

## Agricultural Topics

### Ministry Official's Statement: This Year's Trends

Speaking at the Tapiosele experimental farm, Gaber Soos, Director of Crop Cultivation at the Ministry of Agriculture, said that the crop cultivation position compared favourably with previous years. The area sown to bread cereals and sunflower had decreased in favour of fodder crops. The average yield of bread cereals and fodder crops considerably exceeded last year's results, which made it possible to reduce imports. It was "regrettable" that the area sown to sugarbeet and other important crops had decreased, and that the mechanisation of agriculture was not progressing rapidly enough. Soos also spoke of the importance of fertilisers and of mechanising harvesting operations.

### The Co-operatives: New Measures: Recruitment

The most important task was the socialist transformation of agriculture, Soos added. Bureaucratic methods must be eliminated and the economic superiority of the producer co-operatives made a reality. A Co-operative Bill now under preparation would be submitted to the Government by the end of the year. Another Bill being prepared would give co-operators accident and old-age insurance cover. Recommendations had been drawn up "in connection with the industrial possibilities of producer co-operatives". Plans had also been prepared for a credit system for the various specialist groups of producers and for the agricultural associations.

Large-scale socialist agriculture was the chief vehicle for the development of intensive farming. Most producer co-operatives had farmed well this year, but a major source of anxiety was their reluctance to re-admit former members and to admit new ones. The admission of medium farmers was being particularly opposed. A slight increase in co-operative membership was nevertheless expected after the closing of the year's profit and loss accounts. (Budapest 03.30, 3.10.57; MTI 2.10.57)

### Ministry Statement on Harvest

A Ministry of Agriculture announcement said that the cereal harvest was appreciably heavier this year than last. The wheat yield was eight and a half quintals per hold. The vintage and fruit crop were "good average". The decline in the acreage of some industrial crops continued to cause concern. The livestock situation was developing favourably. The incubators had produced 21,000,000 day-old chicks this year, for which a good price was obtainable on the world markets. (Budapest for Hungarians in W Europe 19.00, 2.10.57)