

WHEAT SUPPLIES: Supplies of wheat remaining on or about June 1 this year in the four major exporting countries for export and carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 1,264,000,000 bushels, some 95 per cent greater than the 646,600,000 available a year ago, according to the Bureau's monthly wheat review.

This year's June 1 supplies were held as follows, with last year's figures in brackets: United States, 596,100,000 (284,500,000) bushels; Canada, 449,500,000 (304,500,000); Argentina, 144,300,000 (1,800,000); and Australia, 74,100,000 (55,800,000). Estimates for both years include on-farm stocks as well as those in commercial positions.

Late reports indicate that the wheat harvest now getting under way in much of the Northern Hemisphere is generally promising in most important producing areas for which information is available.

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WHEAT EXPORTS SOAR: Exports of wheat as grain in May soared to 41,700,000 bushels, virtually equal to the May, 1945 peak of 41,800,000 bushels, and well above last year's May shipments of 38,300,000 bushels. This brought the cumulative total for the first ten months of the current crop year to 249,800,000 bushels, some 9.5 per cent greater than the 228,100,000 bushels exported during the same period of 1951-52.

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EMPLOYMENT PEAK: Employment in the major industrial divisions was at a higher level at the beginning of May, and the Bureau's general index rose to a new peak for that date of 184.0 as compared with 182.0 at April 1 and 177.4 a year earlier. At the same time the payrolls index climbed to 450.8 from 444.4 at April 1 and 410.6 a year ago; while average weekly wages and salaries rose to \$57.61 from \$57.33 at the beginning of April and \$54.34 at May 1 last year.

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PETROLEUM AND COAL PRODUCTS: The gross value of production from the petroleum and coal products group of industries, embracing the petroleum products industry and the coke and gas industry, was \$709,550,000 in 1951, 16 per cent above the gross value of \$616,126,000 in 1950, according to the Bureau's general review of the group for 1951. The number of plants in the group increased to 82 from 76, those of the petroleum products industry accounting for the increase with a rise from 46 to 52. The number of employees increased to 15,598 from 15,177, salaries and wages to \$51,947,890 from \$44,425,368, and cost of materials to \$497,982,695 from \$442,418,483.

BUTTER PRODUCTION UP: Canadian production of creamery butter rose 14 per cent in the first six months of this year as compared with the corresponding period of 1952, while the June output increased 12 per cent. Domestic disappearance of creamery butter advanced five per cent in the half-year period and in June it was unchanged from a year earlier. Output in the January-June period amounted to 136,756,000 pounds as compared with 120,159,000 a year ago, and in June totalled 46,956,000 pounds as against 42,061,000.

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WHOLESALE SALES DOWN: Wholesale sales during May were four per cent lower in the aggregate than in the same month of 1952, according to figures received by the Bureau from wholesalers in nine lines of trade, the majority reporting decreases. The unadjusted index of sales for the month, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 375.2 as compared with 390.5 for May last year, but was up from 366.5 for April this year.

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"THE CROWN AND CANADA": Leather-bound pamphlets in English and French entitled "The Crown and Canada", as published by the Bureau of Current Affairs of the Department of National Defence, have been accepted with thanks by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

"The Crown and Canada" was written by the Hon. Mr. Justice Robert Taschereau of the Supreme Court of Canada and is part of a regular bi-monthly series issued by the Bureau of Current Affairs. The pamphlets were forwarded to the Queen by His Excellency the Governor General.

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BRITISH CADETS TO VISIT CANADA: A team of British Cadets, representing the Combined Cadet Force and the Army Cadet Force, will compete against a team of Canadian cadets in the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association Meet at Connaught Ranges, Ottawa, August 9 to 15. The competition, an annual event, will be for the Michael Farrady Imperial Cadet Trophy.

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Volume of passenger traffic carried by Canadian transit systems during March was again below the level of the same month a year earlier, declining 3.7 per cent to 126,898,000 from 131,747,000, but fare hikes by several companies boosted receipts to \$13,957,400, from \$13,778,596 in March, 1952.

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Canada's musical instruments industry gives employment to more than 1,300 and pays out over \$2,700,000 a year in salaries and wages.