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INDEX TO INSIDE PAGES

Limit Oats Shipments to U.S.	1-4	Nine Months' International Accounts	3
Security Transactions	2	Ammunition for France	3
Average Wage \$56.73	2	Electrical Products Peak	4
Wheat Supplies	2	Mr. Pearson's Broadcast	5
Pulp and Paper, 1952	2	Rifles for France	5
Biggest Savings Bond Sale	2	Canada-U.S. Air Talks	6
\$12 Billion Cheques	2	Small Arms Ammunition Agreement	6

WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

LIMIT OATS SHIPMENTS TO U.S.: Canada has agreed to limit shipments of oats to the United States to 23,000,000 bushels during the period December 10, 1953 to midnight of September 30, 1954, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. C.D. Howe, announced in the House of Commons on December 14.

The United States Government requested the co-operation of the Canadian Government in a letter of December 7 signed by the Acting Secretary of State, Mr. W. Bedell Smith, and the acquiescence of the Canadian Government was stated in a letter of December 10, signed by the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin.

The texts of the two letters setting forth the views of the two Governments were read in the House of Commons by Mr. Howe, and were as follows:

Washington, December 7, 1953

The Honourable L.B. Pearson,
 Secretary of State for External Affairs,
 Ottawa, Canada.

My dear Mr. Secretary,

During the past several months, the Government of the United States has been faced with problems of increasing seriousness in connection with the accumulation of surplus agricultural products. These mounting surpluses,

and the financial burden they entail, may well threaten to disturb orderly marketing arrangements which it is to the interest of both Canada and the United States to maintain.

The special circumstances affecting the problem of oats make it a matter of particular urgency requiring exceptional treatment. We believe that unless steps are taken to assure that imports of oats will not be such as to interfere with the orderly marketing of oats in the United States, a critical situation will develop which could be damaging to the farming industry of our two countries. It is our suggestion that shipments of oats from Canadian ports of shipment to the United States should not exceed 23,000,000 bushels during the period from midnight December 10, 1953, to midnight September 30, 1954.

As you know, Canada supplies almost the whole of the United States imports of oats and only small quantities come from other countries.

You are of course aware that the larger problem associated with accumulations of surplus agricultural products and related questions of agricultural policy are currently under review with the aim of arriving at longer-term solutions of a constructive character.

Having in mind the desirability of maintaining, as in the past, the closest collaboration between the Governments of Canada and the United States in matters of common concern, President Eisenhower has asked me to seek the

(Continued on P. 4)