

European Wheat Market Future Seen Known By End Of This Year

By DON HANRIGHT
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP)—The future of Canada's wheat markets in the European Common Market area possibly will be determined to a large extent by the end of this year.

Trade authorities in Ottawa expect that around Jan. 1 the six member nations—France, Germany, Italy and the Benelux states—will announce and begin to consider their first specific proposals for creating a common agricultural policy.

The major outcome of such a policy is foreseen here as a marked increase in their farm production, the greater output being needed to supply an expanded market resulting from the gradual reduction of tariffs and elimination of quotas.

There have been some indications that the member nations envisage agricultural self-sufficiency within the Common Market—at least in the foodstuffs they now are capable of producing.

NEEDS SOME IMPORTS

In butter and cheese, the area already is self-sufficient. But it still is a net importer of wheat, barley, corn and tobacco, and a so-called "marginal importer" of beef, veal and pork.

Trade officials here say, however, that self-sufficiency appears to be a distant goal, and that the Common Market will continue as a large importer of food from "third countries" for many years to come.

Of more immediate concern to Canada are the steps that will be taken to get this common agricultural trade rolling. This concern lies in the fact that the Common Market area now ranks as the second biggest importer of Canadian wheat.

For example, in the 1958-59 crop year ended July 31, Canada shipped 54,500,000 bushels of wheat to the Common Market area—most of it to Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands.

Thus, as a Canadian wheat market the area ranked second only to the United Kingdom, where sales last year totalled 100,600,000 bushels, and was ahead of Japan which absorbed 41,000,000.

HEAVY IMPORTER

In the years 1952 to 1957, Canada's exports of all agricultural products to the Common Market

area averaged \$168,000,000 worth annually—17 per cent of all Canadian agricultural exports. Wheat made up \$112,000,000 of this average, other grains \$26,000,000.

Even at that rate, Canada's share of that overseas market was not a major one. In the 1954-56 period the six countries, with agricultural purchases averaging \$7,200,000,000, outstripped both the United Kingdom and United States in food imports.

What will happen to this vital Canadian market when the six nations merge their agricultural policies?

Establishment of the Common Market generally has been supported with the impression that its attitude would be "outward" rather than "inward." The member countries also have made clear that they intend to maintain trade relations with outside nations.

Internally, however, it is expected that steps taken toward agricultural unification will pose a serious threat to internal prices. To overcome this, the common market area possibly will impose minimum prices on imports from other member countries.

WAY TO PROTECT

This system, in spite of the

gradual reduction in tariffs and elimination of quotas, would give each member country a way to protect its domestic producers if they are in danger of being underpriced by imports from other members.

In effect, minimum prices would simply replace tariffs. Also involved may be preferential long-term commodity arrangements already has been made between Germany and France.

What are the plans on which details are expected by the end of the year. And until these details are announced, officials here say, it is impossible to determine how Canadian wheat exports to the area are likely to be affected in the future.

Meanwhile, a report by the Food and Agriculture Organization indicated that exporters of bread grain will have to rely almost entirely on population increases to maintain existing markets within the Common Market area.

In a better position are the Canadian exporters of feed grain. The six countries plan to step up their meat production and, in spite of planned crop increases, may have to continue importing as much or more feed for several years.

No Softening Seen In Soviet Attitude

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nikita Khrushchev seems delighted with the results of his first few days in the United States. But U.S. officials who have hoped for some softening of Soviet policy are disappointed.

The Soviet premier will hold three days of policy talks with President Eisenhower next week just before he flies home. Unless he produces some newer approach to world problems than he has come up with so far, the conference at Camp David, Md., promises to be a barren affair.

Probably the reason for Khrushchev's evident pleasure in his

visits to Washington and New York is that he is having a propaganda success.

VOLUBLE SALESMAN

In his appearance at the National Press Club Wednesday, Khrushchev proved himself a voluble salesman of Communist ideological wares.

Before the United Nations General Assembly in New York Friday, he outlined his plan for saving the world from war.

He did it so skillfully and with implications of such tremendous hope behind it that U.S. officials were stopped from saying what they really thought—that Khrushchev's plan is but a propaganda

statement of a goal unattainable at present.

"The terrible thing about this," one state department official said privately after watching Khrushchev's UN speech on television, "is that you can't be against it. Everybody is for total and universal disarmament. But this does not advance you one inch toward the goal."

So State Secretary Christian Herter issued a statement saying the Khrushchev proposal would have to be studied carefully.

Herter said that should be done by a 10-power disarmament conference which will meet at Geneva early next year.

ONE THING CLEAR
What Khrushchev described as a plan—complete disarmament in four years backed up by a control system about which he was vague—was in fact one statement of the aim of 10 years of disarmament negotiations. These negotiations have made one thing clear above all others: The core of an arms reduction and control agreement between Russia and the Western powers is the kind of system that would enforce it.

