

Oil Bearing Seeds

An agreement has been reached between the Canadian wheat board and the Belgian ministry of economic affairs covering the purchase of 200,000 tons of wheat, or 7,000,000 bushels. This contract was subject to certain financial arrangements which are now completed and a first token payment has been effected. This tonnage will be made available upon demand by the Belgian government, which request will be put forward as soon as part or the whole of Belgium is liberated. The first shipment of 50,000 tons will be made within ten days of this demand, the remaining 150,000 tons to be shipped during a period of from two to three months later.

This tonnage represents, in normal times, one-seventh of all Belgian yearly requirements and one-fifth of the annual imports. At the present time it would cover the consumption in bread for two and a half months for the whole of Belgium.

I think I should supplement this announcement by mentioning that this agreement for the sale of 7,000,000 bushels of Winnipeg December wheat futures was entered into last December, but there were certain financial details which could not then be finally arranged and which rendered it impractical to make any earlier announcement. The announcement to be made from London and Ottawa simultaneously, as agreed upon, made no reference to the purchase price. I immediately cabled the Belgian authorities for permission to state the price and have just received their consent. Although negotiations for this sale were commenced last July, an agreement in substance was not reached until December, and the price agreed upon is ninety cents per bushel basis Fort William, with the buyers paying carrying charges at the rate of four-fifths of a cent per bushel per month from that December date.

OIL BEARING SEEDS**ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY IN
RELATION TO PRODUCTION**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. A. MacKINNON (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I have a further announcement to make on behalf of my colleagues the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner), and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilesley), and in so far as my own department is concerned, as to government policy relating to the production of oil bearing seeds.

Members of the house will recall that on January 29 last I announced that the fixed price for No. 1 C.W. flaxseed, basis in store, Fort William-Port Arthur, would be continued at \$2.25 per bushel for the 1943-44

[Mr. J. A. MacKinnon.]

crop year. I wish at this time to state that the fixed price of soybeans in effect for the present crop year will be continued through the 1943-44 crop season at \$1.95 per bushel, basis No. 2 yellow, delivered at Toronto.

The Department of Agriculture on the advice of the oils and fats administrator of the wartime prices and trade board is most anxious that the production of sunflower seed and rape seed be stimulated within Canada. Excellent edible oil, of which we need all we can get, is obtainable from the sunflower seed, and in addition the by-product cake provides a very good stock food of particularly high protein content. Rape seed oil is used as a marine engine lubricant for which there is no satisfactory substitute. It is also valuable as an edible oil, and the by-product likewise provides a high protein food.

For the purpose of encouraging the production of both sunflower seed and rape seed, the government is arranging through the Canadian wheat board to pay 5 cents per pound for sunflower seed and 6 cents per pound for rape seed, in reasonably clean condition, moisture content not exceeding limits to be determined and announced by the board, delivered f.o.b. shipping points named by the board and in accordance with such instructions as are issued by the board. The Canadian wheat board will be empowered to establish discounts for sunflower seed and rape seed which fails to meet the standards of quality I have just mentioned.

Arrangements are being undertaken by the seeds administrator of the agricultural supplies board for as wide a distribution as possible of available seed supplies. Because of the need for encouraging the wartime production of sunflower seed and rape seed over wide areas of the country where such crops are not usually grown, it has been decided to fix the prices on the basis of local shipping points in order that the full prices will be available to the growers.

Mr. T. C. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): With regard to the minister's statement as to the desirability of having farmers produce sunflower and rape seed, I regret that it has been made so late, although some may still be interested. Are any steps being taken by the government to make this type of seed available to farmers? Are any facilities being set up through which they can get it?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): If the hon. member will read the last paragraph of my statement in connection with sunflower and rape seed he will find therein the arrangements provided.