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CONTENTS

- Canada's Wheat in a Hungry World 1
- World Plowing Match 2
- Vehicle Entries 2
- RCN Honours Londonderry 2
- Seed-Gun Plants Pine 2

- Injuries in the Federal Service 3
- New Berths at Churchill Harbour 3
- Comfort Receives National Award 4
- Canada-Japan Committee 4
- Stevens to Karachi 4

CANADA'S WHEAT IN A HUNGRY WORLD

In a statement on July 24 concerning the initial prices that would be paid by the Canadian Wheat Board during the next crop year for wheat, oats and barley, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, said in part:

...The Government shares the opinion of major farm organizations that efforts should be concentrated on moving as much grain as possible.

There are two sides to this matter of our wheat marketing — supply and demand. Taking one year with another and the variation in yields which must be expected, we should aim to avoid the production of unmanageable surpluses and, through appropriate crop diversification, be in a position to meet changing domestic and foreign demand for wheat, coarse grains and livestock. Our production policies, including the various programmes affecting wheat and other grains, must be designed to achieve these objectives. The Government has initiated a review of these policies and programmes to determine in what way they might be adjusted to achieve a better balance in agricultural production and the avoidance of burdensome surpluses. For example, the Government considers that we should be in a better position than we are at present to meet the expected increase in demand for livestock and feed grains.

On the demand side, the Government is making every effort to help the Wheat Board to increase to the maximum commercial sales in markets throughout the world, wherever they are to be found.

The Government has decided that the time has come to move forward on another front which should prove of both short-run and long-run advantage to Western wheat producers.

GIFTS OF WHEAT

To help meet the food needs of the developing countries, Canada, for many years now, has been making wheat and flour available as part of our Colombo Plan assistance. I wish to announce at this time the intention of the Government to ask Parliament to provide for a programme of supplying wheat or wheat flour to international aid agencies, including the World Food Programme, and to developing countries which are not now commercial markets or where commercial exports are limited by capacity to pay. Something can be done this year. The intention is on a progressive basis to increase the amount of Canadian food aid in appropriate relationship to the total of our assistance activities. It is expected that the total allocation for this purpose might rise to a level of around \$40 million per annum over the course of the next few years.

SAFEGUARDS FOR COMMERCIAL MARKET

The actual amount of wheat and flour to be made available for assistance purposes in the next crop year will depend on the needs of the World Food Programme and the absorptive capacity of the developing countries we wish to assist. Safeguards will be introduced to ensure that the provision of additional Canadian wheat and flour does not interfere