

Agricultural forecast

Realized net farm income in Canada is expected to be \$3.3 billion for 1977, an 11 per cent drop from the 1976 figure. A further decline to \$3.1 billion is forecast for 1978.

Statistics Canada forecasts that national farm cash receipts for 1977 will be slightly lower than those of 1976 at \$9.96 billion. Total operating expenses and depreciation charges are expected to reach a new record of \$7.8 billion. Although farm cash receipts will probably improve in 1978, farm costs will also rise, resulting in a lower realized net farm income for the third consecutive year.

Agriculture Canada economists say there could be some improvement in prices for top grade bread wheat during the coming months, but there will probably be pressure on prices for lower grades. Both world stocks and Canadian supplies should be lower to start the new crop year. Wheat prices in 1978-79 are expected to be a little higher, but not substantially above current levels. World feed grain prices will probably be lower on average in 1977-78 than they were last

year, but there could be slight price improvement through the winter months.

World oilseed prices may stay at their current depressed levels for the remainder of the 1977-78 crop year and Canadian rapeseed prices might decline below \$240 per tonne. Some increase in Canadian wheat plantings this spring appears likely and the oilseed-cereal price ratio will keep oilseed crops relatively attractive this year.

Recovery in the beef industry appears to be under way and should continue through 1978. Fed-cattle slaughter may be down by as much as 5 per cent this year and prices should be above the 1977 levels. Hog slaughter in 1978 is expected to be 10 per cent or more above last year's level. Pork prices will drop, owing to the higher supply, but this trend will be partly offset by the lower level of beef supplies.

Fluid milk sales could rise by 1 or 2 per cent this year, but the market for industrial milk and cream could be smaller than in 1977. Increases are expected in cheddar cheese, yoghurt, ice cream, cottage cheese and other cheese production. However, less butter will be needed in 1978.

UIC and industry co-operate

Employment and Immigration Minister Bud Cullen recently announced the signing of two agreements under the work-sharing provisions of unemployment insurance legislation passed last autumn by Parliament.

Employees of Atlantic Sleep Products Ltd. of Scoudouc and Moncton, New Brunswick and of the Brampton and Hawkesbury, Ontario plants of IKO Industries Ltd., have agreed with their employers to work for less than the normal work week and to accept a portion of their lost wages from the Unemployment Insurance Commission. Both firms will now be able to avoid having to "lay off" workers during a temporary period of reduced production.

The agreements with Atlantic Sleep and IKO Industries, representing 90 and 250 workers, are the second and third pilot projects signed under the work-sharing provisions of the unemployment insurance legislation. An agreement with Brunswick Mining and Smelting, of Bathurst, New Brunswick, was signed in early December.

Ottawa nun candidate for sainthood

Mother Elisabeth Bruyere, mother general of the Grey Nuns of Ottawa for 31 years and founder of the Ottawa General and St. Vincent hospitals, has been named a



Mother Elisabeth Bruyere

candidate for canonization.

Mother Bruyere's charitable work began in 1845 when, at the age of 27, she opened a five-bed hospital. Two years later, in preparation for a typhus epidemic, she used her own money to open a second hospital. Of the 619 patients treated during the next year, only 167 died.

Before she died in 1876 Mother Bruyere helped establish a boarding school that eventually became the Rideau Street Convent, an orphanage and a home for the elderly.

Hundreds of documents and letters attesting to Mother Bruyere's saintliness have been forwarded to the Vatican for consideration. Rev. Angelo Mitri of Rome will present her case to the Pope, who will decide if a full investigation into her candidacy is warranted.

Bone disease — new simple test

There was a time when nothing could be done for a person suffering from kidney failure. Now, thanks to hemodialysis, victims of chronic kidney disease can lead relatively normal lives. By mechanically removing poisonous substances, dialysis performs the most important task of the non-functioning kidney. However, there are other lesser problems associated with kidney failure which dialysis cannot correct. One of these is the potential for the development of bone disease.

Doctors have long recognized that there is a link between renal (kidney) failure and bone disease. Though it is not a major consideration in the early stages of the disease, it can eventually become a serious problem. Bones are more easily broken, calcium can be deposited in abnormal places and some patients develop extremely unpleasant bone pain. It is important, therefore, that doctors can monitor the state of the bones of their patients to catch and treat any abnormalities at an early stage.

Because of the work of two McGill University researchers, Dr. Michael Kaye and Dr. Leonard Rosenthal, a relatively simple diagnostic test for metabolic bone disease now exists. Dr. Kaye is director of the Division of Nephrology at the Montreal General Hospital (MGH) and Dr. Rosenthal is the director of the MGH's Division of Nuclear Medicine. For the past four years, they have been working

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