

cent in the pre-war years.

This is reflected in the reduced exports of fresh herring to the U.S. this year. It is still too early in the trade year for definite trends to have been established for most fishery products. Exports of frozen groundfish fillets to the U.S. remain slack: 1.3 million pounds in July of this year against 3.2 million pounds last year. Exports of fresh and frozen inland lake fish to the U.S., with the exception of ciscoes, are also somewhat less than last year. On the other hand exports of Pacific halibut to the U.S. have been nearly three times greater this year, and exports of Pacific salmon almost twice as great. Export markets for salted and canned fish (including the relief feeding programme) remained strong, at least to the end of July. The U.K. government purchase of canned British Columbia salmon from the current pack has been cut back drastically, and the important Australian market for that product has been closed because of the dollar famine.

No changes in prices to fishermen are reported from either coast, except those attributable to normal seasonal variation. The index of wholesale prices appears to have resumed its downward trend but no significant changes are reported in the retail prices as of August 1.

Only insignificant changes are reported in stocks of groundfish in cold storage at Sept. 1, as compared with the previous month. With the exception of smoked cod fillets, however, stocks are substantially below those of the same date in 1946. Stocks of halibut, herring, salmon and whitefish, on the other hand, are considerably higher than last year's. Total holdings are almost equal to last year's figure, 50.8 million pounds, compared with 49.0 million pounds.

As to catch, disposition and prices, fisheries statistics for August show little change from the general pattern set in the first half of the year.

**SEED FOR EXPORT:** With generally reduced production of the 1947 principal field crops, it is not expected that the quantities of registered and certified seed available for export will be in excess of those exported from the 1946 crop, says the Agriculture Department. Export permit applications already received for this class of seed, indicate a desire to export quantities far in excess of the surplus likely to be available.

Though a preliminary export surplus of common spring wheat has been established to permit some trading, the final quantity which will be approved for export is not likely to exceed that of last year, about 900,000 bushels. It is not yet possible to establish even a preliminary figure for the export of oats, barley, and flax seed.

**FEEDS EXPORT RESTRICTED:** On September 13 the Canadian Wheat Board instructed the grain trade that in accordance with advice from the Dominion Department of Agriculture permits to export oats or barley, whole or ground, would not be approved during the current crop year.

The Agriculture Department now announces that the same export restrictions apply to millfeeds, protein feeds of all kinds and commercial feeds.

Estimated domestic supplies of concentrate feeds are barely sufficient to support the present Canadian livestock on a productive basis. Export of livestock feeds would seriously handicap the feeding of livestock and might force considerable liquidation of farm animals, the effects of which would be widespread not only to farmers but also to consumers generally, and may affect the filling of current meat contracts with Britain, the Department said.

It would appear evident that all available supplies of feeds in Canada will be absorbed at reasonable advances over ceiling prices which were in effect until recently.

**CROP CONDITIONS:** Harvesting operations have been practically at a complete standstill in the Prairie Provinces over the past two weeks, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Before the wet weather set in harvesting in Manitoba was nearly completed, whereas in Saskatchewan about 60 per cent was finished and in Alberta, apart from the southern areas, little or no threshing has been done.

Threshing of wheat and coarse grains in Manitoba is fairly well completed with the exception of some western and northern areas of the province. Wet weather has held up operations generally and a large share of the flax crop has not yet been cut. Thresher's reports on flax already harvested indicate quite good yields and with a reasonable improvement in harvesting conditions the Manitoba flax crop should come up to expectations.

**POLISH GIRLS WELL TREATED:** The Federal Labor Department has released a report commenting favorably on the working and living conditions of the 100 Polish girls brought to St. Georges de Beauce, Que., from displaced persons camps in Europe to work in the Dionne spinning mills.

The report was prepared by Victor Podoski, former Polish minister plenipotentiary to Canada, and now an employee of the Labor Department.

"My own conviction is that the labor conditions of the Polish girls are quite satisfactory, that living conditions are very good, and that the treatment is absolutely fair and truly Christian," said Mr. Podoski, who visited St. Georges from September 11 to September 13.

"It seems to me that insofar as the rumors of 'conditions of virtual bondage' are con-

cerned, resulting in the sending of protests and delegations, the trouble arose through emotional reaction of the well-meaning (the majority) before an inquiry was made, and through malice of some (a few) whose aim it is always to create unrest and stir up trouble.

