

WORLD CENSUS: The Population Commission, a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, held its 9th session in New York from February 25 to March 8, 1957.

Canada, which commenced a third term on the Commission on January 1, 1957, was represented by a delegation composed as follows: Delegate: Mr. J.T. Marshall, Assistant Dominion Statistician, and at present Chairman of the Population Commission, Alternate Delegate: Dr. O.A. Lemieux, Director, Census Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Adviser: Mr. A.B. McMorran, Director, Special Surveys Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Among the main items on the agenda was the 1960-61 world population census programme, in which Canada is actively interested.

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NORTHERN SOILS: Exploratory soil surveys in the Yukon and Northwest Territories have been conducted intermittently by the Canada Department of Agriculture since 1943. The object has been to ascertain what kinds of soil occur in the north, their suitability for agriculture and the delineation of areas which merited further investigation. Some of the more promising areas have been surveyed on a broad reconnaissance basis, reports John Day, Soils and Agricultural Engineering division, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

The kinds of soil occurring in the north belong to many soil groups, and generally soil development is in the earlier stages because the soil parent materials are young and the cool dry summer climate retards the rate of development. The alluvial, brown wooded, brown podzolic, gray wooded, tundra, organic and meadow groups are represented. Permafrost prevails in soils where the mean annual temperature is lower than 23 degrees F. Only a small percentage of northern Canada has been visited by soil surveyors, and of course, a large part (mainly the Canadian Shield and Tundra regions) may never be surveyed. The most promising areas appear to be the larger valleys of the southern Yukon, the Slave and Liard river valleys and the southern portion of the Mackenzie river valley. Agricultural development is limited mostly to gardening. Market garden crops are successfully grown in many locations and are an important item in the local economy. Most of these crops are grown on the alluvial and brown wooded soils.

Transportation is the greatest obstacle to the exploratory soil survey programme. Roads serve some of the more promising areas in the Yukon, but in the Northwest Territories, roads are virtually absent and the rivers and streams are the only routes of surveying. The Soil Survey Section of the Alberta Research Council has embarked on a huge programme of exploratory surveying and use of the helicopter has greatly accelerated the field work at a cost, on the acre basis, less than that incurred by methods of travel usually employed.

ADVANCES REPAID: All advances made by Northern Ontario Pipe Line Crown Corporation to Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited to finance the construction of the western section of the all-Canadian natural gas pipe line have been repaid, the Right Hon. C.D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce has announced.

In making this statement, Mr. Howe pointed out that, although under provisions of the Northern Ontario Pipe Line Crown Corporation Act the Corporation had been authorized to make loans to Trans-Canada of 90 per cent of the cost of construction of the western section, or \$80,000,000, whichever is the lesser, the actual advances made pursuant to the Indenture of Mortgage dated June 7, 1956, amount to \$49,750,000. The amount repaid to the Corporation is \$50,716,603.03, made up as follows:

Advances	\$49,750,000.00
Interest at 5 per cent on advances	880,071.40
Costs of the Crown Corporation relating to the advances	86,531.63
Total	\$50,716,603.03

The Northern Ontario Pipe Line Crown Corporation, in addition to administering the loan to Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited to finance the western section, is responsible for the construction of the Northern Ontario section of the pipe line, which will extend approximately 675 miles from the Manitoba-Ontario border to the vicinity of Kapuskasing.

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SEED POTATOES: Canada has been supplying fairly large quantities of certified seed potatoes to Jamaica for the past 20 years. In 1955-56 almost 40,000 bushels were supplied mostly of the Sebago variety. The Jamaican Government supplies certified seed to their growers at a nominal price and in order to prevent such subsidized potatoes from being used as table stock, all seed potatoes must be suitably marked. The marking is done by applying a blue vegetable dye to the tubers when they are being packed. All shipments to Jamaica are packed in crates containing 110 pounds.

As an indication of the high quality of Canadian seed in use in Jamaica, Foreign Trade, a publication of the Department of Trade and Commerce reported in the December 8, 1956 issue that the Sebago seed gave an average yield of at least 9 to 1. Prior to the introduction of Canadian Sebago seed the yield varied around 6 to 1.

Plans are being made to import 13,000 cases of Sebago seed from Canada next year and 3,000 cases of Arran Consul from Scotland. Because the local crop does not meet the Islands total requirements, 1,200 tons of table potatoes will be allowed in from all countries when domestic stocks are used up in November.

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