

Supplies of mutton and lamb were heavier during 1958 despite reduced domestic output. Disappearance increased by nearly 3 p.c.

Dairying.—*Milk* production for 1958 was estimated at a record 18,000,000,000 lb., the increase over 1957 being accounted for by all provinces except Nova Scotia. The additional milk was principally used to make creamery butter, production of which also attained a new record at 336,000,000 lb. Domestic disappearance, however, declined and stocks at the end of the year were about 24,000,000 lb. larger than they were a year earlier.

In contrast, *cheddar cheese* production and disappearance was lower than a year ago. The export of about 15,500,000 lb. left end-of-year stocks smaller than in 1957. Production and disappearance of *evaporated milk* were almost in balance in 1958 at about 310,000,000 lb. and 307,000,000 lb. respectively, prices remaining unchanged for more than a year. *Dried skimmed milk* output at 187,000,000 lb. was by far the largest annual production in Canada's history and was estimated to exceed domestic consumption by about 76,000,000 lb. Of this, 60 p.c. was exported and the remainder added to stocks. *Fluid milk* sales were slightly larger in 1958 as a result of population increase but per capita sales declined.

Fruits and Vegetables.—Most *fruit* crops were larger in 1958 than in 1957; apples, apricots and raspberries were the exceptions. Prices in Ontario for fruits for processing were at 1957 levels or lower, except for strawberries for which the minimum was sharply higher. The apple crop, estimated at 15,400,000 bu., was 3 p.c. below 1957 but 10 p.c. above the 1952-56 average.

Commercial *vegetable* growers planted 195,000 acres in 1958, 5 p.c. less than in the previous year. In Eastern and Central Canada the season was later than usual but favourable weather conditions prevailed during the late summer in the important vegetable-producing sections of southwestern Ontario. As a result of relatively larger packs in 1957 and a consequent carryover, the acreages contracted for corn, peas and tomatoes for canning were lower in 1958.

Other Principal Farm Products.—The 1958 *tobacco* crop was estimated at 182,000,000 lb., green weight, compared with 165,000,000 lb. for 1957. Ontario flue-cured tobacco was calculated at 160,000,000 lb. as against 148,000,000 lb. in 1957. About 136,000 acres were planted to tobacco, 119,000 acres in southern Ontario which was 1,000 acres less than in the previous year. The Ontario Flue-cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board reduced the basic acreage allotment per farm by 15 p.c. after allowing a basic exemption per farm of 15 p.c. and allotting acreage to more than one hundred new farms. It is interesting to note that research has made possible the raising of tobacco in the Ottawa Valley of Ontario and in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia; so far production in these areas is on a small scale.

Cigarette consumption in Canada increased from 1,678 per capita in 1956 to 1,817 in 1957 and further increases appear to have taken place judging from the release of 16,000,000,000 cigarettes for consumption in the first half of 1958.

The *potato* crop, estimated at about 38,000,000 cwt. for 1958, recorded a decline of nearly 9 p.c. from 1957.

The volume of *eggs* marketed through registered grading stations showed little change in 1958 as compared with 1957. Heavier marketings in the western provinces offset a decrease in Eastern Canada. The price pattern reflected this situation; producers in Eastern Canada received somewhat higher prices than in 1957 and prices in Western Canada were close to the levels of the previous year. Exports increased, particularly to Venezuela.

Wool prices declined severely in 1958 but, owing to the deficiency payment program under the Agricultural Stabilization Act and a small increase in production, producers received a higher return than in any year since 1952.