

1.36 million tons. Production in the 1955 crop year reached 1.15 million tons; in 1951 the output of flaxseed totalled only 880 thousand tons. This increase in flaxseed production in the U.S. is attributed to high support prices. At present the Commodity Credit Corporation offers flaxseed on world markets at 60 to 70 cents a bushel below the support price. This is a real threat to Canadian exports because last year production in the United States exceeded domestic consumption by about 460 thousand tons; exports have risen from 67,000 tons in 1953 to 230 thousand tons in 1954 and 291 thousand tons in 1955.

The United Kingdom, West Germany, France, Belgium and the Netherlands are the major importers of flaxseed in kind or in oil; these countries produce less than 10 per cent but use about 25 per cent of the world's flaxseed. There is some speculation about how the proposed Common Market or Free Trade Area will affect Canadian flaxseed sales in Europe. Tariff-wise, present indications are that flaxseed and rapeseed will enter the Common Market duty-free but the duty on vegetable oils may be increased.

Rapeseed production reached 153 thousand tons last year and acreage is expanding rapidly. In fact, it is 79 per cent greater this year than last. The crop is grown mainly in northwest Saskatchewan but it is rapidly catching on in neighbouring parts of Alberta and to some extent in Manitoba. Last year for the first time rapeseed production in Canada exceeded soybean output. Considered an edible oil in most countries, rapeseed is not generally accepted as such in Canada. For the present at least, Canadian producers must look to export markets to absorb their production.

France, West Germany, Japan and Italy are the main importing countries, although their purchases vary widely from year to year. For example, Japan took the bulk of Canada's 1955 crop but did not allocate any dollars for rapeseed purchases last year. Mainland China accounts for nearly two-thirds of total world production of about six million tons but is far from a consistent exporter of rapeseed. Canada and Sweden, with a comparatively small total production, are the chief exporting nations.

EDIBLE OIL SUPPLY

Soybeans are the main source of edible oil in Canada and although production has been rising, it has not gone up as rapidly as rapeseed and flaxseed. The main reason is that present varieties are adapted for growth in only a small part of Canada, chiefly in southern Ontario, although new varieties have expanded production possibilities as far north as the Red River Valley in Manitoba.

Canada exports fairly large quantities of soybean meal, oil and soybeans to the United Kingdom, but imports of these three products from the United States exceed total exports.

The comparison would be even less favourable were it not for our large exports of soybean meal.

Mainland China and the United States each produce about 11 million tons of soybeans a year and account for over 90 per cent of world production.

OTHER OILSEEDS

Production of mustardseed, a dry land crop in southern Alberta, reached 67,000 tons last year and the acreage under this crop is up 28 per cent this year. Exports go mainly to the United States and Japan. Sunflower, a promising oil crop in the 1940's, has suffered from rust and production has fallen to 7,000 tons from a former high of 23,000 tons. However, if rust-resistant varieties could be developed, sunflowerseed would no doubt become an important source of edible vegetable oil in Canada. It is interesting to note that sunflowers are the chief source of vegetable oils in the Soviet Union. Safflower, a related crop, is being grown experimentally in the West and shows promise.

IN SUMMARY

Priarie farmers have shown how quickly they can expand production of oilseed but Canada will have to find additional markets if this trend continues. Although current research on new industrial uses for vegetable oils and methods of making inedible oils edible should result in greater domestic use of Canadian-produced oilseeds, the export market will remain of prime importance. It is encouraging that world consumption of oilseeds (as is the case for the whole range of fats and oils) is keeping pace with record production and there is little to suggest that this trend will change.

THE SARDINE INDUSTRY: Charlotte County, the picturesque southwest corner of New Brunswick is noted for many things: its scenic valleys, forested hills, quaint native place-names, site of early Canadian history-making, to mention but a few. But its chief claim to fame on the fisheries scene at any rate, lies in the fact that it is the heart of the Canadian sardine industry, home of the largest sardine canning plant in the British Commonwealth, reports the Department of Fisheries in its publication "Trade News".

This fame is based on the vast schools of young herring, canned as sardines, which swarm into the Bay of Fundy waters yielding abundant silvery harvests to the local fishermen, giving employment to nearly one thousand shoreworkers, and making a valuable contribution to the province's economy and to the nation's food shelves.

Striking evidence of this fishery is seen in the many weirs, large corral-like enclosures, which dot the coastline in this area of