

R.C.N. Will Get Six New Destroyers; Total 20

OTTAWA (CP)—Defence Minister Pearkes Tuesday informed the Commons estimates committee that the Canadian Navy will get six new destroyers. This will bring the total program of new destroyers, started in 1950, to 20 instead of the 18 announced last year by Mr. Pearkes. He said the hull for the first of the six will be laid down in the fall and hulls for the next three in the succeeding three to four months. He said no decision has been reached on which shipyard will get the first order. Canadian Vickers Limited, Montreal, re-

ceived the first order for the seven St. Laurent class destroyers and also for the first of the seven in the Restigouche class. Mr. Pearkes said the new destroyer will be an improvement of the Restigouche class. Officials declined to give estimated cost, specifications or any other details of the new warships. St. Laurent and Restigouche class destroyers cost some \$27,000,000 apiece. The new destroyers will replace frigates which were built during the Second World War and are nearing the end of the normal 20-year life for a warship.

AMONG THE FARMERS

Federation of Agriculture Newsletter

DAIRY MONTH

Traditionally June has been the month in which the dairy cow got a new lease of life and came up with her heaviest production of the year. Now, national advertising and national promotion is geared to June with dairy farmers contributing 1 cent on each pound of butterfat to provide the sinews which keeps the value of dairy products and the importance of the dairy industry before the public. Canadians are great consumers of dairy products, in return for this support the dairy industry of Canada is providing dairy products of the finest quality and is in addition providing a service which acquaints homemakers with the many different uses to which dairy products may be put. The dairyman who contributes 1 cent on each pound of butterfat produced in June is laying a foundation for the future of one of the most important industries in Canada.

ABANDONED OR VACANT

The farm which is actively operated, produces well and in a high state of cultivation is a very important asset. But there are many farms in this province which while operated are in a sense vacant. The house and the barns stand unoccupied, in many cases the barn is leaning on the wind waiting for an autumn hurricane to change it into kindling. While these farms are vacant they may still be producing either on a rental basis or as an adjunct to some other farm. The third classification is the abandoned farm, this is the one that is both neglected and forgotten, it is likely growing up in bushes and presents a problem to the school district which must collect taxes on it. These are the farms which have been unable to supply a satisfactory living wage. More properly they are pioneer homesteads which failed to grow into farms and in this age of commercial agriculture gave up the struggle as a producing unit.

ECONOMISTS

Once a year the members of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society meet in a professional way and consider various aspects of the farm situation. This year their meeting will be held at Montmorency House near Quebec City and will be de-

producers the right to make decisions on how the crop will be sold.

EDUCATIONAL PROBLEM

Facing many rural communities at the present time is the problem of providing a school teacher for the coming year. The situation is vastly changed from days of thirty years ago where Prince of Wales College turned out annually almost 300 prospective teachers. School districts were in a position to pick and choose but all this has changed. Today the school district must bid for the services of a teacher with attractive supplements, with satisfactory accommodations, and in some cases guarantee that grades 9 and 10 will be moved out of the one-room school to larger centres.

COMPETITION
In nearly every country, it is now an accepted idea of national policy that the competitive position of a great number of farm enterprises has to be strengthened by government intervention. Or to put it another way, it is almost universally agreed that competition cannot be so completely free as to eliminate an unlimited number of operators from the business of farming.

Rather it is generally agreed that those farm units which cannot meet the standards set by competition must be helped to improve their technical and managerial performance. One result of these policies is that a powerful impulse is consistently applied to the development of efficiency which leads, in turn, to a constant increase

in the volume of production.

With consumer demand rising at a comparatively slower pace than production in almost every economically developed country, and with little possibility of taking advantage of lower prices to stimulate consumption because such lower prices to producers would be inconsistent with the maintenance of their adequate remuneration, there is bound to be an unbalance between supply and demand.

In the present set up, competition between farmers to secure their individual shares of available outlets is largely replaced by governmental guarantees that the whole of the production will be marketed at fair prices.

In the international market the same difficulties arise but they are further complicated by the fact that instead of one authority - the national government - there are a number of sovereign

governments whose actions aim at correcting what they think to be the undesirable effects of competition.

For some commodities the stage has clearly been reached where competition on economic terms no longer plays a part in allocating production between producers in the various countries.

How, then, is the problem of "over-production" to be solved on a world basis?

It would seem that agricultural support policies are becoming the favourite target. We have had in succession a confrontation of agricultural support policies in the Organization for European Economic Co-operation, an expert working party on agricultural support policies in FAO and now the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade have established an international panel of four

economists to explore, among other aspects of international trade problems, the inter-relationship between national support policies for agriculture and the relatively slow growth of interna-

tional trade in agricultural products.

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voted to the study of "The Small Farm Problem."

Such consideration would appear quite timely as few productive units in any branch of our economy are being subjected to more serious pressures and to greater problems than the small farm. It is encouraging that professional economists recognize this fact and are prepared to make it the subject of serious study.

June has so far provided rather cool weather and high winds neither of which promote maximum growth. Grass, hay and early seeded grain are making satisfactory progress although many new meadows suffering from lack of lime are showing a heavy growth of sorrel. Early planted potatoes are now appearing and vegetable gardens making a fine start. Strawberry patches are now in full bloom and prospects are for a good supply of fruit.

Maritime Strawberry growers have accomplished something in the way of organization which other branches of agriculture might examine with some profit. Producers in the three provinces recognize the value of working together and are prepared to make some effort to achieve this end. This is an organization which realizes that marketing is a very important matter and one which it is prepared to discuss and maintain on behalf of the



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