

1949 FARM CASH INCOME \$1,794,200,000

2.6 PER CENT OVER 1948: Canadian farmers received \$1,794,200,000 from the sale of farm products during the first nine months of this year, according to preliminary estimates by the Bureau of Statistics. This was 2.6 per cent over the 1948 figure of \$1,749,200,000 for the same period and an increase of 40.9 per cent over the \$1,273,600,000 realized in the first nine months of 1947.

Cash income in the third quarter of this year was \$730,155,000, down \$97,600,000 from the same period of 1948. In the first quarter the total was up to \$412,634,000 from \$380,006,000 a year earlier, and in the second quarter to \$651,434,000 from \$541,345,000.

In addition to the receipts in the first nine months of this year, supplementary payments amounting to \$9,000,000 were paid out under the provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, to farmers in the drought-stricken areas of the Prairie Provinces. This figure compares with more than \$10,000,000 and nearly \$16,000,000 paid out during the respective periods of 1947 and 1948.

The maintenance of farm cash income at a level above that of a year ago is largely attributable to increased Canadian Wheat Board payments and the fairly substantial gains in the returns realized from the sales of wheat, coarse grains, tobacco, cattle and calves. The Canadian Wheat Board disbursement of approx-

imately \$218,000,000 was, for the most part, in the form of equalization payments made on wheat delivered by Western farmers during the period August 1, 1945 to March 31, 1949. Increased income from wheat sales resulted from higher prices together with increased marketings. In the case of oats and barley, the increase came as a result of increased marketings more than offsetting a decline in prices.

Cash income from the sales of grains, seeds and hay in the first nine months of this year totalled \$668,086,000 as compared with \$586,413,000 in the corresponding period last year. Income from the sales of livestock, at \$532,700,000 was slightly above last year's total of \$525,189,000, the greatest gain occurring in cattle and calves. A decline in the marketings of hogs during the same period more than offset an increase in prices to lower income from this source 6.3 per cent.

Income from the sales of dairy products during the nine-month period was approximately \$277,000,000 as compared with \$308,000,000 in the same period of 1948. A drop of 8.2 per cent in cash returns from the sale of eggs to the end of September is largely due to a decline in marketings. Income from the sale of vegetables and other field crops was down slightly at \$110,523,000 compared with \$111,573,000.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY RECORD: The estimated value of work performed by the Canadian construction industry reached an all-time record total of \$1,665,561,000 in 1948, fully one-third higher than the previous record of \$1,256,536,000 established in 1947, and about double the 1946 value. There were gains in the value of work in all provinces, increases ranging from a low of 25 per cent in Quebec to a high of 43 per cent in the Prairie Provinces.

In addition to work by the construction industry, railway and telegraph companies carried out work with their own staffs to the value of \$414,934,000 in 1948. With this addition the total value of construction work during the year exceeded \$2,000,000,000.

The value of new construction by the industry in 1948 was \$1,384,000,000, up 38 per cent over the 1947 total of \$1,002,000,000, while additions, alterations and repairs were valued at \$282,000,000, showing a smaller increase of 11 per cent over the 1947 figure of \$255,000,000.

Building construction, accounting for 65 per cent of the total, was valued at \$1,088,000,000, up 30 per cent over the 1947 figure of \$839,000,000, while engineering work was valued at \$577,573,000 compared with \$417,665,000, up 38 per cent. The cost of materials

amounted to \$835,917,000 as compared with \$654,996,000, and salaries and wages totalled \$605,496,000 compared with \$482,907,000. The cost of materials in 1948 was equal to approximately 50 per cent of the total value of work performed and salaries and wages to somewhat over 36 per cent.

The value of residential construction work in 1948 reached the high total of \$255,756,000 as compared with \$233,304,000 in the preceding year. Institutional building had a value of \$121,421,000 compared with \$73,362,000; commercial building, \$166,073,000 compared with \$151,130,000; industrial building, \$242,832,000 compared with \$193,053,000; and other building, \$39,540,000 compared with \$7,534,000. The value of work by building trades was up to \$262,366,000 from \$180,488,000.

RCAF APPOINTMENT: Air Commodore F.G. Wait, CBE, commander of the RCAF's Maritime Group Headquarters at Halifax for the last two years, has arrived in Ottawa to take over his new duties as Deputy Air Member for Personnel, it has been announced by Air Force Headquarters. He replaces Air Commodore D.E. MacKell, who proceeds on retirement early in January.