

1949 FIELD CROPS DOWN 16 PER CENT

LOWER PRICES A FACTOR: Gross value of the principal field crops produced on Canadian farms is currently estimated by the Bureau of Statistics at \$1,427,000,000, down 16 per cent from last year's record value of \$1,696,000,000. This is also below the 1947 value of \$1,531,000,000, but slightly above the value of \$1,424,417,000 in 1946, the first post-war year. Anticipated participation payments on western wheat, oats and barley, however, will place this year's crop value at a higher level than the current estimate.

Reduction in the value of this year's field crops from the 1948 level is due to the joint effect of lower prices and reduced production of most crops. Only for fodder crops and field roots (turnips, mangels, etc.) are average farm prices for all Canada for the first four months of this crop year above the 1948-49 average, although in some provinces prices for certain other crops are higher than last year. Declines in prices and production of wheat, oats, barley, rye and flax were alone responsible for a total drop in value from 1948 of \$237,000,000. By individual grains the decreases are roughly: wheat, \$56,000,000; oats, \$53,000,000; barley, \$47,000,000; rye, \$21,000,000; and flaxseed, \$60,000,000. Participation payments on the first three grains may be expected to reduce these differences.

The 1949 wheat crop is valued at \$566,600,000 dollars, down nine per cent from last year. While the average price of 1949 wheat is four cents per bushel less than in 1948 (due largely to lower grades in the west and cheaper wheat in Ontario) most of the decreased value is attributable to the decrease of 25,900,000 bushels in production. The values of the oats,

barley, rye and flaxseed crops are down considerably, reflecting both production and price declines, the former being the more important factor. The percentage reductions in rye and flaxseed production are particularly marked. Production of dry peas is down sharply with a corresponding drop in value. A slight increase in production of dry beans occurred but prices are lower and the farm value of the crop is down over half a million dollars. The price of soy beans has held up well and with increased production this year the value of this crop advanced nearly \$2,000,000. A larger 1949 crop of corn for husking was sufficient to offset a decline in price and total value of this crop increased slightly. With the 1949 potato crop a little smaller than in 1948 and farm prices averaging somewhat lower this season, the gross farm value of Canada's 1949 potato production is placed nearly \$5,000,000 below that of 1948.

Higher prices for hay and clover this year have been insufficient to compensate for sharply decreased production and value of these crops is down nearly \$25,000,000. Gross values of buckwheat, mixed grains, field roots, and grain hay are also lower. Reflecting higher prices, the farm value of the 1949 alfalfa crop is slightly in excess of that of 1948, while the value of fodder corn is up \$6,000,000 -- due to increases in both price and production. The sugar beet prices shown for 1949 indicate initial payments only (except for Ontario where an estimate of total price and value has been made) and significant upward revisions in the value of this crop will be required as soon as the extent of the final payments becomes known.

and Provincial Governments. It culminated on December 14 with the completion of a three week tour by Trade Fair executives to finalize preliminary plans with provincial organizers from Newfoundland to British Columbia.

A fairly uniform pattern of operations developed from these meetings. Representative space will be provided at the Trade Fair for each of the provincial governments and a number of composite exhibits of regional products are planned on a co-operative basis in addition to the separate displays of individual producers. Combined exhibits by Alberta food producers and packers, and composite displays of potatoes, lobsters and oysters from Prince Edward Island, are typical of the co-operative projects being planned. Provincial utilities are interested in the new opportunity offered by the acceptance, for the first time, of regional displays.

The local committees will co-ordinate planning and publicity designed to stimulate representation of both exhibitors and visitors

from their territories. Two provinces, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, are already planning special trains to carry visitors to the Trade Fair, and a substantial number of individual producers and manufacturers from each province have announced their intention of exhibiting for the first time as an immediate result of the organization meetings.

Trade Fair planners particularly welcome these developments as an assurance that the whole range of Canadian productivity will be represented in substantial variety and volume to insure favourable comparison with the sharply increased representation of overseas exhibitors which will be evident in 1950. In anticipation of much greater demand they have provided for 40% more exhibit space in 1950 than was used in 1949. However, the demand from abroad is so great that the initial allocations of space, which is already more than half gone, have been roughly 80% to overseas exhibitors and 20% to Canadian. This international representation is valuable in attracting maximum attendance of world buyers, but proportionate participation of Canadian producers is desirable to insure that Canada as a whole receives the maximum benefits from the opportunities presented.

CANADA - NETHERLANDS AGREEMENT: The Department of External Affairs announced on December 19 that effective January 1, Canadian visitors to the Netherlands who hold valid Canadian passports will not be required by the Netherlands authorities to be in possession of a visa provided they do not intend to remain in the Netherlands for more than three months.

This relaxation of the Netherlands visa requirements is the result of an agreement just concluded between Canada and the Netherlands under which Netherlands citizens coming to Canada from the Netherlands may receive from the Canadian Embassy at The Hague multi-entry visas, free of charge and valid for an unlimited number of entries to Canada during a period of one year from the date of issue of the visas.

The agreement in no way exempts Canadian and Netherlands citizens from the necessity of complying with the immigration and residence regulations of the Netherlands and Canada.

DISCUSS CANADA - U. S. CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION: The Department of External Affairs announced on December 16 that officials of the United States and Canadian Governments met in Washington on Thursday, December 15, to review immigration and customs procedures affecting travel between Canada and the United States. In these talks, it was recognized that only a very small proportion of individual border crossings, which number many millions annually from each side, give rise to any difficulties. The causes of possible and existing difficul-

ties were examined in a frank, friendly and co-operative spirit within the framework of the laws and regulations of both countries. The meeting explored the possibilities of the improvement of administrative practices which might serve to facilitate border crossings and thus maintain, to the fullest extent, the traditional freedom of the international boundary.

Good progress was made in these discussions, and it is hoped that, as a result, difficulties in individual cases will in future be reduced to a minimum.

On the United States side, officials from the State Department, Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Bureau of Customs participated, and on the Canadian side, the Canadian Embassy in Washington, the Department of External Affairs and the Immigration Service in Ottawa were represented.

OCCUPATIONAL PUBLICATIONS: The Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, announced on December 16 the distribution of three new occupational publications dealing with skilled construction trades.

The crafts covered in the monographs and in the simplified pamphlet version are those of the Bricklayer and Stone-Mason, the Plasterer, and the Painter.

Mr. Mitchell expressed himself as gratified by the excellent reaction to the publication of the first numbers in this series. The Department had received so many requests for these publications, from all strata of Canadian economic life, that a considerable increase in the number printed has been necessary. Though this had caused some delay in distribution, it has provided ample evidence that the demand for information on occupations was even greater than had been estimated. Both English and French editions had been much in request, the Minister said.

The Minister expressed his appreciation of the ready co-operation received from officers of the craft unions, and from the Canadian Construction Association, in reviewing manuscripts and contributing constructive suggestions.

The wide distribution of the monographs and pamphlets, especially to schools through the provincial Departments of Education, was expected to result in an increased interest among Canadian lads in the prospect of training for a life's work in the highly-respected skilled construction trades.

Three further numbers in this series are to be released shortly.

BOND SALES NEARLY \$300,000,000: Sales of Fourth Series Canada Savings Bonds totalled nearly \$290 million at November 30, it was announced on December 15 by the Bank of Canada. More than 631,000 purchasers invested \$140,-