801,693
	Casualties	41,534	11,108	10,948	—	5,930	—	—	548	—	—	—	70,068
	Per cent.	1.9	9.3	3.9	—	4.2	—	—	2.3	—	—	—	2.4

8th March 1918.

E 4

Appendix 264—continued.

SINKINGS IN PROPORTION TO ARRIVALS.

FRANCE.

Total Cereals.

Month of Arrivals.	—	North America.	Argentine.	India.	Australia.	South Africa.	Indo-China.	England.	Other Countries.	Total.
1917.										
September	Arrivals -	51,863	7,444	57,181	11,117	—	17,487	—	1,118	146,210
	Casualties -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Per cent. -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
October	Arrivals -	64,488	19,721	37,951	28,548	—	11,814	3,097	515	166,134
	Casualties -	3,442	—	11,276	—	—	—	—	—	14,718
	Per cent. -	5.1	—	22.9	—	—	—	—	—	8.1
November	Arrivals -	107,280	—	51,272	16,810	6,238	15,200	26,396	4,326	227,522
	Casualties -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Per cent. -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
December	Arrivals -	171,463	5,417	13,986	10,658	—	14,848	9,347	1,800	227,519
	Casualties -	—	—	6,239	—	—	2,530	—	—	8,769
	Per cent. -	—	—	30.8	—	—	14.5	—	—	3.7
1918.										
January	Arrivals -	140,033	9,998	—	11,117	5,147	4,663	2,205	11,223	184,386
	Casualties -	9,426	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,426
	Per cent. -	6.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.9
February	Arrivals -	123,550	6,038	8,732	11,849	—	10,277	2,610	13,854	176,910
	Casualties -	5,736	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,398	10,134
	Per cent. -	4.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	24.1	5.4
Total, Sept. 1917 to Feb. 1918.	Arrivals -	658,677	48,618	169,122	90,099	11,385	74,289	43,655	32,836	1,128,681
	Casualties -	18,604	—	17,515	—	—	2,530	—	4,398	43,047
	Per cent. -	2.7	—	9.14	—	—	3.3	—	14.8	3.7

9th March 1918.

SINKINGS IN PROPORTION TO ARRIVALS IN ITALY.

Total Cereals.

Month of Arrival.	—	North America.	Argentine.	India.	South Africa.	Total.
1917.						
September	Arrivals -	23,419	6,154	64,641	—	94,214
	Casualties -	—	—	11,977	—	11,977
	Per cent. -	—	—	15.6	—	11.3
October	Arrivals -	30,330	18,359	95,996	—	144,685
	Casualties -	—	—	8,106	—	8,106
	Per cent. -	—	—	7.8	—	5.3
November	Arrivals -	59,368	6,304	74,820	—	140,492
	Casualties -	6,805	—	12,785	—	19,590
	Per cent. -	10.3	—	14.6	—	12.2
December	Arrivals -	80,282	13,599	32,998	10,050	136,929
	Casualties -	8,852	—	10,667	—	19,519
	Per cent. -	9.9	—	24.4	—	12.5
1918.						
January	Arrivals -	137,684	64,211	23,182	4,536	229,613
	Casualties -	3,570	—	5,332	—	8,902
	Per cent. -	2.5	—	18.7	—	3.7
February	Arrivals -	144,437	28,492	61,027	6,438	240,394
	Casualties -	9,249	1,767	—	—	11,016
	Per cent. -	6.0	5.8	—	—	4.4
Total, September 1917 to February 1918.	Arrivals -	475,520	137,119	352,664	21,024	986,327
	Casualties -	28,476	1,767	48,867	—	79,110
	Per cent. -	5.7	1.3	12.2	—	7.4

9th March 1918.

Appendix 264—continued.

SINKINGS IN PROPORTION TO ARRIVALS IN GREECE.

Total Cereals.

Metric Tons.

