

Vast Storehouse of Pacific Northwest Wheat May Be Gone By Late Summer, Officials Say

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent
Washington — The vast storehouse of surplus Pacific Northwest wheat that has been stored in everything



from elevators to Liberty ships in recent years will be gone by the end of summer, officials here now predict.

That includes the estimated 90 million bushels of wheat expected to be harvested this year in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Reason for the anticipated elimination of the wheat surplus problem in the Northwest is the success of one aspect of the government's foreign aid program by which a number of countries have been obtaining large shipments of wheat.

The unusually heavy market demand from abroad for Northwest wheat has had two major consequences; increasing the domestic market price for white

wheat to some 40 cents a bushel above the government support price; and reducing the surplus stocks of wheat from recent years when the market demand was below the level of productivity.

Depends on Congress
How long this condition of higher prices and strong demand will last is uncertain, depending on how long foreign desires for wheat hold up and how long Congress may continue the foreign aid program that has made it possible.

Last July, the wheat surplus in the Northwest amounted to

112 million bushels — well over a year's production for the region. By last month it was down to 65 million bushels. Department of Agriculture experts predict it will be gone by late summer, provided all export expectations come through.

The same depletion will not be true of wheat stocks elsewhere in the nation, although there has been a modest decline from the 890 million bushels stored last July to 736 million bushels as of last month.

Preferred in Many Countries
The reason for this contrast, officials say, is that Northwest

wheat is preferred by many countries that have been buying, as well as being closer to their market. Much of it has gone to India. Other countries in Southeast Asia have been buying white wheat in the Portland market.

Last fall, USDA adopted a new approach from its former practice of selling directly to foreign buyers from government wheat stocks. It said all wheat would have to be bought in the open domestic market, and that existing stocks held by the government would, in effect, be held off the market for the time be-

ing. This had the desired effect, officials declare, of stimulating the domestic price as foreign orders came in, thereby boosting the market price above the government support price and making it unprofitable for farmers to dump their wheat into government storage for the support price.

Subsequently, USDA permitted sales of its own wheat at 105 per cent of the support price plus handling charges, which put the price at about \$2.56 for hard white wheat. The market price for hard white last week was about \$2.61. Last August the market price for hard white was about \$2.20 and the support

price \$2.26.
Reimbursed in Two Ways
Under public law 480, which officially is called the agricultural trade development and foreign assistance act of 1954, designated foreign countries are allowed to purchase our agricultural commodities with their own currency rather than with American dollars, which are hard to come by. The American exporter who handles the deal is reimbursed in two ways by the government: he is given dollars for the foreign currency, and he is granted a quantity of wheat comparable in value to the difference between the U.S. market price the wheat he sold

cost him and the lower world price at which it was sold to the foreign buyer. World wheat prices run 60 cents to 90 cents below domestic prices.

The stimulated domestic price may have future surplus problems, however, for Northwest wheat growers seem to be desirous of cashing in on it while they can. They have not responded to the government's soil program of retiring acreage from crop production as much as wheat growers elsewhere, officials concede.

For the country as a whole, former wheat acreage has been cut about 20 per cent—12 million acres out of 60 million

acres.
Pledged to Soil Bank
But in Washington state, wheat acreage has been reduced only 8 per cent. Of the 2.5 million acres planted in 1956, 221,617 acres this year have been pledged to the soil bank.

Oregon wheat growers have cut back 12 per cent from the 919,000 acres of wheat for 1956 by putting 110,000 acres in the soil bank this year.

Agriculture officials stress that the depletion of surplus wheat is not a permanent cure for the imbalance between production and consumption, but they are enjoying it while it lasts.

Cancer as Deficiency Disease Proposed; Oregon Doctor Helps

BY DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor
New York—(U.P.)—Because the formulation of a sound theory capable of explaining known facts often has led to extremely important scientific discoveries, it is of interest that a new theory proposes that cancer is a deficiency disease.

