

1948 WORLD WHEAT OUTLOOK FAVOURABLE

tinued through other means in order to search for a basis on which further work might be resumed by the Atomic Energy Commission. From the conclusions of the Atomic Energy Commission recorded in the third report, it is indicated that the main reasons why agreement has not so far been reached are to be sought in the wider field of international relations and are therefore, outside the competence of the Commission itself.

"If the work of the Atomic Energy Commission is now to be suspended, however, the challenge to the peoples of the world to find a solution to the problem of the control of this force, potentially so destructive to mankind, if uncontrolled, still remains. Indeed, the reports of the Commission must be a stimulus to further effort. For we have in these reports the fundamental elements required for a plan for effective control. We also have set out the essential facts of atomic energy, and these facts are obstinate and cannot be validly denied. All the nations represented on the Commission, except three, have been able to draw the same conclusions from these facts. Perhaps those who now disagree with us may yet come to share our views. We earnestly hope that this will be so."

PALESTINE STATEMENT: The following is the statement by General McNaughton on sending observers to Palestine, in the Security Council, On June 10:--

"I think that from what we have heard of the splendid initiative shown by our Mediator, we can have every confidence in his proper interpretation of the Security Council's resolution of 29th May. In this resolution the Mediator is instructed to supervise the observance of the truce in concert with the Truce Commission. If we turn to the previous resolution of the Security Council dated 23rd April, we find that the function of the Truce Commission is to assist the Security Council in supervising the implementation by the parties of the resolution of the Security Council.

"It follows logically that the members of the Truce Commission are under obligation to provide the assistance and the facilities which are needed for this task, and it is most satisfactory to observe that these nations are discharging this responsibility as a duty to the Security Council and the United Nations. There cannot properly be any question of the right of a country to participate, as has been suggested by the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

"I believe that the resolutions, which are now on the record of the Security Council, are correct, that they are appropriate and that they are being properly, correctly and wisely interpreted by our Mediator on the spot."

IN PARLIAMENT

RAPID PROGRESS: Rapid progress was made this week in Parliament toward cleaning up the work of the session. Every effort is being put forth to prorogue by the end of June and the press has declared Saturday, June 26, to be a likely date for the termination of the present session. A notice on the Order Paper heralds Saturday sittings commencing this week. Many items of important but unspectacular legislation were advanced during this past week's sittings.

LABOUR INCOME: Labour income in Canada in March is estimated at \$533,000,000, down \$7,000,000 from the February figure, but up \$8,000,000 from March 1947, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Although increases were registered in the wages, salaries and supplementary labour income earned in agriculture, mining, transportation and services, the gains were not sufficient to counterbalance the drop in the total payments of the logging, manufacturing and construction industries. During March there was a seasonal contraction of operations in the woods and a minor slump in employment, generally accompanied by slightly lower levels of average weekly earnings in these industries.

For the first quarter of 1948, the total labour income was \$194,000,000 greater than that in 1947. A larger working force and considerably higher levels of average weekly earnings raised the 1948 quarterly total to \$1,607,000,000 as compared with \$1,413,000,000 in the same period last year. Over the three-month period average weekly earnings in the nine leading industries were about 13 per cent higher in 1948 than in 1947.

PRODUCTION OF AUTOMOBILES: Production of automobiles in Canada in 1947 amounted to 248,015 units compared with 171,528 in the preceding year and 132,645 in 1945, according to preliminary figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Despite the gain over immediately preceding years, unit output was lower than in the year 1941, when production for the armed forces was at a high level. Value of vehicle output in 1947 was \$298,518,669 compared with \$164,015,668 in 1946.

Reflecting the reconversion of this industry from wartime to peacetime production, 167,257 passenger cars were produced in 1947 against only 91,871 in 1946. Output of trucks and buses totalled 90,758 units, showing an increase over the 1946 output of 79,657 units, but a decline from the 130,777 in 1945, 158,038 in 1944 and 178,064 in 1943.

