

### Subsection 3.—Field Crops

A wide range of growing conditions occurred throughout Canada during the 1962 season. At planting time, soil moisture reserves were extremely low over most areas of the Prairie Provinces, with the principal exceptions of eastern Manitoba and northern Alberta where excessive rainfall delayed seeding operations and continued throughout the season. In contrast, a large area of Saskatchewan and parts of southern Alberta remained dry. However, in most areas rainfall was frequent, temperatures were below average and crop outturns better than anticipated. Many crops were slow in maturing and much unfavourable weather between mid-August and mid-September resulted in some reduction in quality but the loss caused by early frosts was small. This spell of adverse weather was followed by exceptionally favourable harvesting conditions and late crops ripened well. Most of the harvest was taken off in dry condition.

Ontario and Quebec experienced hot spring weather followed by near drought conditions but these, in turn, were followed by timely rains. With the exception of first-cut hay, most crop yields were excellent. In the Maritimes, excessive moisture during the growing and harvesting season resulted in late maturity of crops and caused much difficulty and loss at harvest time, especially of hay. In British Columbia, generally cool weather prevailed during the spring months, crops developed well and most yields were above those of the previous season.

Substantial declines in production more than offset larger opening stocks of each grain except barley, so that total estimated domestic supplies of the five major grains were 22 p.c. lower in 1961-62 than in 1960-61, amounting to 1,556,900,000 bu. compared with 1,983,600,000 bu. Farmers' marketings of wheat, oats, barley, rye and flaxseed amounted to 408,232,000 bu. in 1961-62, a decrease of 25 p.c. from the comparable total of 545,703,000 bu. in 1960-61. Larger clearances of wheat and increased exports of oats and rye were reflected in total shipments of the five major grains and their products in 1961-62 amounting to 420,735,000 bu. of grain equivalent, a figure relatively unchanged from both the 1960-61 total of 419,324,000 bu. and the ten-year average (1950-51-1959-60) of 422,641,000 bu.

Disappearance of these grains into domestic channels in 1961-62 was estimated at 599,166,000 bu. as against 713,691,000 bu. in 1960-61. Despite this reduction, while exports were relatively unchanged, the effect of substantially reduced domestic supplies was reflected in a 37-p.c. decline in carryover stocks—from 850,548,000 bu. at July 31, 1961 to 537,006,000 bu. at the same date in 1962. During the season, however, total production of the five major grains was estimated at 1,245,000,000 bu. and, as a result, total domestic supplies for the 1962-63 crop year were placed at 1,782,000,000 bu., 14 p.c. higher than the 1961-62 total of 1,557,000,000 bu.

The 1962 potato crop amounted to 45,064,000 cwt. compared with 44,108,000 cwt. in 1961; a 6-p.c. decrease in acreage more than offset a record average yield per acre of 157.5 cwt. New Brunswick retained its position as the largest potato-growing province, the average yield per acre in that province reaching an all-time high of 206.0 cwt. Production of corn for grain, the bulk of which is grown in Ontario, amounted to a next-to-record 32,025,000 bu. in 1962, both acreage and average yield per acre exceeding its 1961 level. Production of tame hay and fodder corn at 26,945,000 tons reached an all-time high in 1962, resulting mainly from a record outturn of hay well distributed across the country. The soybean crop, all of which is grown in Ontario, amounted to 6,608,000 bu. compared with 6,631,000 bu. in the previous season, a 4-p.c. increase in seeded acreage generally offsetting a 4-p.c. decline in the average yield per acre. Rapeseed production, primarily reflecting a 43-p.c. decline in acreage, dropped from the record 1961 level of 561,000,000 lb. to 318,000,000 lb. in 1962.