

in barley acreage to 6,537,900 acres this year resulted from significantly reduced seedings in all provinces except Ontario and British Columbia. Rye acreage is estimated at 2,062,200 acres, an increase of 78 per cent over the 1,156,400 acres sown in 1947. The acreage sown to potatoes in 1948 is estimated at 502,100 acres compared with 497,400 in 1947.

Wheat acreage in the three Prairie Provinces in 1948 is estimated to be 23,045,000 acres compared with 23,357,000 acres in 1947. Oat acreage this year of 7,636,000 acres is three per cent below that of a year ago, while barley acreage is down 14 per cent to 6,082,000 acres. A considerably increased acreage is indicated for both rye and flaxseed. Summerfallow acreage in 1948 at 19,409,000 is slightly reduced from that of the previous year.

**WHOLESALE SALES:** Dollar sales of wholesalers in May dropped three per cent below the May 1947 level and were four per cent lower than in the preceding month, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Cumulative sales for the first five months of 1948 were 2.5 per cent above the similar period of 1947. The general unadjusted index, on the base, average for 1935-39=100, stood at 273.3 for May, 285.2 for April and 280.6 for May last year.

Wholesalers' inventories at the end of May were valued seven per cent higher than at May 31, 1947, but were two per cent lower than at the beginning of the month. Automotive equipment dealers' inventories were valued 25 per cent higher than at the same date a year ago. Stocks on hand in the dry goods trade were 15 per cent higher and in the hardware trade, 14 per cent. A gain of 10 per cent in value of inventories was recorded by tobacco and confectionary wholesalers, while stocks in the hands of drug wholesalers increased eight per cent in dollar value. Grocery wholesalers' inventories were valued three per cent lower than at May 31 last year. Footwear and clothing wholesalers' stocks dropped six and 12 per cent respectively, while fruit and vegetable dealers' inventories were 26 per cent lower in dollar value.

**PRICE INDEX:** The composite index number of commodities and services used by farmers, including living costs, on the base 1935-39=100, rose to 183.2 in April, an advance of 26.1 points over April last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. The index for equipment and materials rose from 140.1 to 172.9, farm wage rates from 350.5 to 377.4, and farm living costs from 136.1 to 163.7.

The Bureau's price indexes for commodities and services bought by farmers have been completely revised back to 1922. A complete explanation of the revision together with the method of construction and the historical record from 1913 to the present time, are

contained in the special issue of the bulletin entitled "Prices of Commodities and Services Used by Farmers", copies of which may be obtained on application to the Dominion Statistician, Ottawa.

**ARMY CADETS TRAINING:** Two representatives from each Provincial Department of Education in Canada have been invited to visit the Army Cadets Trades Training Camp at Upperwash, Ont., on July 27. Hon. Brooke Claxton announced.

The object of the visit is to interest educational authorities in all provinces in the work carried on, to ensure that no conflict will exist between the standards of the Canadian Vocational Training Organization and Cadet Trades Training, and to effect the close cooperation with provincial Departments of Education essential to the expansion of the Cadet Trades Training plan to include trainees from all Provinces.

The Army Cadets Trades Training Camp is a new idea which had its inauguration this year. Should the results obtained prove satisfactory, cadet trades training may be extended to provide a three year progressive course from all service commands.

Two hundred boys selected from Ontario technical school cadet corps are now being trained in the electrical and automotive fields at the six-week camp which opened on June 20. The syllabus covers 100 hours of trades training plus recreational and physical training, rifle shooting and other organized activities designed to appeal to the boys. The object is to create interest in the service and to develop trade skills needed in the active and reserve forces of the Canadian Army.

In the automotive field, students will be qualified drivers at the conclusion of the first summer training period and qualified driver-mechanics at the end of the third. In the electrical field, the standard desired will be that of "All Arms Signalman" which will require attendance at all three six-week summer training periods. All instruction is given by qualified army instructors attached to the camp from Canadian Army corps schools.

Upon the successful completion of training at the trades training camp, successful cadets will receive a bonus of \$60.00

**"FORT CHURCHILL" DEFINED:** "Fort Churchill", the Army has explained in a routine order, "is a field station established to facilitate the study of environmental conditions, and carry out various trials, tests and training under Arctic conditions".

