

**POTATO MARKETING AGREEMENT:** Arrangements have been made to ensure a continuing market in the United States for Canadian seed potatoes from the 1948 crop, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, announced November 26.

Agreement has been reached with the United States Government to prevent any possible flooding of the American market and consequent damage to their price support program, but at the same time, by channelling seed potato exports through recognized seed buyers, Canada will retain her important seed outlet in the United States.

Effective December 1, 1948, permits will be required for all exports of potatoes from Canada, and the following general conditions will apply in the consideration of permit applications:

#### ISSUANCE OF PERMITS

(a) Permits will be issued freely and without delay for all shipments to any country other than the United States.

(b) Permits will not be granted for shipments of table stock potatoes to the United States.

(c) Permits for shipments of seed potatoes to the United States will be issued only if the consignee in that country is a bona fide seed buyer, and if the shipment is within the time and area limits of the schedule.

(d) On entering into a contract with a United States seed potato importer, Canadian exporters will require an assurance from the importer that the potatoes will not be diverted or reconsigned for table stock purposes.

The United States Government has contended that the large volume of Canadian potatoes arriving in their principal markets tended to render their price support program ineffective. They were considering the imposition of restrictions but before taking any action they invited discussions between the officials of the two governments.

Realizing that drastic restrictive action by the United States would do incalculable injury to our United States market for seed potatoes, a market which has been developed to the mutual advantage of the two countries over a long period of years, the Canadian Government pressed for a control system which would allow United States buyers of Canadian Certified Seed Potatoes to take delivery, as is their custom, during the winter and early spring.

**PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM:** Concurrent with the announcement by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, that the Canadian Government has decided to place potatoes under export permit control as of December 1, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Gardiner, has announced that there will be a potato price support program under authority of the Agricultural Prices Support Act.

The support program will be applicable to growers in the concentrated carlot shipping

sections of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

The Agricultural Prices Support Board will shortly announce detailed arrangements, stated Mr. Gardiner. Briefly, growers in the designated areas will receive a price of \$1.15 per 100 pounds of Canada No. 1 grade potatoes, basis in the bin on the farm. The quantity to be purchased will be determined by Government inspectors after April 1, 1949, and will exclude amounts required for planting as well as sales made after inspection.

According to a recent estimate, the 1948 crop is set at 92,435,000 bushels, approximately 18,000,000 bushels above the recent five-year average.

**COL. HUGGINS' RESIGNATION:** Resignation of Col. F.W. Huggins from Canadian Arsenals Limited was announced November 26 by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe.

With Canadian Arsenals Limited since 1945, Col. Huggins directed the clearance of Crown-owned machine tools, production and manufacturing records from war plants, and arranged for the storage of such as would be required to meet the recommendations of the Joint Arsenals Planning Board. Mr. Howe expressed his appreciation of the thoroughness and care with which Col. Huggins carried out this difficult task.

**AGRICULTURAL TOUR:** D.A. Bruce Marshall, newly-appointed Agricultural Specialist in the Trade Commissioner Service, has set out on a six-week tour of western agricultural centres, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe announced November 26.

Mr. Marshall's tour, extending from Western Ontario to British Columbia, will bring him up to date on conditions and developments in the industry, before he is posted to North-West Europe. Before sailing for abroad, early in the new year, he will also spend several weeks visiting Maritime agriculture.

Born in Edmonton, D.A.B. Marshall graduated from the University of Toronto with a B.A. degree, and received his B.Litt. degree from Oxford University. Serving in the R.C.A.F. during the war, he was stationed in Canada and with the military Government in Germany. He was posted to the Hamburg Regional Food Team, with responsibility for the transportation and distribution of foodstuffs, and in September, 1945, he prepared a report on the Danish bacon industry, at the request of the Department of Agriculture.

Prior to joining the Trade Commissioner Service in September, 1948, Mr. Marshall was employed by the Department of Agriculture in charge of the foreign section of the Economics Division. He was editor of "Agriculture Abroad", and was also responsible for the development of "Overseas Report".