Months of Arrivals.					India.		
September	-	-	-	-	Arrivals -	-	11,674
					Casualties	-	—
October -	-	-	-	-	Per cent.	-	—
					Arrivals -	-	4,950
November	-	-	-	-	Casualties	-	—
					Per cent.	-	—
					Arrivals -	-	17,796
December	-	-	-	-	Casualties	-	5,861
					Per cent.	-	24.8
					Arrivals -	-	19,610
January	-	-	-	-	Casualties	-	4,862
					Per cent.	-	19.9
					Arrivals -	-	25,535
February	-	-	-	-	Casualties	-	5,026
					Per cent.	-	16.4
					Arrivals -	-	25,153
					Casualties	-	—
					Per cent.	-	—
Total—September--February -					Arrivals -	-	104,718
					Casualties	-	15,749
					Per cent.	-	13.1

9th March 1918.

Appendix 265.

PARAPHRASE TELEGRAM FROM LORD READING (WASHINGTON) TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE.
DATED 12TH MARCH.*Very Urgent.*

No. 1022.

With reference to the private telegram from Lord R. Cecil, dated 8th March.

This morning MacCormick will see Dutch Minister and will invite him to communicate with his Government by cable asking that they should assent to the chartering of Dutch ships, unfettered by conditions, to the Government of the United States. This arrangement to include all ships in port in this country, and to be concluded without further delay. Further, that the Minister will be asked to inform his Government that should they not acquiesce in this immediately the Government of the United States will take steps to requisition the vessels. MacCormick will inform Minister at the same time that whichever course is adopted in regard to the vessels the Government of the United States will furnish 50,000 tons of breadstuffs to the Government of the Netherlands, and will arrange for a further 50,000 tons at a later date. The first 50,000 tons can be lifted by ships sent from Holland.

A direct appeal for supplies of foodstuffs has been addressed by the Government of Holland to President Wilson, who has given instructions for action to be taken on the lines outlined above. President Wilson considers that an intimation should be sent to the Dutch at once that a decision has been reached by the United States Government that they must be enabled to use Dutch vessels, whether by agreement or requisitioning, without conditions, and as their part of the bargain, the Government of the United States will supply the Dutch with the foodstuffs they so urgently need. The President informed the United States Government of his wishes, and they have held consultation with me before broaching the matter to the Minister for Holland. Provided no definite action was taken before 18th of March I raised no objection.

Appendix 266.

DRAFT CABLE TO MR. HOOVER.

13th March 1918.

Your No. 73 has been fully discussed by Wheat Executive.

1. They have previously sent Lord Reading detailed tabulation of breadstuff arrivals in various European countries from all exporting countries, other than North America, in March and April. February, breadstuff arrivals as follows :—U.K. from North America 395, Argentine 16, India 31, South Africa 21, Australia 2, other countries 4; total 469—stop. France; North America 124, Argentine 6, India 9, Australia 12, Indo-China 10, North Africa and other countries 16; total 177. Italy; North America 144, Argentine 28, India 61, South Africa 6, other countries 1; total 240.

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Hoover Institution

Stanford, California 94035-6003 USA

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Appendix 266—continued.

2. Wheat Commission have sent Lord Reading particulars of stocks in U.K. on 1st March, and French Delegation have sent stock to Mons. Tardieu. Lord Reading has also particulars of Italian stocks furnished by Signor Crespi—stop. Mobile stocks as defined in your telegram are given by each country as follows:—U.K. 1,418, France 197, Italy 70, but Wheat Executive do not think these figures a very safe guide when used for purposes of comparison, since where Government control is very complete and importation furnishes the bulk of the supply your definition includes a far larger proportion of the total stocks than is the case in other countries.

3. Wheat Executive realises in the fullest manner that U.S.A. must retain sufficient breadstuffs to feed her own population. They only ask that all breadstuff cereals which can be spared should be reserved for them and handed over to Wheat Export Co. to be transported in accordance with their agreed principles of distribution, but they press this demand with all the strength that their knowledge of the urgency of European needs can command, and they rely with full confidence on your administration securing that export reaches the highest safe level and is not restricted by farmers holding back or by trade interests.

4. The Wheat Executive are greatly disappointed at estimates of probable exportation from North America as detailed in Robson's Cable No. 574 after his discussion with you, but if they can rely on these figures as a certain minimum, and export of sound corn in May and June reaches 200 a month at the very least, they are doubtful whether the total importation will be sufficient to allow the retention of sufficient stocks to enable the three countries to maintain distribution to armies and big centres of population. On receiving confirmation that these figures can be relied on at any rate, they will cable proper distribution, having regard to importation expected from other countries. The Wheat Executive expresses the strong hope that U.S.A. will not seek to draw supplies from the Argentine since these must all be required for the supply of European nations. Any importation which U.S.A. requires should be drawn solely from Australia.

