

**TOBACCO**

(Continued from page 7)

the plants is necessary. This too is done by hand although an oil is being used for this operation in some places and on some farms in P.E.I. This may help to eliminate hand labour in the future. Suckering the plants prevents extra growth and lets the plant put its energy to producing good size and quality of leaf.

**THE PICKING**

Priming or picking of the crop starts in early September. This is the operation that takes the most labour. A crew would total about 15 people including six primers or pickers, one person driving the loads from the field to the tying table, one person unloading the tobacco boats, four working at the table to get the tobacco tied on the sticks, one person hanging the tobacco in the kiln and one person doing the curing. This crew fills a kiln in a day. The first leaves to mature are on the bottom of the plant and two or three leaves are picked at a time. To get all the leaves about five pickings are carried out.

Curing is a very critical part of the whole operation. When the tobacco leaves are picked they are quite green. In curing heat is applied in carefully regulated amounts. As the leaf dries it changes from green to a yellow shade. The amount of

heat is varied as the curing process goes on so as to get the right quality. Curing takes from six to seven days.

After curing the tobacco is stored then later in the fall is graded, sold and shipped to Ontario or Quebec. There are four main grades and price depends upon the quality of the tobacco and the job done in grading. The grading operation runs from about mid-October to the end of January. This means the growing, picking and grading of the crop takes about 10 full months of the year.

**PROFITS**

Average yields in Prince Edward Island are about 1,225 pounds per acre. Our yield was more than 1,300 pounds per acre in 1965 and we are hoping to get as high as 1,400 to 1,500 pounds per acre without irrigation. Last year the price range was from 55 to 62 cents per pound depending on the quality. Gross returns per acre are about \$800 while expenses including labour are about \$350 per acre. This leaves a net return per acre of slightly over \$400.

**POTENTIAL**

P.E.I. has about 20,000 acres of soil suitable for tobacco which is high enough in elevation and frost free enough to grow the crop. Tobacco brought a quarter of a million dollars to the Island last year and only trucking costs are going out. It is a crop which will bring in a

**Prairie Provinces Probe To Be Made Of Living Costs**

WINNIPEG (CP)—A tri-province royal commission with wide-ranging power to investigate the high cost of living on the Prairies has been established by the governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Premier Ross Thatcher announced that his government had passed an order-in-council authorizing participation and Attorney-General Sterling Lyon made a similar announcement in the Manitoba legislature. No Alberta statement has yet been made.

Terms of reference permit the three-member commission to study price increases and major increase complaints; to enquire into contributing factors; to investigate effects of price increases on living standards and to make appropriate recommendations.

In answer to opposition questions, Mr. Lyon said the terms are broad enough to allow the commissioners to investigate "any aspects of any purchase required by a person living on the Prairies."

Commissioners are Judge Mary J. Bates of Saskatoon, a district court judge; Edwin J. Madill of Calgary and Dr. Shirley M. Weber, assistant professor of foods and nutrition at the University of Manitoba.

**Automakers Announce Output Cuts**

DETROIT (AP)—Two of the big three O.S. automakers have announced production cuts that would put the December industry-wide production figure at least 70,000 vehicles below that of December, 1965.

General Motors, the biggest auto maker, said its decline would be about 63,000 vehicles from December, 1965.

Chrysler Corp. announced it planned to produce 140,000 cars this month as opposed to 146,000 in December, 1965.

Ford Motor Co. said it expected to produce fewer cars

Leaders of women's food protest groups in Calgary and Regina said they approved in principle, but would have preferred a nationwide commission.

Saskatchewan's attorney general, D. V. Heald, said organizing force behind the tri-province commission, said his department has not reached conclusions as to what powers the provincial government has to act on prices and living costs. He said the government would wait to see what recommendations were made before determining any solutions.

**CRITIC, AUTHOR DIES**

NEW YORK (AP)—Ward Morehouse, Broadway columnist, critic and playwright, died Wednesday night in hospital after a brief illness. He was 67.

Morehouse had been affiliated with the Newhouse Newspapers and the North American Newspaper Alliance since 1937. From 1942 to 1950 he was with the New York Sun, serving as an overseas correspondent during the Second World War. He was the author of a biography of George M. Cohan.



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