

Producer

Ottawa Delegation to be 1000 Strong

National Farm Policy Urged

A resolution calling for a federal-provincial conference on agriculture which would take steps to ensure the farmer a stable income and a fair share of the national wealth was passed Feb. 26 by the Saskatchewan legislature.

The resolution was sponsored by CCF member Fred Dawhurst of Wadena, who said the position of agriculture is so serious that it should be discussed throughout the whole of Canada.

He said it was from 1946 that the cost-price squeeze began to take effect. Farmers received \$1.62 a bushel for their wheat in 1946. The price dropped to \$1.29 by 1958.

In the same period the price of a 12-foot combine in Regina had gone up from \$3200 to \$7200.

"Farmers' costs have gone up when his prices went down, and I feel there is a need for a new deal in agriculture."

Interim Payment Of 10 Cents

Mailing of interim payment checks for wheat delivered in the 1957-58 crop year will begin in two or three weeks. Trade Minister Gordon Churchill announced Feb. 25 in the House of Commons.

The 10-cent payment — a distribution of \$38,800,000 — is applicable to all grades of wheat with the exception of top durum grades on which the payment will be 15 cents a bushel.

Mr. Churchill did not indicate when the Canadian Wheat Board will close out the 1957-58 pool. The previous year's pool was closed out last June with a final payment averaging 6.911 cents a bushel.

Total payments for the 1956-57 pool amounted to \$1.58 for No. 1 Northern, the second lowest price since the Second World War. The total payment on other grades was proportionately less and of course handling and shipping charges are deducted from this payment.

Of the durum payment, Mr. Churchill said it reflects conditions of a year ago and not of the future. In the face of declining world demand and increased production in other countries, premium payments on durum could not be expected to continue.

He said Canadian farmers have created a durum surplus and even with a 50-percent reduction in durum acreage last year, production exceeded commercial requirements.

Comments
Members of the Liberal and CCF parties commented on the payments:

The agricultural spokesman for the Liberals in the Commons, William Bendickson of Kenora-Bainy River, suggested that at a later time Mr. Churchill might report on the progress being made in the utilization of the increasing surplus of storage facilities "that I believe has become available over the winter months, so the quota restrictions will not be as severe as those in force in other years."

He said the distribution of this amount of money will be welcomed in western Canada.

CCF House Leader Hazen Argue said: "This is an announcement that has been made for a great

They Helped Get Signatures



Among the men who played a part in swelling the total of signatures on the mass petition to be taken to Ottawa were 76-year-old H. J. Hansen and J. A. Black, 75, both of the Foam Lake district, about 140 miles east of Saskatoon. Mr. Hansen, shown right, obtained 52 signatures. Mr. Black, left, 111. Both have been active in the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool for years and still are actively engaged in farming.

No Progress Seen in Efforts To Decide Prices Under New IWA

A Geneva report on negotiations aimed at a new five-year International Wheat Agreement says a special working committee set up to decide prices to be written into an agreement has been unable to make progress to date.

The report says exporters have refused to give firm price commitments until importers determine how much they will buy. Importers refuse to commit themselves until they know the price range.

The working group was set up by the United Nations wheat conference meeting in Geneva to work out a new agreement to take the place of the present one, which expires at the end of July.

The conference was originally scheduled to end last week but now will continue for another 10 days.

Comment from Britain
Comment on the conference has come from the British milling trade publication, Milling. It gives

an indication of feeling in Britain on the negotiations:

"Delegates from most importing and exporting countries of the world have been meeting in Geneva to discuss the International Wheat Agreement. The present term of the present IWA finishes on July 31, 1959, and the object of the conference is to bring under review the whole question of international co-operation in wheat marketing and possibly also the question of co-operation in determining national production policies.

"It is expected the U.S. delegation will have something to say on the methods the Eisenhower government hopes to employ in checking the huge annual surplus accumulations in that country and, no doubt also, the strong U.K. delegation to Geneva—will have something to say either of the reasons why Britain cannot support the agreement in its present form, or some concrete suggestions as to how the agreement could be amended so as to justify Britain's support in future.

"The milling industry in the United Kingdom continues to oppose an agreement which ties member-nations down to maximum and minimum prices and compulsory buying or selling quotas at those prices. Nevertheless, in sending a strong delegation to Geneva for the current discussions, it is felt the British government is not wholly unsympathetic to the idea of co-operation in world wheat distribution and marketing.

