

The long-time average yield is 16.0 bushels per acre while a revised estimate places last year's wheat yield at 17.5 bushels per acre. Oat production for this year is estimated at 288.2 million, barley at 151.2 million, rye at 14.2 million and flaxseed at 11.8 million bushels. The outturn of hay and clover is now placed at 16.3 million tons, with alfalfa at 2.4 million tons. These production estimates are based on yield data supplied by crop correspondents in late August and early September, together with the acreages compiled from the June survey.

The second estimates of production of grain crops are in general slightly lower than the first estimates released on August 13, although greater outturns are now indicated for flaxseed, hay and clover. The wheat estimate has declined approximately 6.6 million bushels, due chiefly to the disappointing threshing returns in Manitoba, where the effects of hail, flooding and unfavourable weather have apparently been underestimated in earlier reports. Late rains are largely responsible for the improvement in the flaxseed estimate.

## TRADE MISSION TO S. AFRICA

**WELCOME AT LEOPOLDVILLE:** Elaborate arrangements have been completed for an official welcome to the Canadian Trade Mission to South Africa when it reaches Leopoldville in the Belgian Congo September 17, on the first leg of its six week tour of African and Mediterranean countries.

Headed by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. MacKinnon the party of Canadian industrialists and government trade officials left New York September 15. The three day visit at Leopoldville will be occupied in discussions with government officials and business men of the Belgian Congo and French Equatorial Africa with which Canada established substantial export connections during the war years.

A special radio programme in which the Minister will take part at Leopoldville on September 19 will be beamed to Canada direct by short-wave on 9.745 megacycles (30.78 metres) at 11 p.m. Greenwich Mean Time. This broadcast will be in French, but an English version will be rebroadcast three hours later on the same wave length at 2 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time. It is expected that arrangements will be made to re-broadcast it later in Canada on Standard wave-bands.

The Mission will leave Leopoldville for Johannesburg on September 20 to commence a three week tour of South Africa, after which it will proceed to Southern Rhodesia, Egypt, Greece, Italy and Portugal.

Canada is vitally interested in the development of trade with South Africa. Her exports to the Union have increased from \$17,996,959 in 1939 to \$68,632,865 in 1946. Imports from South Africa, on the other hand, have risen from a value of \$3,990,881 in 1939 to a value

of \$7,891,625 in 1946. Due to major developments in the basic and secondary industries of South Africa, this market is of increasing importance to Canadian manufacturers.

The announcement of this mission recalls previous ones headed by Mr. MacKinnon to a number of Central and South American countries, when he visited the Caribbean area and Panama in 1940, South America in 1941, and again toured the Central American and some South American countries in 1946. These did much to cement relations between Canada and the Latin American countries concerned, and to furnish their respective peoples with a wider knowledge of conditions in these lands.

Canada signed a trade agreement with the Union of South Africa on August 20, 1932, which went into force on October 13th of that year. The agreement extended a list of preferences previously exchanged without formal agreement. It was made for a period of five years and thereafter until terminated on six month's notice.

## WIDE REMOVAL OF CONTROLS

**SUBSIDIES WITHDRAWN:** Effective Sept. 15, the majority of goods and services remaining under price ceiling were removed from control.

A detailed statement issued by Wartime Prices and Trade Board shows that the principal items still remaining under control are: sugar and edible molasses; meat and meat products; dried imported fruits, (currants, raisins, prunes); the more important oils and fats, both edible and inedible, except corn and olive oil; soap and soap based detergents of all kinds except, shampoos, shaving creams, dentifrices, paste hand cleaners, soft soaps, liquid soaps and dry cleaners' soaps; wheat; coarse grains, whole or ground; used bags; flaxseed; rapeseed; sunflower seed; iron and steel in primary forms; primary and secondary tin and alloys containing more than 95 per cent tin.

Sugar rationing is being continued and there are no changes in rental or eviction controls.

Services remaining under control are: the supplying of meals with sleeping accommodation for a combined charge, except on an employer employee basis and those services entering into the production of goods still under control, performed on a custom or commission basis.

The principal groups of goods being removed from control include: flour; bread; peas; beans; prepared cereal products; corn and corn products; canned goods; all cotton, jute, sisal and synthetic fibres; textiles and clothing; agricultural implements; lumber and building products; nails, wire and fencing; household heating equipment; hides and leather; wood pulp.

Prices Board controls relating to transportation, warehousing and storage rates are being withdrawn at the same time.

All subsidies on decontrolled items are being withdrawn. These include domestic subsidies on flour, and the import subsidies on cotton, hides and leather, corn and soya beans.

