

degree for kinds of seed for which a small surplus is known to be available. It is expected that eastern Canada will provide a market for a large part of the western Canada forage seed crop this year.

SEEDS

Planting crops is the first step in restoring the agricultural economy of a war-ravaged country. The United Nations have laid out a plan to supply seeds to countries prevented by war from producing crops and consequently seeds. Canada is an important participator in this plan.

Even the great food producing capacities of the Western Hemisphere could not support war-impooverished European states for any length of time, and even if the Americas could produce the food, it is doubtful if ships could be found to carry it to Europe. Dehydration has been one answer to the problem of shipping space. One ship can carry 10 shiploads of dehydrated cabbage; but one airplane can carry enough cabbage seed to raise 100 shiploads of cabbage.

The export market for forage crop seeds is good, and the Canadian Department of Agriculture has urged farmers to deliver their seeds to seed dealers regularly. The Canadian export seed office is purchasing alsike, red clover, alfalfa and alsike-white clover mixtures--forage crops--at prices slightly below wholesale ceilings established for such seeds. All farmers selling these seeds to dealers receive "participation certificates." Whether the seeds are then sold on the domestic or export market, the farmers receiving certificates participate in the profits from export sales. Prices received for seed exported will be materially higher than Canadian wholesale prices. In relation to wholesale prices as established, the initial price to farmers for alsike seed should average about \$10 a bushel.

Several kinds of vegetable seeds were not available in adequate supply last season. To remedy this situation the Agricultural Supplies Board arranged a production program in the spring of 1943 with the result that ample supplies of seed for virtually all varieties of beans, peas, beets, carrots, cauliflower, cucumbers, lettuce, onions, parsnips, radishes, spinach, tomatoes, swedes and mangels are expected to be available for planting this spring. It has also been possible to develop hardy, disease-free varieties which do well under Canadian climatic conditions. As well as providing for domestic requirements, shipments of vegetable seeds to the United Kingdom totalling 7,000,000 pounds were undertaken during 1943, and deliveries are in progress. Plans are being made further to expand vegetable seed production in 1944, with British Columbia an important role in this growing industry. Approximately 65% of Canadian production of vegetable and field root seeds was grown in British Columbia last season.

FERTILIZER

Potash available for fertilizer manufacture for the 1944 season will not exceed 35,000 tons, which is 80% of the quantity used last year. As a result potash is being rationed to manufacturers, who in turn are allocating potash fertilizers to their dealers and agents on the basis of 73% of potash sold in 1943. The rationing of potash will not affect the total tonnage of fertilizers, as the potash content in mixtures is being reduced by about 2%. Mixed fertilizers not containing potash will not be affected and are expected to be available in ample quantities, even if the supply of potash is exhausted before the end of the season.

LIVESTOCK

Canada has shown a steady increase in livestock production during the five years of war.

The number of hogs on Canadian farms reached a new high record at June 1, 1943, when there was almost double the number for 1939. The June 1 estimate of 8,148,000 head was more than 1,000,000 head higher than at the same date a year before.