

government took steps to stabilize them pending the establishment of ceiling prices. There is still a substantial spread, however, between the ceiling price in Canada and the price at which oats and barley are at present stabilized in the United States. Most of this difference in price is collected by the Canadian Wheat Board in the form of an equalization fee charged to exporters. This money is returned to the Canadian producer who since August 1, 1943, has been receiving an advance of 10 cents a bushel on oats and 15 cents a bushel on barley against the anticipated receipts from exports of these two grains.

Present estimates of the high-protein feed supply position in 1944 indicate that while the over-all position may show a slight increase over 1943, supplies will probably continue well below requirements. More linseed oilcake and meal is anticipated, as well as copra meal, sunflower meal, tankage, and meat scrap. Output of alfalfa meal is expected to remain relatively constant, but smaller supplies are in prospect for soybean meal, cottonseed meal, gluten feed, fishmeal and dairy by-product feeds.

OILSEED CROPS

Canadian requirements for oilseeds are expected to remain at comparatively high levels in 1944, and production objectives are as large as or larger than in 1943 for flaxseed, soybeans, rapeseed and sunflower seed. The Dominion oils and fats administrator has pointed out the desirability of this program, not only for providing needed sources of vegetable oils, but also for high-protein feeds, which are proving in short supply.

FLAXSEED

The 1944 objective for flaxseed stands at 2,950,000 acres, or about the same level as was seeded in 1943.

Up to January 27, 1944, nearly 78% of the 1943 western Canada flaxseed crop had been delivered off farms (flaxseed has no quota restrictions). Crushing capacity for oilseeds has been considerably expanded since 1941, and further increases are expected in 1944. A recent survey indicated a capacity of 6,500,000 bushels will be available shortly, mostly in eastern Canada.

Of the 1942-43 crop of western flaxseed totalling 9,400,000 bushels, about 4,200,000 bushels went into the domestic crushing trade, with the remainder of 5,200,000 bushels exported. The bulk of the linseed oil crushed is used in the manufacture of paint, linoleum and printers' ink, with a limited quantity used for edible oils.

Canadian flaxseed stocks at March 31, 1944, excluding quantities still on farms, totalled 7,600,000 bushels, of which 4,500,000 bushels were in lake-head elevators.

The best estimate which can be provided, under present circumstances, indicates that 1944 plantings of this crop would probably be less than 2,000,000 acres, or 64% of that sown last year, despite the fact that Canadian crushing facilities are being expanded, and the remainder of the crop will find a ready outlet in the United States.

SOYBEANS

The versatile soybean has so far been grown with success in several parts of Canada, particularly so in southwestern Ontario. A relatively small proportion of the crop was used for crushing. The objective for soybeans this year is set at 90,000 acres compared with 50,400 acres sown to this crop in 1943.