

HALF YEAR'S FARM CASH INCOME \$870,516,000

SUBSTANTIAL DECLINE: Cash income of Canadian farmers from the sale of farm products during the first six months of this year -- excluding Newfoundland -- was estimated at \$870,516,000, according to the Bureau of Statistics. This was 18.6 per cent below the half-year estimate of \$1,069,405,000 in 1949, and 5.9 per cent lower than the revised figure of \$925,008,000 for the first six months of 1948.

In addition to the above receipts, supplementary payments amounting to more than \$13,000,000 were paid out during the first six months of the year 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 \$9,000,000 and \$15,000,000 paid out during the respective periods of 1949 and 1948.

The substantial decline in farm cash income in 1950 is largely attributable to the fact that while \$213,300,000 were paid out to Prairie farmers in the form of participation and equalization payments during the first half of 1949, only \$6,300,000 were disbursed during the January-June period of this year. The payments in 1949 and 1950 were for the most part, in the form of equalization payments made on wheat received by western farmers during the period August 1, 1945 to March 31, 1949 and came as a result of a government announcement early in 1949 that the initial payment to western producers for wheat at the Lakehead would be raised 20 cents per bushel and made retroactive to August 1, 1945.

Cash income from the sale of wheat in 1950

was up as a result of both higher initial prices and increased marketings. On the other hand, reduced marketings and the receipt of initial prices only during the first half of this year have resulted in a coarse grains income below that of the same period a year ago.

Higher average prices for all livestock except hogs and increased marketings of all classes except sheep and lambs during the first half of this year have produced a cash income from this source of \$389,400,000, an increase of 10.4 per cent over the 1949 figure of \$352,800,000. This gain is due largely to an increase of approximately \$35,000,000 from the sale of cattle and calves.

Income from the sale of dairy products, estimated at \$153,700,000, was seven per cent below the corresponding 1949 figure of \$165,200,000. A decline of 13 per cent in the cash income from the sale of eggs to the end of June resulted from reduced prices more than offsetting an increase in marketings.

The reduction in the amount of money paid to Prairie farmers in the form of participation and equalization payments is reflected in the sharp drop in farm cash income received in this area. In the case of Saskatchewan, this drop in income amounted to nearly 50 per cent, while in Manitoba and Alberta it came to approximately 44 and 33 per cent, respectively. In the other provinces, the changes were much less significant, varying from almost no change in Nova Scotia to an increase of eight per cent in Prince Edward Island.

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COMPOSITION OF ARMY SPECIAL FORCE: Enlistments in the Canadian Army Special Force have passed the 9,000 mark, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, stated on September 18. The figure does not include Active Force personnel already assigned or yet to be assigned to the new brigade, expected to total about 1,000.

Officer strength is now 235 with a healthy backlog of applications in process, but there is still a requirement for more junior officers.

Composition of the Special Force at the end of August, when its strength stood at 8,372, revealed some interesting statistics. Veterans of the Second World War made up 45% of the force, or a total of 3,813, and 20% of them (768) served as non-commissioned officers in that conflict. Seven hundred and twenty-eight have some trades qualifications. Married men numbered 2,630, or about 30% of the total strength.

Mr. Claxton also reported a steady increase in the strength of the Army's Active Force with over 1,800 new enlistments since the recruiting drive was launched July 20. Navy

and Air Force figures tabulated to September 9 show that since July 20 the Navy attested 542 new recruits and the RCAF enlisted 698 -- 327 for air crew and 371 for ground crew.

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CANAL TRAFFIC SETS RECORD FOR JULY: Tonnage of freight passing through Canadian canal systems during July attained a new record total for the month at 3,628,783 tons, an advance of 573,822 tons or 18.8 per cent over the 3,054,961 tons for July last year, and compares with the previous high of 3,436,263 tons in 1943. Soft coal, corn, and petroleum led the advance in volume.

Total tonnage locked through the Sault Ste. Marie canals -- Canadian and United States locks -- was 16,196,586 tons in July, up 611,265 tons or nearly four per cent over July last year. Welland Ship canal freight traffic amounted to 1,850,703 tons, a gain of 197,109 tons or nearly 12 per cent over a year earlier. Greatly augmented traffic was reported on the St. Lawrence canals during July, with 1,428,693 tons of freight as against 955,246 tons in July, 1949, an increase of 49.6 per cent.