**WEEKLY SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:** The following are security price indexes of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for the week ending Sept. 18, 1947, a week and month earlier:

	Sept. 18	Sept. 11	Aug. 21
<b>INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX</b>			
(100 Common Stocks)	104.1	104.0	105.4
74 Industrials	96.9	96.7	98.8
18 Utilities	117.7	117.8	116.3
8 Banks	129.2	130.4	129.0
<b>MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX</b>			
(27 Stocks)	88.8	86.5	86.7
23 Golds	81.0	79.2	76.9
4 Base Metals	102.0	98.5	104.0

## WORLD TRADE DIFFICULTIES

**BANK OF MONTREAL SUMMARY:** The significance for Canada of the difficulties that continue to accumulate in the path of restoration of world trade is only tardily becoming generally appreciated in this country, says the Bank of Montreal's current monthly business summary. Canada's dependence on external trade is well known, as is the fact that before the war this country traditionally was able to use the foreign exchange accruing from a net excess of exports overseas to pay for a net excess of imports from the United States. At the present time Canada's exports are running at record peacetime levels and imports, in dollar value, are the highest in this nation's history. But perhaps not fully realized is the limited and temporary nature of the expedients whereby trade has been maintained and increased within a pattern of contrary balances but with the surplus from one area not applicable against the deficit with the other. On the one side, these expedients consist principally of substantial governmental loans that have enabled the United Kingdom and other European nations to acquire needed goods without immediate payment. On the other, imports from the United States are in record figures as is also the reverse visible balance of trade with that country, and it would appear that the deficit is in large part being financed by depletion of this country's reserves of U.S. funds.

A permanent and satisfactory resolution of the situation from Canada's standpoint hinges upon the recovery of the exporting capacity of overseas nations and the re-establishment of a broad area within which multilateral trade is possible. Given such conditions, countries now buying largely on credit could pay for the

greater part of their requirements from Canada in exchange that would be readily convertible into U.S. dollars or other needed currencies. Recent developments do not augur an early realization of these objectives.

On August 20 the United Kingdom announced suspension of the arrangements whereby, since the first of the year, a growing number of countries had been accorded the privilege of converting sterling into U.S. dollars in respect of current transactions. Thus in the case of more than thirty countries to which, prior to August 20, Canadian exports could be made against payment in either sterling or U.S. dollars, shipments must now be for payment in U.S. dollars only. The present situation is therefore virtually the same as had existed prior to the beginning of this year. Settlement in sterling or in Canadian or U.S. dollars is acceptable for exports to countries in the sterling area. Shipments to a few countries with which Canada has made special arrangements may be paid for either in Canadian or U.S. dollars. Exports to Newfoundland may be settled in Canadian dollars. Exports to all countries not included in the above categories must be paid for in U.S. dollars.

(The sterling area consists of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, Empire, mandated territories and protectorates (except Canada, Newfoundland, Egypt and Anglo-Egyptian Sudan) and Iraq, Transjordan, Iceland and the Faroe Islands.)

Special arrangement countries are Belgium, Luxembourg, Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi, Czechoslovakia, Egypt and Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, France and the French Empire, Netherlands and Netherlands East and West Indies, and Norway.)

**PINK SALMON EXPORT PERMITTED:** Permits for the export to any destination of pink salmon (fresh, frozen, salted or smoked) will be issued freely as from Thursday, Sept. 25, according to simultaneous announcements by the Export Permit Branch, Ottawa, and the Chief Supervisor of Fisheries, Vancouver. The run of pink salmon thus far this year ensures an adequate supply for domestic needs making possible this relaxation in export controls.

**NEW FIELD FOR WOMEN:** Canada is opening a new field of endeavour to young women who are endowed with the pioneer spirit. Nurses' companions are required for three nursing stations at Fort Chimo and Port Harrison in the Ungava region of northern Quebec, and Lake Harbour in southern Baffin Island, which have been established to provide health and educational facilities for the Eskimo.

The general welfare of these nomadic people in the Canadian north is a joint responsibility of the Department of Mines and Resources, which administers these vast areas, and the Department of National Health and Welfare, which is responsible for native health services.