

FARM CASH INCOME AT NEW HIGH

NINE-MONTH RECORD: During the first nine months this year Canadian farmers (excluding Newfoundland farmers) received an estimated \$1,901,500,000 from the sale of farm products and from participation payments on previous year's crops, the largest cash returns yet recorded for this period of the year, according to the Bureau's quarterly report released December 30.

The preliminary estimate for the nine months is four per cent above the corresponding 1952 figure of \$1,827,200,000 and nearly two per cent above the 1951 estimate of \$1,867,100,000. Supplementary payments made to western farmers under the provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act amounted to only \$1,100,000 in the first nine months this year as against \$10,100,000 and \$4,500,000 during the respective periods of 1951 and 1952.

WESTERN WHEAT

The maintenance of farm cash income at this record high level in the nine months this year, states the Bureau's report, can be attributed primarily to the unusually large amounts of western wheat delivered by producers during the January-September period this year at weighted average initial prices somewhat higher than a year ago. While initial prices for specific grades were unchanged from a year ago, the higher grading in 1952 resulted in a higher weighted average initial price.

Total wheat participation payments up to the end of September amounted to \$70,200,000, well above the \$51,000,000 paid during the same 1952 period. Slightly larger marketings of barley were reflected in a small increase in cash returns from this crop. Receipts from most other grain crops were down by varying amounts, but these declines were far less than the increased returns from wheat and barley. The net result was that total income from

grains, seeds and hay rose to an estimated \$713,900,000, about 16 per cent above the estimated \$614,200,000 for the first nine months last year.

Reduced receipts from other field crops such as tobacco, vegetables and potatoes provided the major offset to the total increased returns from grain crops. Of these, the greatest decline was in income from potatoes, which dropped about 56 per cent, as a result of substantially lower prices, to an estimated \$23,000,000 from nearly \$52,000,000 last year.

LIVE STOCK

Total returns from live stock and poultry are placed at \$542,600,000, about one per cent below the 1952 level. Returns from cattle and calves rose to \$250,200,000 from \$237,900,000, increased marketings more than compensating for declining prices. Poultry income was about five per cent higher at \$75,900,000. These gains were more than offset, however, by a drop in returns from sales of hogs to \$211,500,000 from \$232,900,000, with higher prices only partly counterbalancing a substantial decline in marketings, and by slightly lower income from sheep and lambs.

Receipts from dairy products in the period rose to an estimated \$304,500,000 from \$295,300,000, the gain being due to increased production, while a substantial increase in both prices and marketings raised returns from the sale of eggs to an estimated \$90,900,000 from \$70,750,000.

While total farm cash income for all Canada was higher than in 1952, increases were recorded for only three provinces--Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The largest increase, both on a percentage basis and in absolute terms, occurred in Saskatchewan, followed by Alberta; while the largest decline on a percentage basis was in Prince Edward Island and in absolute terms in Quebec.

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"ONTARIO" TO TASMANIA: On the invitation of the Government of Australia, HMCS Ontario (cruiser) will take part in ceremonies honoring Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Hobart, Tasmania, in February.

The Ontario will sail from Esquimalt, B.C., January 12 on a three-month training cruise to Australia and New Zealand. The ship will visit Melbourne from February 6 to 10, then will proceed to Hobart for a 12-day stay, from February 11 to 23.

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LOCOMOTIVES FOR INDIA: Plans have been made for the construction of 120 steam locomotives at Kingston, Ont., which will be made available to the Government of India under provisions of the Colombo Plan for the Economic

Development of South and Southeast Asia. A contract to this end is being negotiated between the Canadian Government and the Canadian Locomotive Company, Limited, the Department of Trade and Commerce announced on January 5.

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ARMY SHOULDER PATCHES: Army personnel serving with Canadian base units in Europe will wear a distinguishing shoulder patch described as a red diamond with a horizontal blue bar.

The red diamond, three inches in width and two and one-half inches high, with a three-quarter inch blue bar across the centre, will be worn only by units not included in the order of battle of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division.