

## Farm Yield is Cut This Year

By HAROLD MORRISON  
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OTTAWA (C.P.) — For Canada's weather-bitten farmers the year 1950 will probably go down as one of vast opportunities lost, opportunities that might have given rural folk added millions to their production and living costs.

For 1950 was the year of the big frost, that destroyed millions of bushels of prairie wheat, delayed harvesting and cut the quality of much of what was left for storage, consumption and export.

It was the year, too, when the world, faced with the threat of war, gave urgent thought to stockpiling of food and the world market for food swung wide open.

Because of the frost damage, Canada likely would be unable to handle all of the increased demand. It appeared unlikely that she would have sufficient stocks to fill the entire 219,000,000-bushel quota she had under the International Wheat Agreement for 1950-51.

Other basic industries, such as

paper and oil, fared much better. Paper production, a top dollar-earner for Canada, increased production in the first 10 months to 4,391,000 tons from 4,324,000 tons a year ago.

Oil made a more spectacular claim. In the first nine months, output from Canadian wells rose to 20,296,000 barrels, a near 25-percent increase over the 15,700,000 barrels in the same period a year ago.

### WHEAT TROUBLES

In at least these two phases of the Canadian economy, prosperity in 1951 appeared far more assured than that in wheat. Adding to Canada's wheat troubles was a shortage in box cars and a sharp drop in total movements to east coast ports in the fall months.

Freighters which had been channelled from the United Kingdom and other overseas points to Halifax and Saint John, N.B., to pick up Canadian wheat had to be diverted to American ports because of the lack of Canadian supplies. That meant that Britain, Canada's biggest wheat customer, was buying wheat from the United States at a time when she might have purchased from Canada.

Britain had promised to buy between 110,000,000 and 120,000,000 bushels from Canada in the 1950-51 crop year. She could not buy it, however, if the wheat was not there ready to move.

Of the total 578,000,000 bushels, including carry-over, available in Canada as the new crop year began Aug. 1, probably no more than about 265,000,000 bushels would be millable grades, adequate for grinding into flour and production of bread.

Of that amount, Canada needed about 45,000,000 bushels of millable wheat for her own use and another 45,000,000 to carry-over until wheat from the 1951 crop is harvested next September. All in all, that would leave Canada with about 175,000,000 bushels to meet a 219,000,000-bushel I.W.A. quota.

The lower-quality wheat would be sold as feed. Income from this wheat would, of course, be lower than that from millable grades. However, one thing the farmer was certain of—he had an initial price of \$1.40 per bushel for No. 1 Northern, basis delivery at wheat board elevators.

He also had a promise that the board would make a final payment under the five-year pool which ended July 31. That payment may go a long way in helping the western farmer over the rough edges in the 1950-51 crop year.

### POTATO PROBLEMS

Other aspects of the Canadian farm economy were more buoyant with one exception, potatoes.

With the United States market for Canadian potatoes cut by the reduction in U.S. prices, Maritime growers appealed to the federal government for price support. The government's \$200,000,000 agricultural price support program, made permanent by parliament in 1950, was extended to butter, eggs, cheese, bacon; why could it not be extended to potatoes?

Agriculture Minister Gardiner, at the ninth annual federal-provincial agricultural conference in December, told delegates the government was prepared to consider price support for potatoes, if the growers could get their "house in order" and get a well organized group to represent them.

It appeared that finally some kind of federal grant would be made to the potato industry, at the end of the selling year next spring, if the growers showed that the price they received for their product was below cost of production.

## Honeymoon In Prince Rupert

FRANCOIS LAKE — The little Anglican Church at Francois Lake Landing was beautifully decorated with evergreens and pink and white streamers and flowers for a wedding service on Sunday morning when Rev. A. Atkinson united in marriage a young couple recently arrived from Scotland. There were cut flowers on the altar.

Margaret Mullen McGuiness arrived on Thursday morning at Burns Lake, having come by boat and train from her home in Tayness, Kilmartin, Argyll. The groom, William McFadzean, came to Canada a year ago from Dykesdon, Galston, Ayrshire, and has been with the Forss. Branch at Smithers. The bride stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Keefe at Francois Lake Landing.

