

Because of the poor grain crop in Ontario in 1943, farmers have not been overly anxious to deliver soybeans to crushers, but large quantities are apparently being fed on farms. Of the total area of 50,400 acres seeded to soybeans in Canada in 1943, about 47,000 acres were in Ontario. In the latter area, a recent survey indicates that only about 68% was actually harvested for beans, and of this output about 35% is being fed to livestock. Only about 90,000 bushels had been inspected by the Board of Grain Commissioners up to February 7, 1944, with about 12,000 bushels additional estimated to be marketed but not inspected in eastern Canada. Only one car of the Manitoba crop had been inspected at the same date.

Not only has a relatively small part of the soybean been reaching commercial channels, but the largest share of deliveries appears to be going into the manufacture of human food such as soya flour and salted soya beans sold as a substitute for peanuts. A new soya products plant is now under construction in Toronto. To keep domestic crushers operating it has been necessary to import comparatively large quantities of soybeans from the United States. This is one reason for raising the 1944 objective.

Some of the many products obtainable from soybeans include glycerine, soaps, soya sauce, confections, linoleum, salad and cooking oils, breadstuffs, adhesives, paper coating and plastics.

Two other oilseed crops rapeseed and sunflowers, were apparently grown with good success during last season, and little difficulty is foreseen in making arrangements for the growing of 10,000 acres of rapeseed and 50,000 acres of sunflower seed in 1944, which will meet the requirements for these oils as estimated by the oils and fats administrator. Although many areas in the Dominion are adapted to these crops, most of the 1943 output was obtained in Manitoba and Saskatchewan in relatively concentrated areas, and this arrangement will probably continue in 1944.

OTHER FIELD CROPS

Corn for Husking. Grain corn is not only a valuable feed, but in addition it has many industrial uses. Most of the crop has been seeded in southern Ontario, but Manitoba also has been growing husking corn with success. The widespread use of hybrid strains of corn has considerably extended the area within which there is a reasonable expectation of a satisfactory yield. Husking corn acreage was considerably reduced in 1943 because of an unfavorable season, and the crop was generally below average. However, it is believed that plenty of seed of both open-pollinated and hybrid varieties is available in Canada for 1944, and the estimates provided at the conference envisage a crop of nearly 400,000 acres for 1944, or an increase of about 53% over 1943 acreage.

Sugar Beets. - Sugar beets are grown in concentrated areas around the existing factories in Alberta, Manitoba and southern Ontario. Next year it is indicated that a new processing plant will commence operations in the province of Quebec. Last year the Alberta and Manitoba plants contracted acreage sufficient to ensure operating at close to capacity, but for the last two seasons only one of the two Ontario plants has been able to operate. Although a relatively profitable crop, sugar beets require considerable hand labour, and this has proved a problem recently. For 1944, it is expected that 1943 acreage will at least be maintained in the three provinces already producing, while Quebec growers will probably contract for about 10,000 acres to supply the new factory.

Pulse Crops. - Greater emphasis on the production of dried beans and peas is suggested for 1944. Many areas in Canada are suitable for growing these high-protein crops, which are valuable foods for wartime requirements and also for post-war relief. In their dried form these commodities are well suited for long time storage, are easy to transport and have high protein value. Thus they are well fitted for international relief use.