

FARM INCOME DOWN: Canadian farmers received a total of \$531,100,000 from the sale of farm products and from wheat adjustment payments on previous years' crops in the first quarter of this year, a drop of five per cent from the \$559,800,000 in the corresponding period of 1952, but an increase of 10 per cent over the estimated \$481,100,000 for the first quarter of 1951.

Supplementary payments made to western farmers under the provision of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act were quite small, amounting in the first quarter to \$900,000 as against the corresponding payments of \$1,800,000 in 1952, and \$7,900,000 in 1951.

Substantially smaller wheat payments and reduced returns from the sale of potatoes, tobacco and hogs accounted largely for the reduction in cash receipts during the 1953 quarter. These declines more than offset a significant increase in income from the sale of wheat and moderately larger returns from barley, eggs, dairy products, cattle and calves.

A heavy year-end carry-over of the record 1952 crops of high quality western wheat and barley provided unusually large marketings of these crops during the first quarter of 1953. As a result, receipts from the sale of wheat during this period amounted to \$112,200,000, 36.4 per cent above the first quarter last year.

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SURPLUS ABOUT \$24,000,000 The Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, estimated in a statement on June 25 that the Government had a 1952-53 budgetary surplus of \$24,000,000. The fiscal year ended March 31.

While final audited figures will not be available until about the end of July, Mr. Abbott said it was now possible to give figures "which will be very close to the final results."

"These figures show total budgetary revenues of \$4,361,000,000, expenditures of \$4,337,000,000 and a surplus of \$24,000,000.

"In my Budget Speech on February 19, I estimated our revenues at \$4,375,000,000 and our expenditures at \$4,327,000,000 with a surplus of \$48,000,000. Revenues have turned out to be \$14,000,000 or one-third of one per cent below my forecast, and expenditures \$10,000,000 or one-quarter of one per cent above my forecast," Mr. Abbott said.

"The final surplus of \$24,000,000 is about one-half of one per cent of total revenues. It would hardly be possible to get closer to an even balance."

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COMFORTS AWAIT POW'S. More than 120 tons of food and comforts are stored in Commonwealth Red Cross depots in Japan and Korea awaiting the release of Commonwealth prisoners of war, it has been announced.

BENEFITS FROM GAS, OIL, PIPE LINES: Developments in the transportation of gas and oil by pipe lines "if carried out in an economic manner, will make a significant contribution to Canada's industrial development," according to Mr. W.J. Matthews, Director of Administration and Legal Services of the Department of Transport.

Addressing the Transportation Division of the Special Libraries Association in convention in Toronto, Mr. Matthews said that pipe lines "are doing for prairie oil and gas what the transcontinental railways did for western wheat - bring oil and gas to markets by a cheaper means of transportation."

After enumerating the pipe lines now in operation or contemplated, Mr. Matthews pointed out that "new wealth will flow from the Province of Alberta into the coffers of the oil producers and thereby increase the national income."

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"QUEEN ELIZABETH RANGES" The Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be memorialized in the heart of Jasper National Park, Canada's largest scenic playground it has been announced. Her Majesty has approved a proposal that mountains which practically encircle Maligne Lake, one of the most photographed bodies of water in the Rockies, be named the "Queen Elizabeth Ranges".

The Minister of Resources, Mr. Winters, said that the beauty and serenity of Maligne Lake has been little disturbed since it was first seen by white men early in the present century when it was referred to as "a picture of indescribable beauty; perhaps unsurpassed in the entire Rockies". "Enough beauty has gone into the composition of this area", he added "to make a dozen regions famous".

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TROOPS IN KOREA: In anticipation of a truce in Korea, the Canadian Army has prepared plans to increase welfare, leave and educational facilities for the troops serving in the Far East. These plans are ready to go into effect at once and will augment facilities already available in Korea and Japan, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, announced on June 18.

Large quantities of sports equipment have already been shipped to Korea. Additional films and reading material are ready for immediate despatch. Materials required for increased educational activity are now packed, ready for shipment. Plans have been made for increased leave insofar as the theatre commander's regulations governing security and training will permit.

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ROYAL SOCIETY VICE-PRESIDENT: Dr. E.W.R. Steacie, O.B.E., President, National Research Council, has been chosen as Vice-President of the Royal Society of Canada.