At 11 o'clock the bride entered the church with John Keefe, who gave her in marriage and walked up the aisle to the music of "Lo-hengrin" Wedding March played on the organ. She was lovely in a floor length white satin gown with her veil gathered into a headress of orange blossoms. She carried a white prayer book with white streamers dotted with pink flowers.

Matron of honor was Mrs. Hugh Neave who wore a turquoise floor length dress and halo headress. Ralph Keefe was groomsmen.

After the ceremony Mrs. R. Parlington sang "O Perfect Love."

The Christmas service followed and the singing of favorite carols. The wedding party then drove to the Keefe residence for the reception, after which the usual toasts were honored and the wedding cake cut. The young couple left for Prince Rupert for two weeks. They will reside in Smithers.

HENLEY, Suffolk, England (C.P.) — When Henley council decided to buy a truck, the purchasing committee made sure it would stand up under heavy loads. The council's heaviest member took it on a trial run to test the springs.

## Ninety Years Old on 'Xmas

One of Prince Rupert's elder residents becomes a nonagenarian this Christmas Day and will have the best wishes of many friends.

She is Mrs. David Crocker of 1288 Park Avenue.

Mrs. Crocker was in the Klondyke in the days of 1898 and actually engaged in prospecting herself.

Despite her longevity, she is still keen and active.

She attributes her continued good health to her continual activity. She still comes downtown regularly to do her shopping.

Born in the Middle States December 25, 1860, Mrs. Crocker lived at the Queen Charlotte Islands for years before coming to Prince Rupert. Her husband, invalided with arthritis, was a former fisherman.

Both are always happy to have callers. E. A. Evans and Noel Jones have been among the latter, bringing them the movies and papers, a thoughtfulness fully appreciated.

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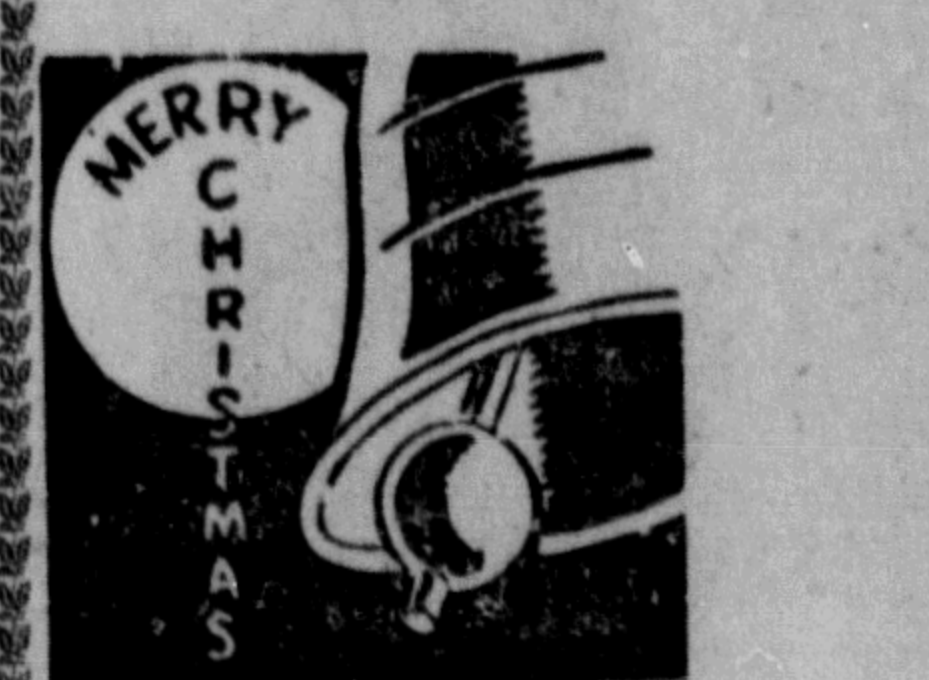
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