

**BRIGHT OUTLOOK FOR AGRICULTURE***(Continued from page 2)*

reflecting the growth in population and fairly stable per capita consumption.

Ice cream production may reach 34 million gallons, about one million gallons more than the previous record set in 1955.

**EGGS AND POULTRY**

*Eggs*--During the remainder of 1956 and the first five months of 1957 swings in the supply and price patterns will be more pronounced and egg prices will, on the average, not be as favourable to producers as during the corresponding period a year earlier. During the summer months of the coming year it is expected that production and prices will be similar to those in the corresponding period of 1956.

*Poultry*--The poultry meat situation in 1957 will be dominated even more by developments in the chicken broiler and turkey industries than in 1956. Both of these segments of the poultry industry are rapidly developing new and more efficient methods of production and marketing with the result that they are now the two major sources of poultry meat in this country. In view of this situation it is expected that price levels for poultry meat in 1957 will be about the same as in 1956.

**FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**

The 1956 apple crop of 12.0 million bushels was 37 per cent less than the bumper crop of 1955 and 16 per cent below the 1949-53 average. As a result of the small crop, prices have been, and are expected to continue at higher levels than in 1955. Barring unforeseen developments, the 1957 crop will probably exceed that of 1956.

Larger crops of peaches, pears and cherries are anticipated in 1957 than in 1956. The 1957 crop of strawberries and raspberries is expected to exceed that of 1956 but it will be a few years before the 1949-53 level of production is reached.

The 1956 potato crop of 66.8 million bushels was one per cent larger than that of 1955. Both imports and exports during 1956-57 are not expected to reach the levels of 1955-56. The average price received during the season as a whole is expected to be above that of the 1955-56 crop year.

Consumer demand for fresh vegetables in 1957 is expected to remain strong. Because of the smaller packs of canned vegetables in 1956, the acreage contracted for processing in 1957 is expected to be increased. During 1957 the growth of the frozen fruit and vegetable industry is expected to be maintained.

**SEEDS**

Production of pedigreed cereals in 1956 was practically the same as in 1955. Because of frost damage and poor harvest weather there

may be some local scarcity of good quality pedigreed seed but the total supplies of most of the popular varieties should be adequate for domestic needs, leaving a surplus of some varieties available for export. The production of Selkirk wheat, Parkland barley and Rodney and Garry oats was greatly increased.

Estimated production of all the principal forage crop seeds in 1956, with the exception of sweet clover and meadow fescue, was less than in 1955. The alfalfa seed crop was much the smallest on record and production of alsike clover, red clover, timothy, bromegrass and crested wheatgrass was considerably below average.

With the exception of alfalfa and red clover seed, supplies of the principal hay and pasture seeds, in spite of smaller production, should be sufficient to meet domestic requirements. As supplies of alfalfa seed will not be sufficient for domestic needs it is expected that substantial quantities of seed of adapted varieties will be imported from the United States to supplement Canadian production. Canadian grown double-cut type red clover seed will also be in short supply, but seed to meet domestic needs is available from the United Kingdom and the United States.

Smaller crops of many forage seeds in Canada, the United States and Western Europe have stimulated prices on world markets and prices to growers in 1956 are considerably higher than a year ago.

There was some increase in estimated production of peas, beans and corn in 1956 compared to 1955, although production of beans and corn was considerably below average. Most of the sugar-beet stockings in British Columbia were lost through winter killing and practically no crop was harvested. Production of swede and mangel seed was confined entirely to the Maritimes and is the smallest in years. Substantial imports of most vegetables and root seeds will be required to supplement Canadian production; this is, however, a normal situation and it is expected that the necessary supplies will be available as usual from the United States and Europe.

**SPECIAL CROPS**

Total production of oil seeds in 1956 was sharply higher than output in 1955, but all the increase was in the industrial oil seed class rather than in the edible oil seed group. The domestic and export markets are expected to readily absorb the 1956 production of soybean and sunflower seed at prices near last year's level. Flaxseed is expected to encounter stronger competition in export markets as supplies from other sources will be considerably higher than last year. Prices are likely to be moderately to considerably lower and carryover stocks will probably be substantially higher than a year ago. The export market is again to be the most important outlet for 1956 crop rapeseed marketings, but