

GRAIN STOCKS AT PEAK: Total carryover stocks of the five major Canadian grains in all North American positions except Newfoundland at July 31 were estimated at an all-time peak of 876,800,000 bushels, about 5% above the previous record of 832,300,000 in 1943 and more than two and a half times the 1944-53 average of 324,800,000.

Total stocks of Canadian wheat at the end of the crop year were estimated at 587,500,000 bushels, second only to the record 594,600,000 on hand in 1943. This compares with stocks of 369,200,000 bushels at the end of July last year and the 1944-53 average of 184,200,000. An estimated 205,900,000 bushels of this year's total were held on farms, while 208,600,000 of the off-farm stocks were in country elevators.

Rye stocks, estimated at 18,300,000 bushels, set a new record for the second successive year, exceeding last year's total by 2,600,000 bushels and the 1944-53 average by 13,200,000.

July-end stocks of oats, estimated at 123,800,000 bushels, were the third highest on record, being surpassed only by last year's 144,400,000 bushels and the 1943 record of 149,300,000.

Barley stocks, at 144,300,000 bushels, set a record for the third consecutive year, exceeding last year's total by 32,600,000 bushels and the 1944-53 average by 98,300,000.

Stocks of flaxseed, estimated at 2,500,000 bushels, were 1,400,000 below those of July 31 last year and less than one-fourth the record 10,700,000 in store on July 31, 1949. The 1944-53 average was 3,500,000 bushels.

Farm-held stocks of wheat, barley and rye at July 31 were the highest on record for the end of a crop year, while those of oats and flaxseed had been exceeded only once before. Farm stocks of wheat, estimated at 205,900,000 bushels, were more than two and a half times the 79,700,000 on farms in 1953 and 8% above the previous peak of 190,200,000 in 1943.

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EIGHT NAVAL OFFICERS TO INDOCHINA: Eight naval officers have been selected for service with the International Supervisory Commissions in Indochina, Naval Headquarters announced on August 18. They are: Commander A.D. McPhee, Vancouver and Ottawa; Lt.-Cdr. G.C. Hudson, Victoria; Lt.-Cdr. V.J. Murphy, Ladner and Wellington, B.C.; Lt.-Cdr. J.B. Young, Vancouver and Victoria; Lt.-Cdr. T.E. Connors, Montreal; Lt.-Cdr. (E) F.C. Palmer, Saskatoon; Lt.-Cdr. (S) J.P. Jordan, Montreal, and Lt. (E) F.A. Lambert, Portage La Prairie.

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More natural gas was produced and sold in Canada in May than in the same month last year. May production increased to 8,458,327 M cubic feet from 7,068,043 M, bringing the five-month output to 57,602,220 M cubic feet from 46,356,588 M.

HOSPITAL DEFICITS CUT: Canada's public hospitals took in more money than ever before in 1952 but still ended up the year in the red, according to the annual report on hospital finances by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. However, a sharper gain in revenue than in expenditure cut the deficit by over 35% to \$4,985,000 from 1951's \$7,702,000. In no year has revenue quite caught up with expenditure.

Revenue and expenditure both approached the \$200,000,000 mark in 1952, having doubled since 1947 and tripled since 1944. Revenue rose to \$193,227,000, up \$10,017,000 over the preceding year, while expenditure amounted to \$198,212,000, an increase of \$7,300,000. Only 86% of the 1952 income was actually earned from services rendered to patients.

If the year's activities had been financed from hospital earnings alone the resulting deficit would have been \$32,975,000, or over six times as high as the actual figure. The other 14% of the income of Canada's public hospitals in 1952 came mostly from government grants, with the provinces providing 6.4% and municipal governments 2.9% of the total income. Other sources such as investment income and donations supplied the other 4.5%

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ARMY FITNESS PROGRAM: A continuous and progressive physical fitness training programme for Canadian Army (Regular) personnel has passed from the planning stage and will shortly be implemented throughout units across Canada, Canadian Army Headquarters announced August 21.

A present establishment of 57 instructors is a basis on which it is hoped to develop, over the next few years, a progressive physical fitness training program covering every phase of training and employment.

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TROOPS IN EUROPE: Canadian troops in Europe have moved into a tented camp at Sennelager, Germany, a famed wartime Nazi training area, for two weeks of intensive training, Army Headquarters has announced. The camp is situated about 35 miles north of Soest, where headquarters of the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade is located.

At Sennelager, units of the brigade are practicing field firing of infantry weapons, tank-infantry co-operation, assault river crossings, patrolling and village fighting.

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ARMY SCHOOLS TOUR: An Ottawa educationalist, Mr. A.A. Smith, principal of Woodfalle School, Rockcliffe, has begun a tour of all Canadian Army and Air Force units in the European Continent, it was announced by National Defence Headquarters on August 18. Mr. Smith is assisting in the organization of schools there for the children of Canadian Servicemen.