

REDUCED WHEAT ACREAGE: Canadian farmers at the end of April intended to reduce their seeded acreages of wheat, rye, and potatoes this year from last year's levels, to increase their acreages of oats, mixed grains and flaxseed, and to seed virtually the same barley acreage. An increase of nearly 3% over 1953 was anticipated in the area to be summer-fallowed in the Prairie Provinces.

The combined acreage of spring and winter wheat in Canada for harvest this year is placed at 24,600,000 acres, a reduction of over 900,000 acres or 3.5% from 1953. Rye shows the greatest percentage decrease from last year with the combined acreage of fall and spring seedings at 900,000 acres, less than 60% of the 1953 seeded acreage of 1,500,000. Anticipated plantings of potatoes of some 300,000 acres represent 93% of last year's acreage.

OATS, FLAXSEED

The indicated acreage of oats for grain at 10,700,000 acres, is some 9% greater than last year's 9,800,000, and intended seedings of flaxseed at 1,500,000 acres exceed by nearly 53% last year's acreage of less than a million. Mixed grain seedings are expected to approximate 1,500,000 acres, about 2% greater than a year ago.

Basic data for the estimates were obtained from the Bureau's annual April 30 survey of crop correspondents conducted in co-operation with provincial departments. These intended acreages are merely indicative of farmers' plans at the end of April, and acreages actually seeded may vary considerably from the intentions figures, depending upon conditions affecting seeding subsequent to April 30.

Intended spring wheat acreages in Manitoba are down 7%, Saskatchewan 2%, and Alberta 6% from last year and these provinces account for most of the decrease in wheat acreage. Ontario's wheat acreage is placed at 711,500 acres (all but 30,500 of which is winter wheat), a decrease of 7% from 1953.

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AUTO SHIPMENTS: Factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles in the first quarter of this year were slightly under those of a year earlier, increases in January and February being offset by a decline in March. January-March shipments this year totalled 130,212 units as compared with 130,788 a year earlier. In March, 45,634 were shipped (51,990 last year); February, 44,268 (42,904); and January, 40,310 (35,894).

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Junior officers of the 1st Commonwealth Division in Korea now have their own club on the banks of the Imjin River, where, in the words of Major-General H. Murray, their divisional commander, "They can get away from their colonels for a short while".

ARMY ROTATION: The final phase of spring rotation of the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade was in sight this week as "A" Squadron, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) staged their farewell "roll-past" in their Sherman tanks before Brigade Commander, Brigadier J.V. Allard, Army Headquarters announced.

The Strathconas, who have supplied the armoured component of the Canadian U.N. Forces in the Far East for the past three years, will soon sail for Canada to be succeeded by "D" Squadron of the Royal Canadian Dragoons from Camp Petawawa, Ont.

The departure of the Strathconas will complete the overall spring rotation of the 25th Brigade, which began earlier this year, and involved almost 6,000 troops.

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TV'S OUTSELL RADIO IN FEBRUARY: Producers' sales of television sets continue to rise, and in February exceeded the sales of radios for the first time. TV set sales in February rose to 38,029 from 25,973 a year earlier, but radio sales were cut to 33,828 units from 47,696.

TV receiver sales were higher in all areas, with the bulk of the sales in Ontario and Quebec: Ontario's sales were up to 18,348 units from 17,152, Quebec to 14,696 from 7,524, British Columbia to 3,923 from 1,288, Atlantic Provinces to 802 from 6, and the Prairie Provinces to 260 from 3.

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PETROLEUM RISE: Receipts of crude petroleum at Canadian refineries rose 28% in February as compared with the same month of 1953, and output of refined products advanced 17%. Month-end inventories of refined products climbed 15.6%.

The month's receipts of crude petroleum totalled 12,955,000 barrels as compared with 10,104,000. Supplies from domestic sources rose steeply to 7,431,000 barrels from 3,490,000, and imported supplies dropped to 5,524,000 barrels from 6,614,000.

The month's output of refined products amounted to 12,783,000 barrels as compared with 10,887,000, and refinery inventories totalled 21,588,000 barrels compared with 18,660,000.

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A special programme commemorating the part played by the Royal Canadian Navy in the Second World War was broadcast nationally over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's trans-Canada network on Battle of the Atlantic, Sunday, May 16.

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Average weekly wages in Canadian manufacturing industries at the beginning of March rose to \$57.69 from \$56.58 a year earlier.