

**LABRADOR LANDING EXERCISE:** Four major ships of the United States Naval Task Group that conducted a successful amphibious landing exercise on the coast of Labrador in co-operation with the Canadian Government for training purposes arrived in New York City on November 8. The announcement was made on November 17 simultaneously in Ottawa and Washington.

The landing exercise, designated "Noramex" (Northern Amphibious Exercise), was held during the last ten days of October and was the first of its kind at high latitudes.

A Canadian destroyer, HMCS "Haida", participated as a unit of the support forces and Canadian Army officers were with the Task Group as observers.

Other vessels of the group have either joined the Second U.S. Task Fleet for its North Atlantic manoeuvres or have arrived in East Coast ports.

More than 2,000 marine and naval personnel made the assault landing at Cape Porcupine, Labrador, on October 21. Within six days the marine assault troops had "captured" their objective, an "enemy-held" weather reporting station and partially completed airstrip.

Although air temperatures during the landing and field operations were not extreme, winds at times were at 45 to 50-knot velocity. Specially clad underwater demolition team personnel swam ashore through the frigid water to make reconnaissance of the beach prior to the landing. Before dawn on D-Day other U.D.T. men came ashore in rubber boats from the troop-carrying submarine USS "Sea Lion" to report on beach and surf conditions.

Numerous problems of health, subsistence and lodging, logistics and operational procedures were successfully dealt with during the exercise. There were no serious cases of illness or injury during the entire 10-day period the troops were operating ashore.

Rear Admiral Lyman A. Thackrey, U.S.N., led the Task Group, which consisted of more than 40 vessels and 11,000 marine and naval personnel. Brigadier General W.J. Whaling, U.S.M.C., commanded the landing force, which comprised an infantry battalion of the 9th Marines reinforced by units of the 10th and 16th Marines.

**AIRMEN ABOARD "MAGNIFICENT":** Fourteen RCAF airmen and NCO's are getting their sea legs aboard HMCS "Magnificent", which interrupted a 21-day training cruise to West Indian waters to join in the search off Bermuda for a missing United States B-29. The airmen are guests of the Royal Canadian Navy; and the purpose of their shipboard visit is to further the understanding between the Services.

While aboard "Magnificent" the RCAF men will bunk and mess with comparable Navy ranks and will be able to observe Navy methods of aircraft handling aboard a carrier.

The aircraft carrier left Halifax November 15. She was scheduled to put in at Charleston, S.C., for a two-day visit, leaving from there

for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for a brief stay, thence going to San Juan, Puerto Rico, for three days. She is due to arrive back at Halifax December 6. "Magnificent" will be accompanied throughout the cruise by the destroyer "Haida". The frigate "Swansea" is accompanying the other two ships as far as Charleston, from where she will return to Halifax.

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING AID:** Up to the end of October, 1949, about \$11,500,000 was contributed from federal funds towards the expansion of provincial and municipal vocational training facilities since the federal-provincial Agreements covering this aid were undertaken in 1945.

This was reported by R.F. Thompson, Director of Training, federal Department of Labour, to the Canadian Vocational Training Advisory Council which ended a two-day meeting in Ottawa on November 16. The Council, made up of leading educationalists from all the Provinces of Canada, met under the chairmanship of Dr. G. Fred McNally, Chancellor of the University of Alberta, for discussions in connection with Vocational Training.

In welcoming the delegates, the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, commended the progress made in the development of additional facilities for vocational training through the co-operation of the provincial and federal authorities.

**MOTOR VEHICLE SALES:** Sales of new motor vehicles during September sustained the high rate of increase of the previous eight months this year, with gains of 43 per cent in number and 46 per cent in value. Both new passenger cars and trucks contributed to the large increases.

A total of 27,182 units were sold for \$54,899,245 in the month as compared with 19,007 vehicles sold for \$37,720,406 in September last year. Sales of new passenger cars numbered 19,502 with a retail value of \$39,795,600, an advance of 47 per cent in number and 53 per cent in value over a year earlier. New truck sales were up 36 per cent in number and 42 per cent in value, totalling 7,673 units with a value of \$15,046,441.

Aggregate sales for the first nine months of this year stood at 205,655 vehicles with a retail value of \$427,629,812, surpassing the 1948 number and value for the same period by 32 per cent and 38 per cent, respectively.

**WHOLESALE SALES:** Dollar volume of wholesale sales was two per cent higher in September than in the same month last year and five per cent in excess of August, 1949 volume, according to statements submitted by 371 wholesalers representing nine lines of trade.

