

whether or not the bulk of the crop will be absorbed appears uncertain.

The 1956 mustard seed crop was more than two and one half times larger than the 1955 crop, but the crop is expected to move rapidly into export markets.

An increase in net imports of grain corn is likely, as the 1956 crop is substantially lower than the 1955 crop. Dry field bean production is practically equal to the 1955 output and may be slightly below domestic requirements. Dry field pea production is one third higher than in 1955 and an export surplus of one quarter million bushels is probable.

Sugar beet production was nine per cent lower than in 1955 and will likely provide about 15 per cent of domestic sugar requirements in 1957.

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PROPOSES CONFERENCE: A federal-provincial conference to launch a full-scale attack on Canada's educational problems has been proposed by Claude Jodoin, President of the Canadian Labour Congress. Mr. Jodoin believes that education has become one of the most pressing problems facing all levels of government and failure to meet its challenge would affect children for generations to come.

Municipalities should be given special status at such a conference, he suggests. The agenda should make provision for consideration of methods by which available information on future needs could be co-ordinated and, if necessary, new studies launched. The ability of all three forms of government--municipal, provincial and federal--to meet needs should be discussed and high priority should be given to the development of methods of meeting the need for teachers.

Mr. Jodoin states that labour's interest in education has extended over many years. Labour organizations have been active in efforts to get young children out of industry and into schools. The Canadian Labour Congress advocates free compulsory education, with full provincial autonomy, but with national aid for all grades from primary school to university, and a system of national scholarships and bursaries.

"Now that we are enjoying the greatest era of expansion in our country's history we need more doctors, more scientists, more engineers, more social workers, more people trained in the arts. Above all we need teachers so that we can train people in these various fields," Mr. Jodoin states.

Persons graduating from universities are met on the very steps of the university by talent scouts from industry, and the offers they receive far exceed, in both money and opportunity, those offered by the teaching profession, he points out.

"It is regrettable, to say the least, that we give so little tangible regard to the men

and women whom we trust with the training of the country's children", he declares: "The extent of this problem can be measured in very exact terms. We know how many Canadian children will be entering school five or six years from now; and we know that in another 15 years or so a given percentage of them will be seeking entrance to a university."

Mr. Jodoin says there are two basic problems--buildings and facilities; and teachers--and that by far the greatest problem is that of teachers.

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\$8,000,000 SALES: The gay and green Christmas tree that brightens the hearts and homes of millions of Canadians is the product of a growing industry whose total sales this year will be well over \$8,000,000. The Forestry Branch, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, estimates that more than 16,000,000 Christmas trees will be cut this year, more than half of them in the Provinces of Quebec, Nova Scotia, and British Columbia.

Christmas tree production in Canada has increased from an estimated 10,900,000 trees in 1949 to 16,700,000 in 1955. While domestic consumption has stayed fairly steady, increasing by 300,000 trees in the 1949-1955 period, exports have climbed steeply. Sales of Canadian Christmas trees to the United States increased from 7,400,000 in 1949 to 12,800,000 in 1955.

Approximately a third of all Christmas trees sold in the United States come from Canada. The big United States markets for Canadian trees are Boston, Philadelphia, Detroit, Chicago, and New York. Nova Scotia and Quebec together account for 52 per cent of all trees exported, New Brunswick and British Columbia for 38 per cent, and Ontario for nine per cent. Balsam fir, the most popular Christmas tree in eastern Canada, is also the most popular tree for American export. Canadian exports of balsam fir to the United States have increased from 46 per cent of the total in 1949 to 70 per cent in 1954. Douglas fir, which gets the nod from most people in western Canada, accounts for 19 per cent of the export total, Scots pine for six per cent, and spruce for five per cent.

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U. S. PERSONNEL SOUGHT: In a move aimed at relieving Canada's current shortage of skilled manpower, a Montreal financial firm has set up a fellowship fund to attract professional talent from the United States to Canada.

The firm of Gregory and Company has established the Gregory Fund, administered by McGill University, to attract professionally trained personnel to Canada. Prof. D.L. Thomson, Vice-president of McGill, said the Gregory example, if followed, would stem, and perhaps reverse, the flow of young Canadian professionals to the United States.