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INDEX TO INSIDE PAGES

Crop Acreage Estimates	1	\$3,893,900,000 Inventories	4
Crude Oil Rise	2	More Arms for Allies	4
10 Per-Cent More Autos.....	2	Services Colleges	4
800 RCN's in Far East	2	Wholesale Prices	4
25th Brigade in Korea	2	Wheat Stocks Up	4
Student Visitors	2	To U.N. Observer Group	4
June Exports Set All-Time Record	3	Stratford Festival	5
Arctic Health Surveys	3	Need More Skilled Workers	5
Sea Harvest Lower	4	Train Polling Booth	6
Employment Peak	4	June Cheques \$11,671, 224,000	6

WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

CROP ACREAGE ESTIMATES: Preliminary estimates of the 1953 acreages of Canadian field crops and summerfallow indicate that, with the single exception of barley, reduced areas were seeded this spring to the principal grains--wheat, oats, rye, flaxseed and mixed grains. Acreages seeded last fall to winter wheat and fall rye, however, showed substantial increases over the areas seeded in the fall of 1951 and, in the case of rye, were more than sufficient to offset the decline in spring seedings of that crop. Practically all late-seeded crops show acreage increases over 1952 and in the Prairie Provinces a substantial increase in summerfallow acreage is indicated, the Bureau of Statistics reported on July 30.

The acreage seeded to spring wheat this year is currently estimated at 24.8 million acres, a decrease of about two per cent from the 1952 area of 25.3 million acres. Most of the decrease from last year occurred in the Prairie Provinces, although all other provinces except Quebec and Nova Scotia, where the crop is relatively unimportant, also registered declines. The area of winter wheat in Ontario, where most of this crop is grown, is placed at 732,000 acres, an increase of 13 per cent over the 1952 total of 650,000 acres.

Due to continuation of the downward trend in oat acreage and upward trend in barley acreage, the difference between the areas seeded to these two major coarse grains is now estimated at less than one million acres for the first time. The barley area, estimated at 8.9 million acres, represents a new peak for the second consecutive year. Barley acreage is down from the 1952 levels in all eastern provinces except Prince Edward Island, but these decreases are more than offset by increases in the four western provinces, ranging from 4 per cent in Saskatchewan to 34 per cent in British Columbia. The area seeded to oats, estimated at 9.8 million acres, is 11 per cent below last year's 11.1 million.

Decreases are also indicated for flaxseed, spring rye, mixed grains, field roots and sugar beets. The flaxseed area, estimated at slightly over 1.0 million acres, is down 14 per cent from the 1952 level of 1.2 million acres, with all flaxseed growing provinces sharing in the decrease. The drop in flaxseed acreage is particularly sharp in Ontario where the area is placed at 41,000 acres, only 55 per cent as great as in 1952.

The area seeded to spring rye, estimated at 462,000 acres, is down 7 per cent from last year's 500,000 acres.