5. The Wheat Executive cannot accept the view that stock in importing countries can possibly be left at end of cereal year at a level that would be safe for an exporting country. British Cabinet last year prescribed 13 weeks' stock as the minimum to which United Kingdom should be reduced apart from stocks on farms.

6. Wheat Executive request you will pay full attention to figures quoted by Robson—if these relate to United Kingdom they are furnished by Wheat Commission and are based on statements fully open to investigation by all members of Wheat Executive. The 750,000 tons a month, or, more accurately, 750,000 qrs. a week, is the figure on which Wheat Commission now calculate United Kingdom consumption. It is in fact less than the total outgo of stocks in the past six months, but this outgo included damage and wastage as well as actual human consumption. Over this period the outgo has been subject to exceptional causes, and if figures should in future justify a reduction the fact will be disclosed and estimates will be revised accordingly. Robson's figures relating to other countries are agreed by Wheat Executive.

7. Further, while the Wheat Executive fully realise that in certain countries the town population may be considered as quite distinct from rural populations, they cannot accept this principle as applying generally over all countries, nor do they think it would be of advantage to discuss questions of internal distribution on an international basis as the conditions of each country are different; it is for each country to arrange for itself how it will distribute such importation as it is able to secure under Wheat Executive arrangements.

8. You will understand that the needs of the Allies during the cereal year 1917-18 have been agreed and the quantities required for arrival from 1st January 1918 each month to 31st August are as follows:—

France	-	-	-	-	387
United Kingdom	-	-	-	-	710
Italy	-	-	-	-	403 to end June, 397 July, and 347 August.

All figures in thousands of metric tons.

On the basis of these quantities, and taking in consideration their respective crops, the Allies have agreed on a system of repartition which, being applied every week according to the cereals loaded in all the world for the Allies, will indicate what quantities of breadstuffs is the part belonging to each of the Allies.

Having been agreed on the 3rd of November that foodstuffs for the Allies have priority over other imports, the tonnage necessary to load the quantities of breadstuffs which will be advised as available for shipment being supplied by the Allies, each country will actually have directed to her the tonnage corresponding to the part of cereals available attributed to her.

The Allies have also agreed that the particular position of Great Britain justifies a stock which would be kept out of the calculations showing the deficiency of the position of the Allies.

Appendix 267.

THE STOCK POSITION IN FRANCE AND ITALY.

JHG/WT.

DEAR PROFESSOR ATTOLICO,

13th March 1918.

THE following telegram was sent by Monsieur Vilgrain to Paris for transmission to Monsieur Tardieu respecting the stock position in France:—

“Pour transmettre à Monsieur Tardieu Haut Commissaire à Washington ci-dessous chiffres de nos stocks au 1^{er} Mars et facondant ils ont été établis stop. blé farine céréales panifiables riz le stock au premier février était de 1498200 tonnes il a été importé en février blé farine convertie en blé substitués panifiables 150477 tonnes plus riz 24591 tonnes soit au total 175068 tonnes qui ajoutées au stock au premier mars donnent 1673268 tonnes stop. la consommation février se décompose comme suit céréales panifiables 567000 tonnes riz 13000 tonnes soit au total 580000 tonnes le stock au

Appendix 267—continued.

