

per cent below the ten-year (1949-58) average of 490,400,000 bushels. The total crop in the Prairie Provinces is put at 399,000,000 bushels, 15 per cent above the 1958 crop. The average yield in the Prairie Provinces, at 17.7 bushels an acre, is up from 17.1 bushels last year but below the ten-year average of 19.6 bushels.

The production of oats for grain is estimated at 417,900,000 bushels, 4 per cent above last year's output of 401,000,000 bushels and 2 per cent above the ten-year average of 409,700,000 bushels. The indicated all-Canada average yield is 36.7 bushels an acre compared to 36.3 in 1958 and the ten-year average of 37.2 bushels. The barley crop is placed at 225,600,000 bushels, down 8 per cent from last year's 244,800,000 and up 1 per cent from the ten-year average of 224,100,000 bushels. The average yield indicated for Canada as a whole is 27.2 bushels per acre, compared to 25.6 in 1958 and the ten-year average of 26.9.

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### NATIONAL PARKS RECORD

Attendance at the national parks of Canada from April 1 to October 31, 1959, broke all records. The scenic and national historic parks had a grand total of 4,764,448 visitors, a gain of 418,688 over 1958. Point Pelee National Park, Ontario, recorded the largest gain, with a total of 675,752 visitors, 165,270 more than the year before.

Banff National Park, Alberta, had more visitors than any other park, with a total of 792,681. This was 79,464 more than in the same period of 1958. Kootenay National Park, British Columbia, had 397,637, an increase of 50,797.

Cape Breton Highlands National Park, Nova Scotia, had an attendance of 193,684 or 30,746 more than in 1958. Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba, increased its attendance to 616,264, a gain of 29,822.

The scenic parks had a total of 4,208,148 visitors while the national historic parks had 556,300. Among the latter, the Halifax Citadel had the greatest attendance, with 173,659 visitors.

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### OVERSEAS TROOP ROTATION

The last shipload of 900 Canadian soldiers and dependents from Europe in the current rotation of Army personnel arrived at Halifax aboard the Ivernia on December 7.

A few more troops will continue to be airlifted by the RCAF until the last planeload of 28 soldiers is set down at Trenton, Ontario on December 20.

Two-thirds of the 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group's strength returned home this autumn after two years in Germany. Their replacements will remain overseas for a three-year tour of duty under the Army's revised

rotation plan. The final development of the plan calls for the rotation of one-third of Canada's NATO Brigade each year.

The shuttling of the 15,000 soldiers, wives and children since the rotation began early in September has been handled by 7 round-trips by ship and 31 return flights -- the first 14 by TCA and the remainder by RCAF. This is the first time there has been a large-scale airlifting of Canadian troops to and from Germany.

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### VANCOUVER FESTIVAL - 1960

The 1960 Vancouver International Festival, which will begin on July 20 and last until August 13, will include a two-day festival of Canadian music and a production of Benjamin Britten's musical setting of the Chester Miracle play, "Noah's Flood".

Among the artists who will appear at the Festival are baritone Fischer-Dieskau, pianist Glenn Gould, Swedish mezzo-soprano Kerstin Meyer and conductor William Steinberg.

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### GEOCHEMICAL MAPS

New geochemical maps of a kind that are expected to be of great value in the search for promising base-metal areas were released by the Geological Survey of Canada in Ottawa on December 8. The first of their kind to be produced in Canada, the four new maps cover the northern half of the Nova Scotia mainland and are believed the first ever published of such a large area.

The information contained in the new maps was gained by making on-the-spot, ultra-sensitive chemical analyses of thousands of silt and sand samples. These were collected from nearly every stream in northern Nova Scotia and afterwards analyzed for lead, zinc and copper content in the Survey's Ottawa laboratories. The results were then plotted to make four geochemical maps--one dealing with copper, one with lead, one with zinc and one with heavy metals. Each map has two sheets.

Commenting on the new maps, Mines Minister Paul Comtois said that they marked a broadening in the scope of the field work undertaken by the Geological Survey of Canada. He pointed out that specialized geochemical surveys of this kind are intended to be a useful supplement to existing geological maps and to provide a more direct picture of economically valuable areas.

A special feature of these maps are the isograds (lines similar to contours on a topographic map), which indicate areas where the trace-metal contents of the stream sediments are of equal richness. Many of the anomalously high areas thus revealed can be related to underlying geological features and may indicate the presence of mineralized bedrock. The anomalies and variations are given separate prominence. Dots on the map show the positions where stream samples were examined.