

## CROP ACREAGE, 1958

On the basis of their intentions at March 1, Canadian farmers intend to devote increased acreage during 1957 to oats for grain, barley, mixed grains, potatoes, mustard seed, rapeseed, sunflower seed, spring rye and summer-fallow. There will be decreases in acreage for wheat, fall rye, flaxseed, corn for grain, and soybeans, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports.

Largest individual increase indicated in the use of Canada's crop land in 1958 is the increase of 429,000 acres in barley, followed by rapeseed which may be up 201,000 acres. Biggest decreases are prospective reductions of 385,000 acres for all wheat and 298,000 acres in flaxseed, Durum wheat acreage included in the all wheat total may be 797,000 acres smaller and winter wheat 30,000 acres less than in 1957, while that sown to spring wheat may be 442,400 acres larger.

Farmers' intentions indicate a total of 20,600,000 acres to be seeded to wheat, a decline of 400,000 acres from 1957 seedings and 4,100,000 acres or 16 per cent below the 1952-56 average. Wheat acreage may increase 8 per cent in Manitoba but decrease 2 per cent in Saskatchewan and 5 per cent in Alberta.

Prospective plantings of spring wheat of 20,100,000 acres are 2 per cent below the year-earlier acreage and 16 per cent below the 1952-56 average, with practically all the decrease expected in the Prairie Provinces. A decrease of 34 per cent is anticipated in the acreage of Durum wheat, farmers in Alberta and Saskatchewan planting substantially less, but farmers in Manitoba seeding more to this crop, due to the availability of new rust resistant varieties. The 600,000 acres sown to winter wheat in Ontario last fall is the smallest since 1946.

Area intended for spring rye in 1958 is placed at 122,500 acres, some 10 per cent above last year's level, but combined with a 13 per cent drop in the area seeded to fall rye last autumn, the combined acreage of spring and fall rye is placed at 505,700 acres. This would be 8 per cent below the preceding year's total and only about half the 1952-56 average.

Intended acreage of oats for grain at 11,100,000 acres is 1 per cent greater than in the preceding year and 3 per cent above the 1952-56 average. Prospective barley acreage is placed at 9,800,000 acres, up 5 per cent from last year and only slightly below the 1955 record total of 9,900,000 acres. Largest acreage increase in oat seedings is indicated in Manitoba, while Saskatchewan is expected to register the greatest gain in barley acreage. Mixed grains acreage intentions of 1,500,000 acres are 3 per cent above a year ago but 6 per cent below the five-year average. Corn for grain, sown mainly in Ontario with small commercial acreages in Manitoba, may be sown

on 507,400 acres, down 1 per cent from last year.

Probably reflecting poor yields last year (in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, flaxseed acreage may decline substantially in these two provinces, although acreage in Alberta may increase. For Canada as a whole, plantings are expected to be 9 per cent smaller. Acreage sown to rapeseed, grown mainly in the Prairie Provinces will establish a new record if intentions are confirmed. In the past, a large proportion of this crop has been grown on a contract basis and the ability to obtain contracts as well as the price offered by the contracting firms may considerably influence actual seedings. Indicated acreage at 848,400 acres is an increase of 31 per cent from 1957, the previous record, and 636 per cent above the five-year average acreage of 115,200. Mustard seed intended acreage at 100,000 acres shows an increase of 9 per cent from a year earlier and 34 per cent above the recent five-year average. Most of this crop is grown in southern Alberta on a contract basis and the ability of growers to obtain contracts may influence actual seedings. Acreage sown to sunflower seed, grown mainly in Manitoba, may rise 36 per cent from the 1957 total to 47,600 acres. Ontario, with a 5 per cent cut in acreage sown to soybeans, may lower the all-Canada total to 243,000 acres. Seedings of this size would be 11 per cent greater than the five-year average.

## EARNINGS AND WORK HOURS

Weekly wages paid to wage-earners by Canadian manufacturers in 1956 averaged out at \$63.97, up \$3.44 or 5.7 per cent from a year earlier, while salaries averaged \$85.23, up \$4.66 or 5.8 per cent, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics annual report on earnings and hours of work in manufacturing. Average weekly wages of men advanced 5.7 per cent to \$70.67 from \$66.86 and of women 4.7 per cent to \$39.29 from \$37.52. Salaries for men rose 5.9 per cent an average to \$99.05 from \$93.50 and for women the average rose 4.9 per cent to \$49.31 from average to \$99.05 from \$93.50 and for women the average rose 4.9 per cent to \$49.31 from \$47.02.

Average hours of wage-earners and salaried employees decreased slightly, except for salaried women whose average was unchanged at 37.9 hours. Male wage-earners' hours fell to 42.5 hours from 42.7 for the week and female wage-earners' hours to 39.2 from 39.4. Salaried men's time decreased by one-fifth of an hour to 39.4 from 39.6.

The proportion of women among wage-earners declined slightly in 1956 to 21.4 per cent from 21.6 per cent in 1955, but was unchanged among salaried employees at 27.8 per cent. On the whole, salaried personnel comprised 22.9 per cent of the reported employees in 1956 compared to 22.3 per cent a year earlier.