### TOTAL WHEAT CROP IS 367,400,000 BUSHEL

**FIELD CROP ESTIMATES:** Canada's total wheat crop this year is now placed at 367,400,000 bushels by the Bureau of Statistics in its November estimate of the production of Canada's 1949 grain, forage and root crops. This is some 26,000,000 bushels below the 1948 crop of 393,300,000 bushels and 4,200,000 bushels under the Bureau's September estimate.

Production of coarse grains this year is down markedly from last year's levels. Oat production is estimated at 316,600,000 bushels, 42,200,000 bushels below the 1948 crop, barley at 120,400,000 bushels, down 34,600,000; and mixed grains at 55,700,000 bushels, a decrease of 6,200,000 bushels. The combined outturn of spring and fall rye is put at 10,000,000 bushels as compared with the 1948 crop of 25,000,000 bushels, while the flaxseed crop at 2,300,000 bushels is far below last year's near-record of 17,700,000 bushels. The only crops showing increases over the 1948 production are dry beans, soy beans, shelled and fodder corn, and sugar beets.

#### DECLINES IN SASKATCHEWAN

With the exception of fall wheat, flaxseed and mixed grains, the November estimates for principal grains are moderately lower than the estimates issued in September. In the case of the all wheat estimate, declines in Saskatchewan and Manitoba are partially offset by slight increases in other parts of Canada. The indicated production of mixed grains is up 4,000,000 bushels but the estimates for oats and barley are down 5,400,000 and 4,700,000, respectively, while rye is 400,000 bushels below the level indicated in September. The flaxseed estimate for all Canada remains unchanged.

In the Prairie Provinces the wheat crop is now placed at 337,000,000 bushels as compared with the unrevised estimate for 1948 of 363,000,000. The estimated average yield of wheat in the Prairie Provinces this year is 12.7 bushels per seeded acre, with Manitoba averaging 18.0, Saskatchewan 11.6 and Alberta 12.8 bushels per seeded acre. The Prairies crop contains a small proportion of fall wheat, which is grown chiefly in Alberta and is included for this estimate under the spring wheat classification. The estimated production of wheat in the remaining provinces of Canada is 30,400,000 bushels; of which 24,700,000 is Ontario fall wheat.

This year's acreage seeded to oats was up slightly but was insufficient to offset considerably reduced yields. Acreage as well as yield of the 1949 barley crop was down from last year's level. Average production of barley for the 10-year (1939-48) period was 159,100,000 bushels. Poor yields and a greatly decreased acreage together account for the sharp

drop in the rye crop. The small flaxseed crop is attributable to very sharply reduced sowings along with relatively low yields per acre.

The acreage seeded to dry peas in 1949 declined from 1948 and, with lower yields, production dropped to 900,000 bushels as compared with the 1948 crop of 1,500,000. Production of dry beans reached 1,800,000 bushels in 1949, a slightly increased acreage and higher yields being responsible for the gain over the 1948 crop which was placed at 1,600,000 bushels.

Production of soy beans in Canada this year is again at a record level with the crop estimated at 2,600,000 bushels in comparison with the 1948 production of 1,800,000. Increased acreages and higher yields are jointly responsible for the higher 1949 outturn. The 1949 production of shelled corn is placed at 13,600,000 bushels, up 1,200,000 from the 1948 crop. With the exception of 550,000 bushels in Manitoba, Ontario accounted for the entire 1949 crop of this grain.

#### 1949 POTATO CROP

Canada's 1949 potato crop is now estimated at 54,300,000 cwt., only 1,000,000 below last year's near-record production. The current estimate is up some 4,700,000 from the previous estimate made before all the late varieties had been dug. Excellent weather prevailed during October in the major potato areas and, on digging, the late tubers were found to be unusually large. In central Canada and the Maritimes the potato harvest considerably exceeds the earlier estimates, but in Manitoba and Saskatchewan outturns were below earlier indications.

Production of the major forage crops is down quite steeply from last year. The hay and clover crop is placed at 12,200,000 tons as against 16,100,000 for 1948. The alfalfa crop is estimated at 2,600,000 tons, down 406,000, while grain cut for hay in Alberta and British Columbia at 900,000 tons is well below last year's 1,200,000. Fodder corn, however, at 5,500,000 tons is up from last year's crop of 5,100,000.

Lower yields more than offset an increase in mixed grain sowings, resulting in a 1949 crop of 55,700,000 bushels as compared with last year's level of 61,900,000. The buckwheat harvest of 3,500,000 bushels, down 500,000 from 1948, reflected both reduced acreage and lower yields. A substantial increase in sugar-beet acreage occurred in 1949, and with yields holding up well, production is currently estimated at a record 855,000 tons. Production of field roots for live-stock feed, excluding the Prairie Provinces for which data are not available, is placed at 19,600,000 cwt., down 3,200,000 from 1948.