

for the licensing of exports to conserve supplies. The Dominion Department of Agriculture has set up a laboratory for assaying the vitamin content of these oils.

Field Crops

The chief effect of war with respect to Canada's field crops was to close European export outlets, apart from the United Kingdom. Areas devoted to wheat production in Canada, which amounted to 10,300,000 acres in 1914, 17,300,000 in 1918 and 26,700,000 in 1939, rose to 28,200,000 acres in 1940. A large 1940 crop, added to a considerable carryover, has given the Department of Trade and Commerce difficult problems of marketing and storage, despite the fact that wheat exports during 1939-40 were in largest volume since the 1935-36 crop year.

Fibre flax has been in greater demand since the outbreak of war. The United Kingdom's supplies normally come largely from Russia, the Baltic countries and Belgium and, with the disappearance of these sources, Canada was asked to increase supplies of line fibre and tow, and to make available to the Government of Northern Ireland whatever seed supplies of fibre flax were surplus to Canada's needs. Acreage devoted to fibre flax in Canada was stepped up from 8,000 in 1939 to more than 21,000 in 1940, and it is expected that a further substantial increase in production will be recorded for the spring of 1941. The export of line fibre and tow was licensed, to make sure that all available supplies would go to the United Kingdom. Supplies of these products of 1940 production ran to between 4,000 and 5,000 tons as compared with 1,300 tons in 1939. The Agricultural Supplies Board, through its Seed Supply Committee, purchased or controlled all available seed of fibre flax of 1939 production and had authority to purchase seed produced in 1940. After Canadian requirements had been met, almost 18,000 bu. were sent to the Government of Northern Ireland during the winter of 1939-40, and it is expected that 25,000 bu. will be available to Northern Ireland during the winter of 1940-41.

Increased production of flaxseed has been suggested to make Canada less dependent on imported supplies for the oil industry and thus help conserve exchange.

Other field crops have not been greatly affected by the War.

Fruits, Vegetables and Honey

The apple industry is among the outstanding casualties of the War, since approximately one-half the commercial pack of Canadian apples is normally exported. Of the Nova Scotia crop, 80 p.c., or more, normally moves to the British Isles and the Continent; with respect to Nova Scotia apples of the 1939 crop, the surplus from curtailed export was absorbed largely through the processing of 1,224,795 bbl. under an agreement whereby the Dominion Government guaranteed stated prices for apples delivered for canning and drying. Improvements in processing techniques, as developed in the laboratories of the Dominion Department of Agriculture have contributed largely to the successful disposal of much of the surplus. In the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, whose total of export is less than the total of receipts from Nova Scotia and British Columbia, it was sufficient to stiffen the grade requirements, impose certain zoning restrictions, and conduct a vigorous advertising campaign throughout the Dominion which naturally bore best results in the centres of consumption. British Columbia apples gained an abnormal share of the curtailed export to the United Kingdom because of more plentiful space offerings than were available for Nova Scotia apples out of Halifax; domestic marketing also was aided by an advertising campaign.

Agreements have been entered into between the Dominion Government and the chief export provinces with respect to apples of the 1940 crop. With the Govern-