

FARM CASH INCOME DOWN IN FIRST QUARTER

WHEAT DECLINE: Smaller returns from the sale of wheat, barley, ruy, potatoes, cattle and calves contributed largely to a 6% decrease in Canadian farmers' cash receipts from the sale of farm products in the first quarter of this year. There were declines in all provinces except Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia. The largest decrease occurred in Saskatchewan.

Cash receipts in the quarter were estimated at \$504,311,000 as compared with \$536,150,000 a year earlier and the all-time first-quarter high of \$555,700,000 established in 1952. Supplementary payments made to western farmers under the provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act amounted to \$2,100,000 in this year's first quarter as compared with \$1,800,000 a year earlier and \$900,000 in 1952.

By far the largest decline in income for any one commodity occurred in wheat which totalled \$49,700,000 this year as compared with \$112,800,000 in the first 1953 quarter. To a large extent this substantial decline can be attributed to much smaller marketings and to a lesser extent to somewhat lower than average prices. As a result of congested country elevators, wheat deliveries by western producers during this period were reduced to about 40% of last year's first-quarter total. Lower wheat prices during the quarter were due largely to a lack of increase in initial

prices such as took place during the same period a year ago.

Offsetting to some extent the significant decrease in wheat receipts was the distribution of part of the final payment on the 1952-53 western wheat crop during the first quarter of this year. Amounting to \$27,700,000, it compares with payments of about \$3,000,000 made in the corresponding 1953 period.

During the first quarter of this year, cash income from the sale of barley was estimated at \$11,800,000, down nearly 40% from 1953's estimate as a result of much smaller marketings. Larger marketings of potatoes were far more than offset by a drop in prices and cash receipts fell to \$5,800,000, 50% below a year earlier.

Income from the sale of cattle and calves amounted to an estimated \$81,000,000, down nearly 9% from the preceding year's \$88,700,000. Lower prices more than offset an increase in marketings. On the other hand a very substantial increase in hog prices far outweighed smaller marketings to boost income from this source 21% to \$82,000,000. Receipts from the sale of poultry meat at \$26,800,000 were also substantially higher than in the same 1953 period.

Cash receipts from the sale of eggs at \$32,900,000 for this year's January-March period were 11.8% above those for the same period of 1953.

* * * * *

WOMEN'S BUREAU: Miss Marion V. Royce, M.A., has been selected for the position of Director of the Women's Bureau it was announced on June 30 by the Civil Service Commission and the Department of Labour. Miss Royce is a graduate of McMaster University and the Ontario College of Education.

The Women's Bureau has been established to promote a wider understanding of problems peculiar to women workers and to the employment of women. The Bureau will be a focal point for the preparation, distribution and continuing interchange of information concerning women in employment. It is expected that regular channels of communication will be developed between the Bureau and women's groups, employer and labour organizations as well as with various interested government agencies.

* * * * *

There are more than 2,000 Indian reserves in Canada and they vary in size from a few acres to 500 square miles. Most of this land is community property but an Indian may be allotted possession of land within a reserve by the Council of the Band.

IMPLEMENT SALES DOWN: Sales of new farm implements and equipment declined in value in 1953 for the first time in more than a decade but sales of repair parts continued to climb, according to advance figures released by the Bureau. The drop in sales of new equipment was limited to 5%, and the parts sales advance was 2%.

Valued at wholesale prices, new implement and equipment sales in 1953 totalled \$238,050,000 as compared with \$250,277,000 in 1952, and sales of parts were valued at \$31,819,000 as compared with \$31,232,000. Implement and equipment sales were lower in value in all provinces except Newfoundland and Saskatchewan, while sales of parts were higher in all provinces except Newfoundland, Ontario and British Columbia.

* * * * *

Canal traffic last year was the heaviest since the construction of the American Davis and Sabine locks at Sault Ste. Marie during the First World War. All told, 33,373,064 tons of freight were locked through the 10 systems, 2,018,925 tons or over 6% more than in the preceding year.