**POLISH VETERANS SUCCESSFUL:** The Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, announced November 26 that by the end of November, about 2,800 of the 4,500 Polish veterans who came to Canada for a two-year period of employment in agriculture will have completed their agreement and will be free to choose any type of employment they wish.

Their stories would form the authentic basis for many novels, he said. They vary, for they all did not follow the same road to the allied camp. Some travelled half-way round the world before changing into a British battle-dress. Some spent time in Siberia on the way. Many arrived in time to plunge up the bloody slopes of Cassino, while others did not get their chance for revenge until those days south of Caen.

They celebrated with us on VE day.

But in a few days came a bitter awakening. They had helped win a war, but somehow the victory had escaped them—they were men without a country.

#### LIFE IN FREE COUNTRY

Then representatives of the Canadian Government visited them and offered an opportunity to take up life in a free country if they agreed to take employment for two years on Canadian farms. To most of them who undertook the agreement, the idea of farm life was exceptionally welcome for they were from Polish farms and for years they had dreamed of nothing else but to return to the land.

Now, their two years have been completed. They have discharged their obligations.

"I can now report", Mr. Mitchell said, "that our highest hopes for our plan have been fulfilled."

Mr. Mitchell recalled, "when the original plan was decided upon it was hoped that it would provide an opportunity for a new life in a free land for former comrades in arms, who by circumstances at the war's end were left without a country, and at the same time would provide Canada with urgently needed manpower for maintaining the level of food production necessary at home and to fulfill our vital commitments abroad. Our expectations have been fulfilled."

The Minister said that the manner in which these new Canadians, now two years on their path to full Canadian Citizenship, generally had honoured their agreements, was worthy of high commendation.

In order that plans could be made to help these men at the expiry of their terms of agreement, a questionnaire was sent out by the Department of Labour to every Polish veteran asking what he wished to do in the future. Each man was advised to remain in agriculture unless he had made definite arrangements for employment in some other industry. To date, 1,550 answers have been received to these questionnaires.

An examination of these answers reveals that 40 per cent of those completing the ques-

tionnaire indicate a desire to remain in agriculture. About 50 have either bought farms or are planning to do so in the near future, while others had rented farms and were operating them on a crop-sharing basis.

A desire for work in industry was expressed by 50 per cent, but a large number of this group planned to go to the bush this winter and return to agriculture in the spring. Some of these men planned to use their earnings in the woods together with their savings to purchase farms of their own next year. The remaining 10 per cent are still undecided as to their future plans.

**TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY:** The Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. MacKinnon, announced November 29 that a meeting of representatives of the nine provinces and of the federal Government to discuss the construction of the Trans-Canada Highway will be held in Ottawa on Tuesday, December 14.

The invitations extended to provincial Premiers early in November have been accepted and the federal Government is proceeding with plans for the discussions. It is expected that the meeting will be held in the Railway Committee Room of the House of Commons.

**WHEAT MARKETINGS:** Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on November 18 totalled 183,999,000 bushels, showing an increase of 33,136,000 bushels over last year's corresponding total of 150,863,000 bushels, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

Marketings of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending November 18 totalled 4,799,000 bushels as compared with 4,696,000 in the corresponding week last year, while the amount cleared for export was 2,619,000 bushels compared with 2,981,000.

**FLOUR MILLS DECREASE:** There are 174 wheat flour mills in Canada with a total daily capacity of 107,034 barrels in 24 hours, according to the annual report on the location and capacity of flour mills by the Bureau of Statistics, which has just been issued giving 1948 figures.

The current number of flour mills is seven less than last year, but the total daily capacity is 5,500 barrels greater as the result of an expansion in some plants. Out of the total, five mills have not been using their flour-milling machinery but have operated only as feed mills.

**DEPARTMENT STORE SALES:** Continuing their upward trend, department store sales rose five per cent during the week ending November 20 as compared with the corresponding week last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics.