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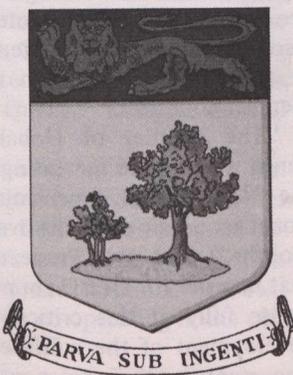
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In the first issue of each month of this year, Canada Weekly will carry a picture of each of the coats-of-arms of the ten Canadian provinces and two territories.



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Agricultural conference focuses on forecasts for 1981

Federal and provincial agricultural officials, farm leaders, consumers and representatives from food and agricultural organizations, along with observers from other countries, met in Ottawa at the Agricultural Outlook Conference, December 8 and 9, to discuss forecasts for 1981.

Wheat

Canadian wheat prices will likely average 10 to 15 per cent higher in 1980-81 than a year earlier because of a record world demand and a decrease in world wheat stocks.

Canadian wheat production for 1980-81 is forecast at 19.1 million metric tons. This includes 888,000 metric tons of winter wheat, 1.9 million metric tons of durum wheat and 16.3 million metric tons of red spring and other wheats.

With an estimated carryover of 10.6 million metric tons, the Canadian wheat supply for 1980-81 is estimated at 29.7 million metric tons, down more than two million metric tons from the previous year.

If stocks to start 1981-82 are reduced to eight million metric tons, then there are about 16 million metric tons of Canadian wheat available for export.

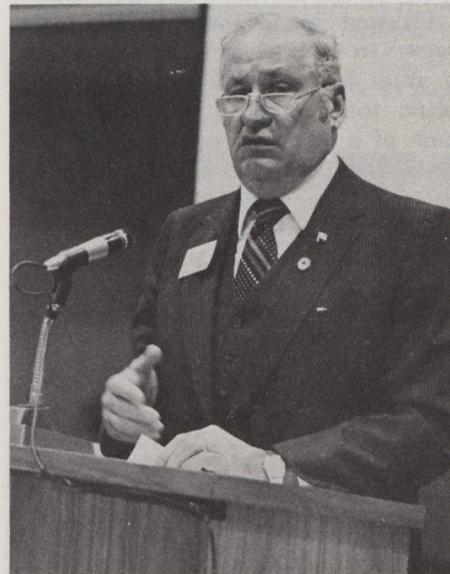
If wheat exports or stocks are to be increased in 1981-82, a wheat crop of more than 22 million metric tons will be required, given domestic needs of about six million metric tons.

Coarse grains

Canadian coarse grain prices in 1980-81 are expected to average considerably higher than last year.

Agriculture Canada economists say the price increases reflect expectations of a sharp reduction in world coarse grain stocks because of reduced production and continued high demand.

World coarse grain production is forecast at 705 million metric tons this year, almost 3 per cent lower than last year. The lower production results largely



Federal Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan addresses the conference.

from the reduced corn crop in the United States due to drought conditions.

In Canada, coarse grain production was high, despite the effects of drought on the prairies and excessive moisture at harvest time. However, supplies are 2 per cent lower than last year because of the very low 1980-81 beginning year stocks.

Total Canadian coarse grain production is forecast at 21.6 million metric tons. This is 16 per cent higher than last year and includes 11 million metric tons of barley, three million metric tons of oats, a record 5.5 million metric tons of corn, 448,000 metric tons of rye and 1.6 million metric tons of mixed grains.

Total Canadian coarse grain exports are forecast at 4.8 million metric tons in 1980-81 compared with five million metric tons last year. Barley exports will be lower than last year because of lower supplies.

Oilseeds

World oilseed prices are not expected to change much for the remainder of the 1980-81 crop year as both demand and

Agriculture Canada

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