Interest is sharpened by the fact that this theory was formulated at the same time but independently by Drs. L. A. Erf and B. J. Miller of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, and by Dr. Edwin E. Osgood of the University of Oregon Medical School, Portland.

Erf, Miller and Osgood theorized that the deficiency was in whatever substances cause new body cells to mature and take up their vital roles in body chemistry. Such substances except in one instance, are not now known to exist. The theorizers proposed that they do exist.

Erf, Miller and Osgood took pernicious anemia as a theoretical base. There was a time when it was considered a form of cancer, since it was marked by uncontrolled multiplication of immature red blood cells and as a disease it was uniformly fatal.

Acme Hardware Notes National IRHA Week
Acme Hardware of Medford and 25,000 other independent retail hardware stores in the United States and Canada are observing Independent Retail Hardwaremen of America week April 25 through May 4.

In observance of the week, Acme Hardware is featuring reduced prices on merchandise items, including tools, do-it-yourself equipment, sporting goods and lawn and garden supplies. Free gifts will be given to all adults who enter the store, according to Tony Manno, manager of the store.

Then it was discovered it was a deficiency disease—the deficiency being in vitamin B12 which is the essential substance that matures red blood cells. No one need die of pernicious anemia now but all victims must be given vitamin B12 regularly to supply their own deficiency.

Plumbing, Heating Convention Planned

How to stimulate modernization of plumbing in existing buildings will be one of the important subjects to be discussed at the annual convention of the Oregon State Association of Plumbing and Heating Contractors at the Medford hotel, May 3 and 4.

Other subjects on the agenda of the convention include technical advances in the plumbing industry, public relations, labor relations, merchandising, the protection to public health provided by plumbing codes and the training of apprentices.

The meeting will be attended by wholesalers and manufacturers as well as members of the Oregon State Association of Plumbing and Heating Contractors.

Erf Miller and Osgood proposed that the maturing substances of cells could be many and varied and differ from cell-type to cell-type. They proposed that these substances could originate inside the cell or could reach the cell from the outside by way of the blood and other body fluids.

In either case cancer would represent a disruption in supply and distribution. The causes of disruption could be many. This would explain why cancer has so many forms and appearances. Pointing of the theorizers was toward more research in the subtle chemistry of normal cells. This would mean a change of emphasis in cancer research which now accents the study of cancerous and other abnormal cells.

Body Chemistry Stimulated
Basically cancer is an uncontrolled multiplication of primitively immature undifferentiated cells. As Erf and Miller pointed out in stating the theory in the technical journal of the American Academy of General Practice it is only necessary for one cell to become cancerous "to eventually cause the death of the organism."

Cellular damage could block the delivery of maturing substances to immature cells which can divide and so multiply without ever maturing. This would explain how certain chemicals and excessive radiation cause cancer. Also it could explain the strange phenomena of cancer, such as the 15 cases of remission of leukemia which Erf and Miller have seen personally following broncho-pneumonia. One remission lasted nine years. According to the new theory, pneumonia stimulated body chemistry into a greater activity which produced the missing maturing substances for a time.

PRESENTATION CERTIFICATES, GOLD WALLETS

Offered By Local Portrait Photographer

Gold-finish portrait wallets and handsome gift certificates are being offered under a new program announced today by Brainerd's, local portrait photographer whose studio is at 120 East Main street.

The wallets in attractive boxes are given free with each order for a gift certificate. Mr. Brainerd advised. In addition, the photographer will give a wallet-sized print to everyone who orders gift photographs.

"Portraits are ideal for anniversaries, birthdays and many other gift occasions," he said. "Our new gift certificate makes it easier than ever to order portraits of family or friends. Portrait Gift Certificates are appropriate for anniversaries, retirements, First Communion, Confirmation, Bar Mitzvah and such holidays as Easter, Christmas, Mother's Day, Father's Day and Valentine's Day."

The photographer also points out that gift certificates may be used for albums of wedding candid, children's pictures and other photographs. pd. adv.

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