

Average progress was made with the harvest in southern areas of the Prairie Provinces but operations were somewhat delayed in most northern sections by wet, cool weather from mid-August to early October. Good weather prevailed during the remainder of October permitting most farmers to harvest their crops, although grade losses resulted. Wet, cool weather also caused delays in British Columbia. Harvesting conditions in most of Eastern Canada were quite satisfactory.

The index of field crop production for Canada in 1964 (1949 = 100) was 154.5 compared with the 1963 record level of 176.5. In Manitoba, crop outturns were larger than the preceding year but production in Saskatchewan dropped from the exceptional level of 249.5 in 1963 to 165.5 in 1964 and in Alberta from 205.9 to 185.9. In Ontario, mainly because of the record corn crop, the index stood at an all-time high of 145.8 compared with the 1963 index of 135.3. Only minor changes occurred in the 1964 index in Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

The 1964 wheat crop in Canada was 600,424,000 bu., some 17 p.c. below the all-time record of 723,442,000 bu. set in 1963 but 29 p.c. above the five-year (1955-59) average of 465,618,000; the crop was the fourth largest on record. Yield per acre dropped to 20.2 bu. compared with 26.2 bu. in 1963.

Carryover stocks of oats and barley and commercial stocks of corn were at the unusually high level of 6,000,000 tons at Aug. 1, 1964, some 1,200,000 tons more than in 1963 and double the 1962 opening stocks. Out of the 1964 production of feed grains (corn, oats, barley, mixed grains and buckwheat) corn was the only crop to show a significant increase. In total, production of these feed grains amounted to some 12,700,000 tons as compared with 15,400,000 tons in 1963. Although the 1964 figure was only slightly below the 1958-62 average of 12,900,000 tons, it still ranked next to the lowest production total in that five-year period. Reflecting the decline in production which more than offset an increase in opening stocks, total domestic supplies of the feed grains amounted to 18,700,000 tons as compared with 20,200,000 tons in 1963-64 and the five-year average of 17,700,000 tons. Tame hay production in 1964, at 21,365,000 tons, was 7 p.c. smaller than the 1963 record of 23,014,000 tons but the 1964 crop of fodder corn produced 4,974,000 tons, 11 p.c. greater than the 1963 total of 4,465,000 tons.

The 1964 productions of soybeans and rapeseed showed noticeable increases but outturns of the other three oilseed crops (flaxseed, sunflower and mustard seed) each decreased. The flaxseed crop was 11 p.c. below the 1963 production and 16 p.c. below the 1955-59 average. Rapeseed production, up 34 p.c. compared with 1963, was double the 1955-59 average bushels; the area seeded to this crop was about 46 p.c. larger than in 1963 but average yields of 15.8 bu. per acre were some 10 p.c. lower. The soybean crop was 39 p.c. larger than the 1963 crop, the average yield per acre being at a next-to-record 30.2 bu. compared with 21.9 bu. a year earlier and a 1955-59 average of 25.2 bu. Total production of sunflower seed was slightly below the 1963 crop but almost double the five-year average. The acreage sown to mustard seed was only 48 p.c. of that allotted to this crop in 1963 and, with yields down by 28 p.c., production of the crop was greatly reduced.

Outturns of potatoes, field roots and sugar beets were above the 1963 levels. New Brunswick still retains the lead in the production of potatoes, producing 11,016,000 cwt., followed by Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island with 10,494,000 cwt., 8,208,000 cwt. and 7,892,000 cwt., respectively.

The 1964 gross farm value of field crops was not yet available at the time of going to press. However, the 1963 gross farm value for all crops amounted to \$2,511,933,000, of which wheat contributed \$1,259,223,000 or 50 p.c. In the great wheat-growing province of Saskatchewan the 1963 wheat crop was valued at a record \$862,750,000, making up 68 p.c. of the gross farm value of Canadian wheat and 34 p.c. of the gross farm value of all Canadian field crops.