premier mars serait donc de 1093628 tonnes stop. les importations attendues en mars sont de 147738 tonnes qui ajoutées au stock au premier mars donnent 1241006 tonnes stop. si on déduit la consommation mars 580000 tonnes le stock probable au premier avril sera de 661006 tonnes stop. avoines substitués stock au premier février 1393104 tonnes importé en février 21877 tonnes soit au total 1414981 tonnes stop. la consommation février a été de 458000 tonnes le stock au premier mars est donc de 976981 tonnes stop les importations attendues mars sont de 35700 tonnes qui ajoutées au stock au premier mars donnent 1012781 tonnes stop. la consommation étant estimée à 438000 tonnes le stock probable au premier avril sera donc de 574781 tonnes stop. orge stock au premier mars 162000 tonnes stock probable premier avril 135000 tonnes seigle stock au premier mars 290000 tonnes stock probable premier avril 232000 tonnes stop. les chiffres de la consommation mensuelle sont fixés à 567000 tonnes de blé ou substitués parcequ'ils représentent le douzième de la consommation annuelle pour la présente campagne après les réductions consenties lors des accords interalliés en réalité la consommation jusqu'à fin décembre a été 650000 tonnes par mois puis en janvier elle est tombée à 600000 tonnes et à partir du premier février nous l'avons limitée à 533000 tonnes mensuellement."

Professor Attolico,
Italian Delegation,
Trafalgar House, Waterloo Place, S.W.1.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) J. H. GORVIN.

Appendix 268.

CABLE FROM LORD RHONDDA AND SIR JOHN BEALE TO LORD READING.

14th March 1918.

French have sent their stock figures direct to Monsieur Tardieu. Professor Attolico, Italian Delegate to the Wheat Executive, communicates the following telegram from Signor Crespi, Italian Food Controller, respecting stock position in Italy. I communicate herewith the returns of our cereal census on the 25th January, and which have only just come through, although these are not to be considered as quite final, and certain figures of secondary importance are lacking and had to be supplied by estimate. Total quantity wheat, rye, barley, wheaten flour, and paste, metric tons 788,600. It is estimated that these cereals are distributed as follows: In the hands of the producing rural population throughout the country (for their consumption) 668,700 requisitioned wheat (in the producers' hands), 80,000 cereals, paste, and flour in the hands of the millers and bakers' "consorzi," 39,100; total 788,600. Foreign cereals available or arrived in ports by 1st February 1918 (not included in above figures), wheat and flour 39,920, maize 13,360, rice 7,330, rye 1,791, barley 460; total imported cereals 65,860; grand total 854,460. The quantity of 668,700 tons shown as remaining in the hands of the producing rural population is considerably below what we had estimated. Given the fact that at the time of the harvest 1,700,000 tons were left to them, we had counted on half this amount (i.e., 850,000 tons) remaining at the time of the census. As you see, the telegram does not show the situation on March the 1st as requested by Mr. Hoover. By way of estimate, however, I think we may safely assume that Italy's total stocks on the 1st March are to be reckoned at about 570,000 tons; that is to say, the equivalent of about five weeks' consumption.

Appendix 269.

THE REPRESENTATION OF SWITZERLAND ON THE WHEAT EXECUTIVE.

XVII.A. 9/18.

(43931).

Légation de Suisse,

le 8 Mars 1918.

MONSIEUR LE SECRÉTAIRE D'ÉTAT,

Pour faire suite à ma note du 19 février dernier alinéa quatre, et en me référant à la communication que Votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser le 26 du même mois, No. 34339/X/1143, j'ai l'honneur de porter à Votre connaissance que le Conseil Fédéral Suisse a désigné M. Arthur Palliser, Directeur du Bureau de la Société Suisse de Surveillance Economique à Londres (7, Princes Street, Westminster, S.W.1), pour représenter la Suisse au sein du "Wheat Executive" en ce qui concerne l'achat de céréales panifiables pour la Suisse et dans les limites qui ont été fixées.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur le Secrétaire d'Etat, les nouvelles assurances de la plus haute considération avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être,

de Votre Excellence,
le très humble,
obéissant serviteur,
(Signé) CARLIN.

Son Excellence
le très Honorable A. J. Balfour,
&c., &c., &c.,
Foreign Office.

Appendix 270.

DRAFT CABLE TO MR. HOOVER.

1. The Wheat Executive have previously sent Lord Reading detailed tabulation of breadstuffs arrivals in various European countries from all exporting countries other than North America in March and April. February breadstuff arrivals as follows:—United Kingdom from North America 395, Argentine 16, India 31, South Africa 21, Australia 2, other countries 4; total 469. France; North America 124, Argentine 6, India 9, Australia 12, Indo-China 10, North Africa and other countries 16; total 177. Italy; North America 144, Argentine 28, India 61, South Africa 6, other countries 1; total 240.

