

to unite into one great country with a common citizenship for its people who will in the strength of unity stand together and face the future with confidence. The occasion is one of particular significance because of the failure of efforts to bring about union on former occasions with the result that Newfoundland stood alone on the eastern seaboard of a great country which expanded and grew in size and importance. This occasion marks a necessary and important step towards the final realization of the vision of the Fathers of Confederation, who saw a great new nation standing astride the northern half of the continent. With approval by your Parliament and the Government of Newfoundland and confirmation by the Government of the United Kingdom, this vision will be fully realized on March 31, next...."

IMPORT CONTROLS: Following the announcement of the completion of negotiations with the Delegates from Newfoundland and the setting of March 31, 1949, as the probable date of union of Newfoundland with Canada, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, issued a statement on the application of the Government's emergency exchange conservation measures to imports into Newfoundland should it become a province of Canada.

On and after March 31, the Minister explained, the emergency import controls will apply to the new province in the same way as to the rest of Canada. In other words, goods which are prohibited, or which may be imported under a quota system into the other provinces of Canada, will be restricted entry into Newfoundland in the same manner.

He went on to say that when the emergency import controls became effective in Canada in November, 1947, provision was made to permit the entry of prohibited and quota goods which were in actual transit to Canada prior to the date the import regulations were announced. The same provision was made in respect of goods not entered for consumption, held in bonded warehouse. The Minister explained that since the date of union is more than three months away, importers should have ample time to clear through Newfoundland Customs any "in transit" shipments, or any goods which are in bonded warehouse in that country. Such controlled goods which have not been cleared prior to March 31, 1949, will be subject to the emergency import control regulations.

Mr. Abbott also announced that the Government proposes to take steps to prevent the shipment of prohibited or quota goods of foreign origin from Newfoundland to the other provinces of Canada after the date of Confederation. If such steps were not taken, it would be possible for importers to defeat the exchange conservation measures by creating stocks of prohibited and quota goods in Newfoundland prior to union, for shipment to Canada after March 31, 1949. If such shipments

were permitted, unfair advantage would be gained by those who attempted to get around the import controls in this manner.

On the other hand, the Canadian Government has given assurances that in formulating its policy with respect to imports, the same careful consideration will be given to the essential requirements of Newfoundland consumers as to those of consumers in the rest of Canada.

SOLDIERS' CHRISTMAS: Members of the Canadian Army will get an extra long week-end at either Christmas or New Year's; authorities said this week.

Most military establishments will function with reduced staffs from December 24 to 27, and December 31 to January 3.

As in the past, soldiers are being granted their choice of Christmas or New Year's off, plus two working days. In the majority of camps choice of Christmas leave will go to married men with families. Those who have a considerable distance to travel in order to be home for the holiday season may also take one or more days annual leave but must arrange the dates so that the period they are absent from their station does not cover both statutory holidays.

At Ottawa, Army Headquarters will close at noon Friday, December 24, and again at noon New Year's Eve.

CHAMPION TRUCK DRIVER: Cpl. R.D. Pettinger, Courtland, Ont., today has a \$300 nest-egg with which to do his Christmas shopping, thanks to his ability to drive a truck a little better than anyone else in the Armed Forces.

The \$300 represents first-prize money in the Services' Division of the second annual Canadian Truck Rodeo Championships held earlier this week at Toronto.

Pettinger, a member of 23 Transport Company, RCASC, Camp Borden, Ont., nosed out LAC L.N. Bishop, RCAF, Barrie, Ont., to win the championship. Servicemen from all parts of Canada, from Whitehorse, Y.T. to Halifax, N.S. competed.

FARM PRICES DOWN: October witnessed, for the second successive month, a downward movement of the index of farm prices of agricultural products. Lower prices for livestock and potatoes more than offset gains registered for dairy products, poultry and eggs, to account for a two point drop to a figure of 251.1. The first significant decline in nearly two years occurred in September of this year when the index eased from a high of 255.8 to 253.1. While the October figure is below that of the preceding month, it is substantially above the 208.6 established in the same month a year ago.

VALUE OF 1948 FIELD CROPS AT ALL-TIME PEAK

ESTIMATE IS \$1,595,000 000: Gross value of principal field crops produced on Canadian farms in 1948 is estimated by the Bureau of Statistics at \$1,595 million. This is the highest gross value in a record extending back 41 years. The Bureau's estimate is based on average prices received by farmers from August 1, beginning of the crop year, to the end of November only.

