

STAMPS FOR 1960

At least five new postage stamps will make their appearance during 1960, according to a statement by the Canadian Postmaster General, Mr. William Hamilton. The familiar blue aerogramme form for overseas air letters is also to be completely re-designed.

The regular issue of stamps portraying Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be replaced by an issue with new designs, and it is expected that at least two of the denominations of the new series will be issued in 1960. While the designing of this new issue has not yet begun, some sweeping changes are receiving serious consideration. The stamps are to be the same small size as the present issue but may possibly be turned so that the long dimension is horizontal. Her Majesty's portrait will appear, but will not occupy the entire area of the design as at present. In the remaining space, besides the denomination and other necessary wording, some specifically Canadian symbol will be printed, and this symbol may vary with each denomination.

The ten-cent aerogramme currently in use was designed in 1953. Its 1960 counterpart will be printed in two colours on a brighter blue paper stock and the imprinted stamp will be re-designed. The new colour will permit greater legibility.

Three commemorative stamps are planned for the new year. The first should appear in May, and will celebrate the 300th anniversary of the heroic stand of Dollard des Ormeaux and his companions in the defence of Montreal at the Long Sault. The 50th anniversary of the Girl Guide Movement in Canada will also be commemorated by a special five-cent postage stamp. A third special stamp will emphasize Canada's renewable natural resources, with a view to stimulating a greater interest in conservation and the improved management of these resources.

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FARM LABOUR - 1959

The demand for farm labour in Canada this year was generally met, according to the provincial reports tabled during the 17th Federal-Provincial Farm Labour Conference held in Ottawa recently.

However, a favourable report on the economic outlook for 1960 raised some doubt about the availability of sufficient farm labour to meet next year's demands.

The general opinion of the Conference was that there was a growing demand for full-time farm families and for short-term workers to ease the burden at planting and harvesting times.

All nine of the Canadian provinces with which the Federal Government has farm labour agreements were represented at the two-day conference by senior officials of the various

departments of agriculture. Also attending were representatives from all regions and head office of the National Employment Service, the Federal Departments of Agriculture, Labour, Citizenship and Immigration, the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways, International Labour Organization, the Office of the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom, the Embassies of West Germany and the Netherlands, the United States Department of Labour, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the Southwest Ontario Field Crops Association, and the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company.

Mr. Michael Starr, Minister of Labour, spoke of the value of the farm labour agreements in facilitating the movement of farm labour from province to province when needed and between Canada and the United States. Mr. Starr said that the problems surrounding the inclusion of agricultural workers in the Unemployment Insurance scheme were being studied by the Unemployment Insurance Commission, and it was hoped that a practicable solution to the problem would be forthcoming.

The Conference delegates were told not to expect to be able to meet much of their farm labour requirement from among the immigrants brought into Canada next year. Although almost all provinces indicated a willingness to take at least as many farm families or single immigrant workers as were absorbed in 1959, it was feared that it would become increasingly difficult to obtain suitable immigrants from other countries during 1960. The main reason for this was that the level of economic prosperity in the countries where recruitment was taking place would probably be comparable to that of Canada. It was suggested that agricultural societies and the industry itself might take steps to assist the Federal Government in publicizing the advantages possible immigrants would derive from coming to Canada.

It was thought that, if hired help was to continue to play an important part in agriculture, more attention would have to be given by the farmer to working and living conditions. However, there was a feeling that a trend toward improvement in this area was developing and that the traditional attitudes of farmers toward farm labour were changing, particularly because of the expanding demand for farm families rather than single workers.

The state of vocational training in agriculture was reviewed. Discussion centered on the recent report on training facilities in Canada by the Department of Labour. It was reported that short-term agricultural extension courses were becoming more popular in Canada, though these were aimed chiefly at increasing the skill of the working farmer, rather than preparing young men for farming careers. It was suggested that Canadian farmers should perhaps consider the development of an apprenticeship programme similar to that existing in certain European countries.