"Canada and Australia are both anxious to secure Britain's allegiance to this concept of co-operation. Both countries wish to market their own surpluses within the framework of a powerful and representative world agreement."

Four Special Trains Leave Regina, Saskatoon March 7

REGINA—More than 1000 delegates from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba will converge on Ottawa next week to present to the Government of Canada on March 10 one of the longest petitions in Canadian history. The petition carries more than 300,000 signatures of farmers, business and professional men and workers. It requests the government to make deficiency payments on wheat, oats and barley delivered in western Canada during the last three years to provide grain producers with a more equitable share of the national income.

All major farm organizations in western Canada joined forces to circulate the petition in the three provinces. Saskatchewan's final figures on signatures, as released by the Saskatchewan committee, totalled 217,000. In 1942 when the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool circulated a petition asking for an increase in the price of wheat, the petition carried 187,000 signatures.

The Farmers Union of Alberta reported March 2 that the foothills province will be represented by about 190 delegates when the trains leave Alberta March 6.

Backing up the delegation are the signatures of more than 30,000 people on petitions circulated through rural Alberta. Collected to

defray the expenses of the delegation was \$35,000.

The Manitoba-Ottawa Delegation Committee reported its petition had been signed by 50,126 persons and there were 1000 petitions, chiefly in the city of Winnipeg, still to come in at the beginning of this week.

Each Manitoba petition has room for 25 names.

Donations by petition signers reached \$34,840.41 at the beginning of this week.

In a meeting March 2 in the Winnipeg office, the committee decided to cut back the size of its delegation to fit the train space available. This will mean a 16 per-

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World-Wide

AGREED ST. LAWRENCE Seaway shipping tolls, designed to pay for the \$471,000,000 project over a 50-year period, were to be announced jointly in Ottawa and Washington March 4.

IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA, a state of emergency has been declared to check native unrest. Prime Minister Sir Edgar Whitehead outlawed Rhodesian branches of the National African Congress, which is leading a drive to end white political control in the British territory. Between 250 and 500 Negroes were arrested after Whitehead said they had tried to undermine the loyalty of the government's African employees. A curfew has been established and all gatherings of more than three persons are banned. Demonstrations also have broken out in the British protectorate of Nyasaland, the French Congo, Belgian Congo, Italian-ruled Somalia and South Africa.

PREMIER W. A. C. BENNETT said Feb. 26 British Columbia will launch a 10-year \$1,000,000,000 highway construction program in 1960.

AN AGREEMENT IRONING OUT the financial problems resulting from the 1956 Suez crisis was signed Feb. 28 by Britain and the United Arab Republic.

STATE SECRETARY DULLES, undergoing radiation treatment for cancer, said on his 71st birthday Feb. 24 he expects to recover sufficiently to get back on the job.

THE CANADIAN RED CROSS annual appeal for funds was started March 1 by Prime Minister Diefenbaker, who said this year it celebrates 50 years of service to Canada and the world. He urged Canadians to give generously.

THE FORMER LIBERAL GOVERNMENT'S decision to go ahead with development of the Arrow supersonic interceptor was one of the reasons behind his retirement in 1955 as chief of the Canadian General Staff, Lt.-Gen. Guy Simonds said Feb. 27. The Arrow, which did not get into production, was ordered dropped by the present government Feb. 20.

AN END TO THE MILITARY draft in Britain will come this year because of increased recruiting of volunteers, Defence Minister Duncan Sandys told the House of Commons. He said that men born in the last three months of 1939, or later, are assured of not being drafted.

A FIVE-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE and a fine of \$60,000 for income tax evasion was handed out to ex-Teamster boss Dave Beck by U.S. District Judge George H. Boldt, who said exposure of Beck's "insatiable greed is a shocking story." Beck told reporters: "I have a great and firm belief in our judicial system. I am not the first innocent person to be sentenced nor will I be the last." Judge Boldt denied the ex-labor leader a new trial.

THE DEPORTATION ORDER against Archbishop Makarios, Greek Cypriot leader, who has been exiled from the island colony for three years, was revoked Feb. 24, and on March 1 he returned to Nicosia where half the 400,000 Greek Cypriots on the island turned out to give him a tumultuous welcome. Makarios is now the leading candidate for the presidency.

ORDERS FOR 140 diesel units to cost \$25,000,000 have been placed by the Canadian National Railways. When they are placed in operation later this year only the area between Edmonton and the Lakehead will not be fully dieselized.