Of the 258,015 vehicles made in 1947, 191,395 units were made for sale in Canada and 66,620 units were intended for export.

845,000,000 BUSHEL IN U.S.: The outlook for the 1948 world wheat crop continues generally favourable, with encouraging conditions in the four major exporting countries and indications of substantially larger crops than last year in Europe and Asia, according to the monthly review of the world wheat situation by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

In the United States -- which will be the first of the four major exporting countries to harvest the new crop -- the May 1 forecast placed the winter wheat crop at 845 million bushels, down 15 million bushels from the April 1 estimate but nearly 23 per cent above the 10-year average of 689 million bushels, and late reports indicate that conditions were quite well maintained through the month of May.

No official estimates are available yet for the United States and the Canadian spring wheat crops, but reports to date are generally optimistic as to prospects. The season is extremely late in much of the Canadian West but excellent seeding and growing weather in recent weeks has done much to offset the effects of a cold, wet spring. Intended acreages of spring wheat are down somewhat from 1947 levels in both countries.

In Australia and the Argentine harvest time is still many months away, but good progress has been made with seeding. A report from Australia indicates that a long drought in the west has been broken by steady rains but there have been some losses in early wheat fields; elsewhere conditions have been satisfactory for planting germination and a good acreage is expected.

Further rains have fallen over much of the

continent, states a late report from Europe, and the general situation is very favourable. Harvesting has begun in some southern countries and with good weather will become active shortly.

In Roumania the wheat acreage is estimated at 6,715,000 acres, somewhat above the goal announced late last year and, barring drought or rust, the yield is expected to be about 14 bushels per acre compared with nine bushels last year, which would provide a wheat outturn of 94,681,000 bushels as against the official estimate of 52,320,000 bushels last year. Trade reports indicate that hot weather has followed beneficial rains in the Soviet Union, where the general crop outlook appears to be favourable. Realization of these good prospects on an acreage reported larger than last year should result in significant quantities of grain being available for export from Russia in the 1948-49 season. A recent private estimate places the probable French wheat crop at 292 million bushels, which is far above last year's unrevised estimate of 150 million bushels and compares with the 1935-39 average of 286.5 million. In Italy the winter wheat acreage is somewhat above the 1947 level and indications in mid-May, according to a trade source, were for a wheat crop of about 232 million bushels; last year's unrevised production estimate was 205 million and the 1935-39 outturn was 279 million. In Germany near normal yields are anticipated, and in Spain a good average crop of wheat and barley is expected.

Both India and China also expect significantly greater wheat crops in 1948 than were harvested in 1947.

CROP CONDITIONS IN CANADA

WELL MAINTAINED ON PRAIRIES: Crop conditions over the greater part of the Prairie Provinces have been quite well maintained during the past week, with timely showers benefiting many districts in Saskatchewan and southern Alberta. Recent heavy rains, however, in the Claresholm, Cardston area of southwestern Alberta have delayed seeding to the point where it is estimated that total crop acreage in that district may be as much as 15 to 20 per cent below normal. Seeding is practically completed in Manitoba and Saskatchewan with a small percentage of coarse grains remaining to be sown in Alberta. Temperatures during the past week have ranged generally above normal.

Precipitation since April 1 in Alberta and Manitoba is still above normal but has dropped 22 per cent below normal in Saskatchewan. Subsoil moisture reserves are deemed to be quite

generally satisfactory over most of the Prairies as yet. With the exception of a few areas where moisture supplies are still excessive, general rains would now be welcome in all three provinces to replenish top-soil moisture supplies and to facilitate germination and growth of late seeded crops particularly. Insect infestations are not serious except in south-central, west-central and north-western regions of Saskatchewan where grasshopper damage is continuing and extensive control measures are under way. Serious wireworm damage is also reported from western Saskatchewan.

Serious floods in British Columbia have evidently prevented correspondents from assessing the damage in the Fraser and Kootenay Valleys although it is known to be severe. In the Okanagan Valley, however, conditions are still promising.