

SPENDING FOR EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES: The federal Government of Canada is now spending, directly and indirectly, nearly \$30,000,000 a year for various educational activities, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, announced in an address to the Hamilton, Ont., Teachers' Council on February 9. He itemized the expenditures as follows:

Federal grants of \$5,100,000 a year to universities to help offset mounting administrative and teaching costs;

More than \$8,500,000 a year for the education of Indians and for grants to Indian residential schools;

Under the National Health Programme, \$3,250,000 a year for the training of needed health workers and to support health research in the universities;

Under the Vocational Training Act, the Department of Labour provides training grants of nearly \$5,000,000 a year for youth training, apprenticeship training and assistance to vocational schools;

For the Royal Military College and other educational projects for the armed services, the federal Government spends upwards of \$1,000,000 a year;

Through the National Research Council, the Atomic Energy Control Board and the Defence Research Board, about \$1,500,000 is given annually to universities for scholarships and research;

Although on nothing like the scale in the immediate post-war years, he said, substantial sums, totalling nearly \$2,000,000 a year, are still being spent on vocational and university training for veterans of the armed forces.

In addition to federal assistance for specific educational purposes, it should be remembered, Mr. Martin added, that Family Allowances, now totalling some \$350,000,000 a year, unquestionably have a marked effect in improving and equalizing educational opportunity throughout Canada.

* * * *

RECORD STORE SALES: Boosted by an all-time monthly high in December, sales of department stores passed the billion-dollar mark for the first time in the full year 1953. The month's sales were estimated at \$142,148,000, up 2% from the preceding year's December sales of \$139,417,000. This brought the year's aggregate to \$1,028,621,000, 3.3% above 1952's \$996,028,000. Inventories at the end of November were valued at \$256,519,000, exceeding by 11.6% the value of a year earlier.

* * * *

RECORD FUR GOODS: Canadian production of fur goods reached an all-time peak value of \$66,745,000 in 1952, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. This was 9% more than 1951's \$61,209,546 and slightly more than the previous record of \$66,384,085 set in 1948.

UTILIZATION OF SEAWEED: Seaweed meal seems to present possibilities as a cheap supplementary feed for farm animals and also as a combined soil conditioner and fertilizer, according to a National Research Council press release of February 10.

At the Dominion Experimental Farm at Nappan, Nova Scotia, it has been shown that kelp meal (dehydrated ground rockweed) may be incorporated up to 10 per cent in the feed of growing chickens and laying hens, says the statement. This serves as a substitute for ground oats or as an addition to a balanced ration if soy-bean meal is also added to provide sufficient protein. No adverse effect was noted on mortality, egg production, strength of shell, hatchability or body weight.

Similar experiments have been carried out on the growth and fattening of bacon hogs. Seaweed meal may form up to 6 per cent of the ration from a weight of approximately forty pounds to maturity of the animals.

The Maritime Regional Laboratory of the National Research Council has been concerned with the possibilities of the greater use of the prolific beds of seaweed around the coast of the four Maritime Provinces.

* * * *

ARCTIC STATIONS TO BE SUPPLIED BY CANADA:

Canada is assuming full responsibility for supplying its Arctic weather stations, the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier, announced in the House of Commons on February 9.

Departmental vessels will carry out this special work in addition to their regular duties in Arctic and sub-Arctic waters. The CGS "C.D. Howe" will carry out, as in previous years, medical, dental and supply work at Government outposts in the Hudson Bay and Strait, Baffin Island and lower Ellesmere Island as well as at Resolute. The "C.D. Howe" will rendezvous with the convoy in northern waters.

The Arctic weather station at Alert on the northernmost tip of Ellesmere Island will continue to be supplied by United States forces which will be servicing American establishments in Greenland.

* * * *

WHEAT SUPPLIES: Supplies of wheat remaining on or about January 1 this year in the four major exporting countries for export and carry-over at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 1,923,700,000 bushels, some 22 per cent greater than the 1,583,200,000 available a year earlier. Supplies in all four countries were larger than in the preceding year.

This year's January 1 supplies were held as follows, with last year's figures in brackets (in millions of bushels): United States, 923.2 (715.9); Canada, 696.1 (580.2); Argentina, 163.2 (154.6); and Australia, 141.2 (132.5). Estimates for both years include on-farm stocks as well as those in commercial positions.