The order goes on to explain that the nature of these studies is such as to entail the employment of a number of scientific experts who are not members of any of the three Services, but whose work is just as important -- and frequently more so -- than

that of Service personnel. Aim on the Services is to avoid creating any feeling of distinction between Service and civilian personnel at Churchill.

For the information of visitors and Army personnel posted to Churchill for the first time, the Order makes clear the following points:

(1) Winter clothing is issued to both Service and civilian personnel on arrival at the testing station. Summer dress is neither issued nor worn there. (2) There is no bank at Churchill, therefore both Servicemen and civilians proceeding to the station for short visits should take sufficient funds with them. (3) Only visitors whose trips have been duly authorized by the proper authorities will be permitted on the station. (4) Neither servicemen or civilians are permitted to take dogs to Fort Churchill due to rigorous climatic conditions.

**PEACETIME FLAME THROWERS:** Portable flame throwers which were devastating weapons when used by the Canadian Army, are now serving useful purposes in various phases of peacetime work, and War Assets Corporation has disposed of a number declared surplus by the forces.

These flame throwers have been purchased by several federal and provincial lands and forests authorities and contractors and put in service to fight forest fires, to clear lands and road rights of way. They have proved efficacious in disposing of brush and weeds. One was purchased by a coal company last winter to rid coal cars of their frozen coverings, and a manufacturing plant is about to experiment with a flame thrower at ditches contaminated with chemicals and explosives material, burn their contents and restore them for drainage. An agricultural official believes that flame throwers could be used to clear fields of heavy rock, first heating boulders by fire then dousing with water to crack them into easily removable pieces.

Portable flame throwers being disposed of by the Corporation are of the metal lifebuoy type with an annular tank. They are carried on the back supported by a web belt and web shoulder straps of heavy duck. The nozzle is equipped with automatic shut-off and pressure controller. Light Diesel oil carried in a four gallon tank is the fuel. Hydrogen in an attached container ignites the fuel and provides pressure for projection.

Ignition is brought about by the heating by electrical resistance of a platinum-rhodium wire connected to a dry cell in the equipment.

Complete, the equipment weighs 27 pounds and the fuel will add about 35 pounds to that weight. The type of oil and hydrogen gas required are obtainable from normal supply sources.

**FARM LABOUR IMMIGRATION:** Farm labour immigration from the Displaced Persons Camps of Germany has now been developed to the point where a Canadian farmer may obtain a year-round helper from overseas within a very short time of his application being filed with the National Employment Service.

Hon. Humphrey Mitchell made this known in an appeal to Canadian farmers to assist the National Employment Service in bringing the farm labour supply and demand picture up to date, by registering immediately their needs for year-round farm help. He pointed out that immigration plans, as they applied to farm labour, were based on the actual number of known openings rather than the knowledge of a general shortage of full-time workers in agriculture.

"We know that there is still a high demand for full-time farm workers in many parts of the country, but what we want to know immediately is the actual number needed and the names of the farmers needing them", the Minister stated. "In more than one instance lately the number of farm immigrants, who arrived at the Local Employment Office to fill registered openings, only half-filled the last-minute demands of farmers in the locality who had neglected to register their needs".

Mr. Mitchell explained that due to the acute shortage of year-round farm labour experienced during previous years, many farmers felt that it might be a waste of time to request a man through the Employment Service. However, the situation had changed, the Minister stated. The farm labour force had been strengthened tremendously by immigration during the past two years, and the supply had crept up to a point where it was now possible for a farmer to get a worker from DP Camp within a matter of two or three weeks after filing his application with the National Employment Service.

However, he made clear that this situation applied only to immigrant labour. The demand for year-round labour was separate, and in addition, to the need for seasonal farm workers who were in very high demand in Ontario at the present time, due to bumper hay crops and the fact that the grain harvest would tend to overlap the hay harvest because of good weather bringing both these crops to rapid maturity.

The Minister stated that about 800 single male workers were now being chosen for farm jobs in Canada, and about 500 of them would be in Canada within the next two weeks, and he urged farmers to get in their applications immediately so that those most needing these men would get them.

To date a total of 2,175 single male workers for farm jobs in Canada have arrived from DP Camps: P.E.I., 15; N.S., 18; N.B., 6; Que., 241; Ont., 1,162; Man., 324; Sask., 62; Alta., 345 and B.C., 12.