

CANADA AND WORLD WHEAT: Supplies of wheat remaining on or about January 1 this year in the four major exporting countries for export and for carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 2,056,800,000 bushels, less than 1% above the 2,038,900,000 available a year ago, according to the Bureau's January issue of the Wheat Review.

January 1 supplies of wheat in Canada were down to 616,000,000 bushels from 727,700,000 a year earlier, but were up in the United States to 1,092,200,000 bushels from 1,007,100,000, Argentina to 180,200,000 bushels from 146,600,000, and Australia to 168,400,000 bushels from 157,500,000.

Total exports of wheat and flour in terms of wheat from the four major exporting countries for the first five months of the current Canadian crop year, at 309,400,000 bushels, were some 9% larger than the 284,200,000 bushels shipped in the comparable period of 1953-54.

EXPORTS

Exports from the United States in the August-December period rose to 101,600,000 bushels from 82,800,000 a year earlier and Australia to 37,400,000 bushels from 26,500,000. Exports from Canada fell to 117,200,000 bushels from 121,000,000 and Argentina to 53,200,000 bushels from 53,800,000.

Total world import requirements for wheat in 1954-55 are expected to be somewhat above the previous season, largely because of the poor quality of the crop in Western Europe, the world's major importing area. Asia, the second most important outlet for the world's wheat exports, reports another large crop. Turkey was an important exporter in 1953-54 but will be on an import basis in 1954-55. France again has a surplus available for export but the supply includes a considerable quantity of low-quality grain.

Present indications point to an increase of at least 5% in the total exports of wheat in 1954-55, thus arresting the downward trend in world exports since the record 1,066,000,000-bushel export in 1951-52. United States exports may reach about 250,000,000 bushels compared with 216,000,000 in 1953-54 and Canadian exports will probably remain near last season's level of 288,000,000 bushels.

Canada's manufacturers shipped \$18,432,144 worth of toys and games in 1952, a sharp increase over the 1951 output value of \$16,286,202. The value of imports increased to \$7,663,852 from \$6,303,779, while exports fell in value to \$231,376 from \$367,760.

Hay fever is unknown in Newfoundland, and no snakes or other reptiles are found on the island.

H-BOMB PROBLEMS: Top-ranking federal civil defence authorities and civil defence chiefs from the provinces met February 15 at the Canadian Civil Defence College in Amprior, Ont. to discuss, among other items, methods of countering the latest and most potent wartime threat, the hydrogen bomb.

The group was addressed by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, federal Cabinet Minister responsible for civil defence. Mr. Martin said, "from this time forward, the greatest single controlling factor in civil defence is the hydrogen bomb."

The Minister pointed out that in spite of the tremendous destructive potential of this fearsome weapon, the problems of civil defence were not insuperable. Mr. Martin said that in future, greater emphasis must be placed on the planned evacuation of large cities, traffic control and plans for the reception, feeding and housing of evacuees in reception areas.

The group is discussing the implications of thermonuclear weapons and methods of countering them. In addition to lectures by federal civil defence experts, the effects of the bomb will be discussed by scientists of the Defence Research Board and by meteorological experts from the Department of Transport meteorological service.

ENTERTAINERS TO KOREA: A concert party of five Canadian artists will fly to the Far East early next month to entertain Canadian and other Commonwealth troops serving in Korea and Japan.

The troupe of stage, radio and TV personalities from Toronto and Montreal, is known as "The Joe Murphy Show" and will tour the Far East theatre for a period of three weeks. They will arrive in Tokyo on March 4.

CRUDE OIL RISE: Crude oil received by Canadian refineries was up 19% in November, 1954 to 14,188,331 barrels from 11,914,348 barrels in November 1953. Receipts from domestic sources accounted for the greater part of the increase with a jump of 30% to 7,995,716 barrels from 6,147,513 a year earlier. Receipts from other countries advanced over 7% to 6,192,615 from 5,766,835 barrels.

Shipments of Canada's clocks, watches and watch cases industry increased in value to \$11,035,592 in 1952 from \$10,591,405 in 1951 mainly as a result of a sharp increase in shipments of wrist watches to 315,294 worth \$6,008,107 from 271,848 valued at \$4,660,853.

The Canadian National Railways is the largest transcontinental railway system in North America.