2. Wheat Commission have sent Lord Reading particulars of stocks in United Kingdom on 1st March and French Delegation have sent stock to Mons. Tardieu. Lord Reading has also particulars of Italian stocks furnished by Signor Crespi. Mobile stocks, as defined in your telegram, are given by each country as follows:—United Kingdom 1418, France 197, Italy 70. Italy's figure is given from estimate made in London. Enquiry is being made in Rome and correction will follow if necessary. But if these figures are used for purposes of comparison, it must be remembered that, when Government control is very complete and importation furnishes the bulk of the supply, the definition includes a considerably larger proportion of the total stocks than is the case in other countries, as will be seen from comparison of these figures with total stock figures previously furnished. Above figures in thousands metric tons.

3. Figures quoted by Robson relating to United Kingdom are furnished by Wheat Commission, and are based on statements fully open to investigation by all members of Wheat Executive. The 750,000 tons a month, or more accurately 750,000 qrs. a week, is the figure on which Wheat Commission now calculate United Kingdom consumption. It is in fact less than the total outgo of stocks in the past six months, but this outgo included damage and wastage as well as actual human consumption. Over this period the outgo has been subject to exceptional causes, and if figures should in future justify a reduction, the fact will be disclosed and estimates will be revised accordingly. While the Wheat Commission have very accurate figures recording total outgo of stocks, they have always found great difficulty in making any really reliable estimate of the actual consumption of breadstuffs by the population of this country in any short period, and they feel that similar difficulties must be experienced in other countries. Without knowledge of the basis on which the comparative estimate is framed, they find it difficult to give their views on this point.

4. Wheat Executive realises in the fullest manner that United States of America must retain sufficient breadstuffs to feed her own population. They only ask that all breadstuff cereals which can be spared should be reserved for them, but they press this appeal with all the strength that their knowledge of the urgency of European needs can command. They rely with full confidence on your administration securing that export reaches the highest safe level, and they hope you will accept the view they hold strongly, that stock in importing countries cannot be left at end of cereal year at a level that would be safe for an exporting country.

5. The Wheat Executive are alarmed at estimates of probable exportation from North America as detailed in Robson's cable, No. 574, after his discussion with you, and even if they can depend on these figures as certain minimum, and export of sound corn in May and June reaches 300,000 tons a month at the very least, they are very doubtful whether the total importation will be sufficient to allow the retention of sufficient stocks to enable the three countries to maintain distribution to armies and big centres of population. On receiving confirmation that these figures can be depended on at any rate, they will cable proper distribution, having regard to importation expected from other countries. The Wheat Executive expresses the strong hope that United States of America will not be compelled to draw supplies from the Argentine, since these will not be more than will be needed for the supply of European nations. They hope that any importation which United States of America may require will be drawn, as far as possible, from Australia.

6. While the Wheat Executive fully realise that in certain countries the town population may be considered as quite distinct from rural population, they hold the view that this principle cannot apply equally over all countries.

7. The Allies agreed between themselves at the beginning of the cereal year the total importation each country should theoretically receive, having regard to the volume of home-grown crops. Since that date the Italian requirement was by agreement increased to cover losses caused by their retreat. They are not now likely to receive the theoretical requirement in full, but on the basis of these quantities, and taking in consideration their respective crops, the Allies have agreed on a system of repartition which, being applied every week according to the cereals loaded in all the world for the Allies, will indicate what quantities of breadstuffs is the part belonging to each of the Allies.

Having been agreed on the 3rd of November that foodstuffs for the Allies have priority over other imports, the tonnage necessary to load the quantities of breadstuffs which will be advised as available for shipment being supplied by the Allies, each country will actually have directed to her the tonnage corresponding to the part of cereals available attributed to her.

The Allies have also agreed that the particular position of Great Britain justifies a stock which would be kept out of the calculations showing the deficiency of the position of the Allies. Further, any country whose stock position makes it necessary, is entitled to claim special assistance by diversion of cargoes.

8. The Wheat Executive trust that the information now furnished will fully satisfy you, and in any case they desire to assure you that they are at all times ready and willing to assist you in every way in their power to justify their claims to the American people.