At the same time most of the supply and distribution orders covering the items being decontrolled are also being revoked. These include: limitations on the quantity of flour which could be supplied from any mill to the domestic market; requirement respecting price tags and labelling; the standardization of packaging; restrictions on the weight and type of book; writing and specialty papers; the canning of pork and beans; the control on the varieties, types and qualities of paper products which could be manufactured; the limitation on the varieties of bakery products and the prohibition on the sale of sliced bread.

The prohibition on the use of white sulphite bread-wraps remains in force.

The Acting Minister of Finance further announces that the government has instructed the Board to maintain a careful watch on the prices of decontrolled items and called particular attention to Section 3 (1) of the Wartime Prices and Trade Regulations which provides that "no person shall sell or offer for sale or supply any goods or services at a price which is higher than is reasonable and just" and to the fact that the Board has power to reimpose ceiling prices where it is satisfied that unreasonable and unjust price increases have occurred.

**DE-CONTROL CRITICISM:** M.J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, in a statement issued September 15, said that government action in lifting price controls on thousands of goods and services "is a fatal step toward economic chaos and inevitable depression".

The step could only have been taken "by a government which is ready to disregard to public welfare and surrender to big business, for the result is that the cost-of-living will rise immediately as much as it did during the last four years of war".

As examples, Mr. Coldwell said housewives were going to pay as much as three to five cents more a loaf for bread, more for canned goods and cereals and higher prices for clothing and shoes.

A.R. Mosher, president, Canadian Congress of Labour, described the decontrol order as a "complete disregard" of warning of Congress, labour generally and the consuming public.

"By virtually inviting price increases and allowing prices to spiral, the government is asking for trouble", he said. "In effect, workers are being invited to seek new wage increases in order to meet higher living costs."

**PRESENTS LETTER OF CREDENCE:** Mr. Villa Michel September 15 presented to His Excellency the Governor General at Government House his Letter of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary

and Plenipotentiary of Mexico, and the Letter of Recall of his predecessor, Dr. Luis I. Rodriguez. The Hon. Colin Gibson, Secretary of State of Canada, represented the Rt. Hon. L.S. St. Laurent, Secretary of State for External Affairs, at the ceremony.

Mr. Primo Villa Michel has held a number of portfolios in the Mexican Government, and has served as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Mexico in Great Britain, Holland, Uruguay, and in other countries in Europe and in the Far East. In the course of his diplomatic career, Mr. Villa Michel has been Permanent Delegate to the League of Nations at Geneva, and has represented Mexico at international conferences, including the Chapultepec Conference, the San Francisco Conference, and the Conference on Frontier Formalities at Geneva. He is a delegate of Mexico to the United Nations Assembly at New York.

Mr. Howard Measures, Chief of Protocol, Department of External Affairs, presented Mr. Villa Michel to the Governor General. Mr. Guy V. Beaudry, Assistant Protocol Officer, was present.

The Ambassador was accompanied by the following members of the staff of his embassy: Mr. Francisco Vazquez, Counsellor; Mr. Rodriguez de San Miguel, Third Secretary; Colonel Alfonso Gurza, Military Attaché; and Captain Alvaro Sandoval, Naval Attaché.

**DEFENCE COLLEGE APPOINTMENT:** RCAF Headquarters announce the appointment of Group Captain W.R. MacBrien, OBE, as RCAF member of the directing staff of the National Defence College, Kingston, Ont. Prior to his appointment G/C MacBrien was with the Canadian Joint Staff, Washington, D.C. as Assistant Air Attaché.

**AUSTRALIAN BRIGADIER'S VISIT:** Brigadier H.G. Edgar, Inspector-General of Munitions in the Master-General of Ordnance Branch, Australian Army, has arrived in Ottawa and is making an informal inspection of Canadian technical and development establishments.

Brig. Edgar is particularly interested in arctic clothing, equipment and vehicles of the Canadian Army. He will leave Ottawa tomorrow for Washington, where he will spend a few days before returning to Australia.

**MUSTARD GAS DUMPED:** Between 550 and 600 tons of mustard gas and other chemical warfare ammunition will be disposed of in a large scale dumping project to be completed before the end of September.

A special train, complete with military guard, has been provided to transport the supplies from a location in central Canada to Esquimalt, B.C., which is to serve as a base for the dumping operation. There, it will be loaded aboard a 300 ton dump scow and towed to a point 100 miles from shore by an RCN tug and consigned to Davy Jones' locker.