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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

SECOND LARGEST CROPS: Canadian farmers may harvest in 1953 the second largest crops of wheat, barley and rye on record, according to forecasts by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on the basis of yields indicated at August 1. Indicated average yields per acre in 1953 for all crops covered in this release are well above the long-time averages, but with the exception of winter wheat, fall rye, flaxseed and mixed grains are below those of 1952, the Bureau of Statistics reported August 17.

Realization of the 1953 yield and production forecasts is dependent to an even greater extent than usual on favourable weather conditions being maintained until harvesting is completed. With the exception of fall-sown crops, very little grain harvesting had been started by August 1, and current production forecasts may, therefore, be subject to significant revisions in the light of actual harvesting results.

Canada's 1953 wheat crop, currently forecast at 603,800,000 bushels, will, if realized, be second only to last year's record crop of 687,900,000 and almost 43 per cent above the ten-year (1943-1952) average of 423,500,000. Production of the size indicated at August 1 would make this the second successive crop in excess of 600,000,000 bushels and the

third successive crop exceeding the half-billion bushel level. Wheat crops exceeding 500,000,000 bushels have been harvested in Canada only four times prior to 1951 -- 1928, 1939, 1940 and 1942. Much of this year's crop is immature and susceptible to frost damage and other hazards, and will require an extended period of warm, dry weather to fulfil current prospects.

The indicated decrease in production of the 1953 wheat crop from last year's record level is largely attributable to lower yields of spring wheat. This year's crop of spring wheat, forecast at 577,800,000 bushels, is being harvested from a seeded area estimated at 24,800,000 acres yielding an indicated 23.3 bushels per acre. In 1952 the spring wheat crop was estimated at a record 667,100,000 bushels, yielding an average of 26.3 bushels per acre on a seeded area of 25,300,000 acres.

In the Prairie Provinces the wheat crop is forecast at 574,000,000 bushels as against last year's record of 664,000,000. The anticipated average yield per seeded acre in the Prairie Provinces is 23.3 bushels, with Manitoba averaging 22.6; Saskatchewan, 22.7; and Alberta, 25.1 bushels per seeded acre. Production in Saskatchewan, the major wheat-producing Province, is placed at 365,000,000

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