

Wheat

Conclusions

The demand for Canadian wheat in world markets over a long period of years cannot be foreseen with any degree of certainty. However, it is expected that the combined export and domestic demand may be somewhere between 400 million and 475 million bushels per annum. This compares with average crops in Canada of 385 million bushels in the decade of the 'twenties, 330 million bushels in the 'thirties, 393 million bushels in the 'forties and an average of 525 million bushels in the 7 years 1950 to 1956. It is the surplus which has been built up as a result of the unusually large crops in recent years which tends to confuse an objective appraisal of the situation. The past 7 years have been the best wheat growing period in Canada's history.

Suggestions

The Wheat Board system of marketing should be continued.

While there is no evidence at present which would support the contention that a permanent reduction in wheat acreage in Canada is necessary, persistent surpluses may indicate the need of some such reduction from time to time. There are several possible approaches which could be followed in this connection and there is no single course of action which would be equally effective under all circumstances.

One approach which might be considered would be to modify the present Wheat Board system in order to inform wheat farmers in advance of seeding not only what the initial price for their crop will be but also the maximum quantities which the Board would be committed to pay for in the coming crop year.

The Fishing Industry

Conclusions

The dominance of this industry in many places where alternative employment opportunities are not readily available makes its output of decisive importance in those areas.

The domestic demand for fish is expected to increase with the growth of population. It is more difficult to say what the export demand will be in the future and two-thirds of the total production of this industry is exported at the present time.

It is probable that the number of people employed in this industry will continue to decline and that the fishing population will, for economic and technological reasons, tend to be concentrated in fewer centres.