Only once, in 1919, has the \$1,500 million level been previously exceeded, and only twice, in 1940 and 1947, have field crop values been in excess of \$1,400 million. High prices were largely responsible for the enhanced values of production in each of these years.

This year's wheat crop is valued at \$550.4 million, an increase of \$95 million over last year's level. While the average price of 1948 wheat is five cents per bushel more than in 1947, most of the increased value accrues from the additional 56.6 million bushels of wheat produced this year. The total value of the oat crop, despite a lower average price, is also up nearly \$37 million.

SOME PRICES LOWER

With barley production only moderately above 1947 levels and a lower average price ruling during the first four months of the crop year, the total value of this crop is down about \$2 million as between the two years. The production of rye was nearly doubled in 1948, but the price drop has been so pronounced as to cut the value of this crop by over \$8 million from the 1947 figure. There is a somewhat parallel situation with potatoes and dry beans, increased production being more than offset by lower prices; the value of the potato crop declining nearly \$16 million and that of beans nearly \$1 million.

Production declines coupled with relatively small changes in average prices have resulted in somewhat lowered values this year for the dry pea, buckwheat and hay and clover crops. The sugar beet prices used for 1948 are initial payments only, and upward revisions will be required in the value of this crop as soon as the extent of the final payment is known in each of the four provinces concerned.

Estimated values of the 1948 field crops, with revised figures for 1947 in brackets (thousands omitted): wheat, \$550,427 (\$455,436); oats, \$251,975 (\$215,072); barley, \$144,648 (\$146,553); rye, \$35,114 (\$43,517); dry peas, \$4,283 (\$5,138); dry beans, \$6,874 (\$7,721); soybeans, \$3,955 (\$3,397); buckwheat, \$4,904 (\$6,075); mixed grain, \$60,081 (\$32,365); flaxseed, \$66,358 (\$64,135); shelled corn, \$17,218 (\$12,506); potatoes, \$83,881 (\$99,362); turnips, mangels, etc., \$20,521 (\$19,392); hay and clover, \$248,249 (\$251,154); alfalfa, \$50,910 (\$38,965); fodder corn, \$29,334 (\$19,654); grain hay, \$10,080 (\$9,264); sugar

beets, \$6,085 (\$3,684).

Increases in gross value of production over 1947 levels have occurred in all provinces except New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island where the drop in potato prices seriously affected total value of production, particularly in the former province. The greatest percentage increases in value of production took place in Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec in that order, excellent 1948 grain crops being the chief factor responsible for the improved value position in these provinces. In Alberta and Saskatchewan, higher wheat crop values were nearly offset by lower prices for other major crops, with the net result that gross value of production in each province increased only one per cent over last year.

CONTRAST WITH 1930

The values of current field crop production in Canada are in strong contrast with those recorded in the 1930's when values (based on depression prices) ranged from \$432 million in 1931 to \$686 million in 1939. This year's figure is about 11 per cent above the revised gross value of production for 1947 and some 269 per cent above the low point reached in 1931. While prices of some of the major crops have been lower during the current crop year than in 1947-48, generally sharp increases in the 1948 production of most crops more than offset reduced prices, resulting in the substantial increase over 1947 in total value of production.

The following table shows a comparison of the gross value of field crop production from 1931 to date. Values for recent years have been revised to include, where applicable, the effects of participation payments for wheat and equalization and adjustment payments for oats, barley and flax. Upward revisions will subsequently be required to allow for additional participation payments which will accrue to the 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948 wheat crop from the five-year pool now in operation. The 20 cents per bushel payment made in 1948 covering 1945, 1946 and 1947 wheat marketings has been taken into account.

Gross Value of Field Crop Production 1931-1948

| Thousand Dollars | | Thousand Dollars | |
|------------------|---------|------------------|-----------|
| 1931 | 432,199 | 1940 | 704,299 |
| 1932 | 452,527 | 1941 | 704,761 |
| 1933 | 453,598 | 1942 | 1,221,942 |
| 1934 | 549,080 | 1943 | 1,189,229 |
| 1935 | 511,873 | 1944 | 1,386,892 |
| 1936 | 612,300 | 1945 | 1,209,918 |
| 1937 | 556,222 | 1946 | 1,345,199 |
| 1938 | 550,069 | 1947 | 1,438,660 |
| 1939 | 685,839 | 1948 | 1,594,897 |