

The production of *sugar beets* in 1958 was estimated at a record 1,345,000 tons. The Alberta crop accounted for 45 p.c. of the total and in Ontario production increased greatly. The national average farm price during 1957-58 was \$13.24 a ton.

The *dried pea* crop of 1,100,000 bu. in 1958 reflected the combined effect of reductions in both seeded acreage and yield. Imports amounted to 40,300 bu. and exports to 524,000 bu. in the 1957-58 crop year. Production of *dried beans* was 1,400,000 bu., Ontario being the chief grower. Exports in the 1957-58 crop year were 100,000 bu., down 24 p.c. from 1957, and imports were slightly lower at 139,100 bu.

The *soybean* crop of 6,600,000 bu. was about the same as in 1957, although Manitoba increased its planted area from 4,000 to 7,000 acres. Ontario, the other producer, had an acreage of 256,000. In the 1957-58 crop year, 146,000,000 lb. of oil and 653,000,000 lb. of oil meal were extracted. The average farm price was \$1.95 per bu. and soybean growers, for the first time, came under the support of the Agricultural Stabilization Board. Imports amounted to 10,800,000 bu. and exports, mostly to the United Kingdom, were 2,100,000 bu.

The *flaxseed* crop at 23,200,000 bu. was about 21 p.c. above the 1957 production. Although acreage sown was down by 24 p.c. the average yield increased from 5.5 bu. per acre to 8.7 bu. Total supplies in the 1958-59 crop year were estimated at 28,700,000 bu. Crushings in 1957-58 of 202,700,000 lb. of flaxseed yielded 72,200,000 lb. of linseed oil and 124,800,000 lb. of oil meal. Exports at 13,700,000 bu. were lower than in the previous year partly because of higher costs in relation to other vegetable oilseeds.

Despite limited precipitation in the Prairie Provinces and poor early season prospects, the acreage of wheat, barley and flax inspected for *seed registration and certification* was at record levels. Oats inspections were down 33 p.c. Seed of certified cereals, flax, corn, field peas and beans, and soybeans appeared sufficient to meet Canadian requirements and a surplus was available for export. Forage seeds production, with the principal exception of alsike clover and creeping red fescue, was lower than in 1957 and in general the market for forage seeds was stronger and prices to growers higher than in the previous year.

Livestock.—Farm cash income from the sale of livestock, livestock products and poultry in the January-to-September period of 1958 was 13 p.c. higher than in the comparable period of 1957; in fact, it was higher than for any comparable period since 1951. Livestock continued the upward trend that began five years before, but higher meat prices discouraged an increase in domestic consumption, and Canada continued to be a substantial net exporter of livestock and meat. The chief reason for this market buoyancy was the shortage of both feeder and slaughter cattle in the United States and the abundance of feed there.

Farm output of livestock for slaughter in Canada during 1958 totalled 12,229,000 head, an increase of 9 p.c. over 1957. Livestock exports totalled 720,000 head, compared to 407,000 head in 1957, or an increase of 77 p.c. Exports of red meats and offal (fancy meats) amounted to 148,295,000 lb. in 1958 compared with 106,234,000 lb. the previous year, an increase of 40 p.c.

Cattle numbers declined nearly 2 p.c. from 10,293,000 head at Dec. 1, 1957, to 10,112,000 head, the greatest decrease being in steers. Prices of all classes of cattle rose sharply early in the year. Good steers for slaughter ranged from a low of \$20.14 per cwt. (Toronto) in January to finish the year at a high average of \$26.17 in December. The range during 1957 had been from \$19.94 in April to \$17.36 in October. Stocker calves averaged \$20.17 (Toronto) in January and \$29.55 by December.

Hog production increased and commercial marketings reached 6,467,000 head by the end of December 1958, 20 p.c. more than in 1957 and 22 p.c. more than the ten-year average 1948-57. Prices averaged lower than a year earlier and in late October the Agricultural Stabilization Board began to purchase pork in order to prevent prices from dropping below support levels.