

UNITED NATIONS

INTERNATIONAL FOOD COMMITTEE: The Cereals Committee of the International Emergency Food Committee is holding its Fifth (1948) meeting in Ottawa August 11-12. This international Committee, consisting of members of twenty-eight nations, is responsible for making recommendations to the respective governments regarding the international distribution of all grains and their food products. Membership on the Committee, which is within the framework of the U.N. and its Food and Agricultural Organization, accounts for over 90 per cent of the international grain import trade.

The principal items on the agenda of the present meeting in Ottawa are the recommended distribution of breadgrains and coarse grains for the July-December 1948 period and a consideration of the 1948-49 cereal year's position. In connection with the years outlook it is significant to note that reports from member governments received by the Committee Secretariat, which is located at Washington, D.C. indicate another year of active export demand for North American and Australian supplies.

While production especially of bread grains in 1948 considerably exceeds the smaller harvests in importing countries a year ago, import demand continues at a high level. This situation results from the desire of importing countries to improve bread rations, reduce extraction rates, rebuild working stocks from the very low levels reached during the past two critical food years and to slacken the rigid grain collection programs in effect in some countries since the beginning of the war. Many countries are still giving wheat and rye the number 1 import priority even though domestic crops are much better this year.

Imports of coarse grains for feed for livestock rehabilitation are also featuring the 1948-49 outlook according to Committee information. Import requests from Europe are only slightly below the prewar annual import of 9-10 million tons. Many countries are planning substantial increases in hog and poultry production during the year. Because of the critical world food situation since the end of the war, coarse grains have had to be used to a maximum extent possible as a substitute for bread grains in order to meet bread rations of importing countries.

W.H.O. COMMENDED: The Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council took up on August 9 the report of the Interim Commission of the World Health Organization and adopted a resolution suggested by the Chairman, Leonid Kaminsky (Byelorussia) which expresses the Council's satisfaction with the report and which transmits to the W.H.O. Assembly a brief

summary of E.C.O.S.O.C. discussions. All speakers paid tribute to the excellent work and usefulness of the W.H.O., reports the U.N. Press Bureau.

Dr. George F. Davidson (Canada) welcomed the projected development of W.H.O. regional outposts which would reach out to different parts of the world. He stressed the need for the closest possible coordination between the W.H.O. and the International Children's Emergency Fund.

MR. THOMSON TO OSLO: Canada's top weatherman, Andrew Thomson, Controller, Meteorological Division, Department of Transport, left August 9 for Oslo, Norway, to attend meetings of the Executive Council of the International Meteorological Organization. It is hoped, said Mr. Thomson, that plans will be completed at these sessions for the first meeting of the World Meteorological Organization and the drafting of an agreement with the United Nations.

Discussions will continue with many of the problems arising from the meetings held in Toronto in August 1947. The financing of the organization itself and such international projects as weather reporting facilities in Iceland will be discussed.

Mr. Thomson will be one of the Canadian delegates to the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics to be held in Oslo. The Eighth General Assembly meets there on August 17 - 28 to co-ordinate methods and procedures in geophysics and geodesy on an international level.

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districts, and indications are that spring grain crops will also be generally excellent. Favourable weather during the past two weeks has facilitated cutting, combining and threshing operations and has enabled farmers to bring to a close an unusually prolonged haying season. Hail on July 27 caused some damage to parts of the tobacco crop and to spring grains at scattered points in south-western Ontario and in Temiskaming.

According to the Ontario Department of Agriculture, Kenora is practically the only area in Ontario reporting poor grain yields this year. Most of the specialized crops---tobacco, dry beans, soy beans, corn and potatoes -- have shown improvement and indicate satisfactory yields.

With the exception of some areas in the lower St. Lawrence and the Abitibi district, Quebec weather conditions have been dry and warm during the past two weeks. As yet the harvesting of hay has not been completed. Although the average yield per acre is somewhat smaller than a year ago, it is considered satisfactory.