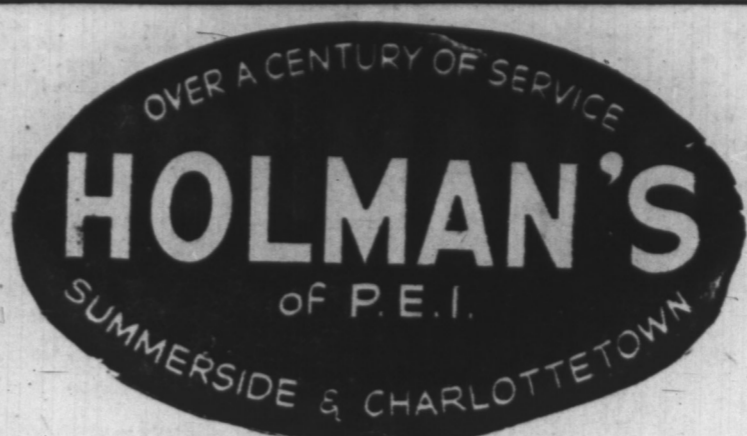
Behind this central issue, in turn, lies the mistrust that Russia and the Western bloc have in each other's pledged word. But the Russians have a tremendous advantage here. Under the Western system, with public inquiry and debate and with a free press, the Russians can have reasonable confidence in their knowledge of the readiness for war of Western armaments.

In the Soviet Union the reverse is true. Russia has conditions of secrecy unknown in the West.

EASY TO ATTACK
Disarmament experts believe it would be relatively easy for the Russians to prepare a sneak attack if the political leaders thought they needed war for their purposes.

Hence it is not the lack of a disarmament agreement but the lack of trust and confidence that underlies the tension between Russia and the Western powers today. The real problem is not the existence of H-bombs and intercontinental rockets but the existence of suspicion on one side and secrecy on the other.

In the long run, of course, if the Eisenhower-Khrushchev talks and the Soviet premier's whole U.S. visit contribute a little to better East-West understanding; if Khrushchev gets a better personal sense of the American political and economic systems, the discussions could help to clear the way for more hopeful future negotiations.



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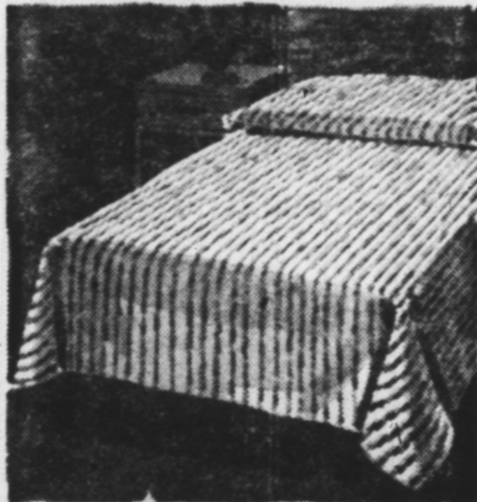
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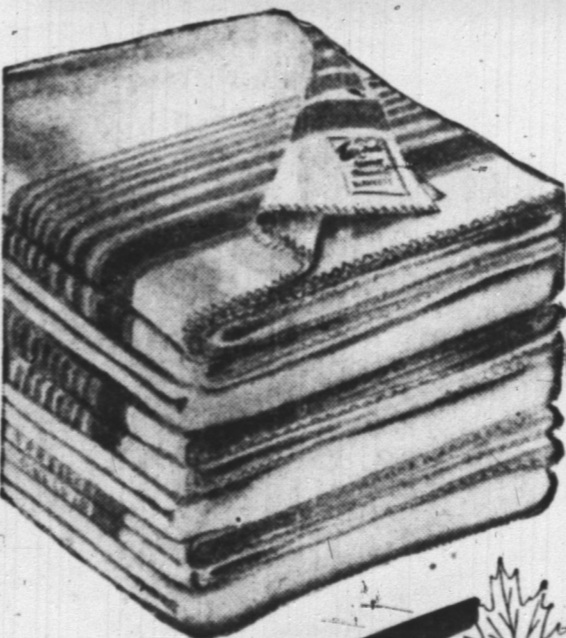


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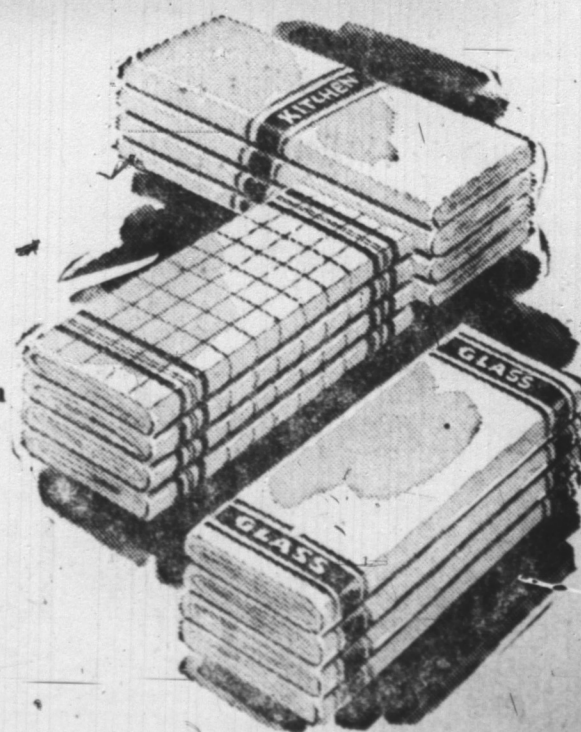
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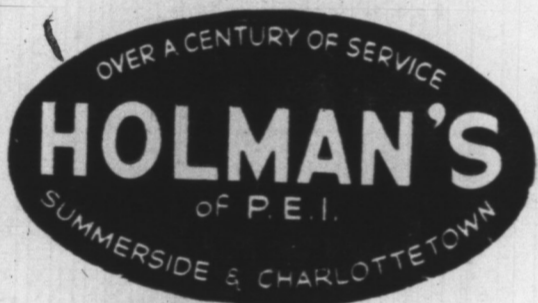
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