

Half-year's Store Sales: With dollar sales in June repeating the gains of earlier months over last year, total department store sales in Canada during the first half of this year were 10 per cent higher than last year. All provinces shared in the half-year gain, largest increases being in the Maritime and Prairie Provinces, and sales were higher in all departments except food and kindred products.

According to the Bureau of Statistics, January-June sales aggregated \$382,744,000 as compared with \$348,735,000 for the first six months of 1948. June sales amounted to \$67,230,000 as compared with \$63,254,000 for June last year, a lower-than-average increase of six per cent.

By regions, gains in the half-year ranged from nearly 19 per cent for Alberta to six per cent for Quebec. The Maritime Provinces were second in degree of increase with over 14 per cent; followed by Saskatchewan, just under 14 per cent; Manitoba, 12 per cent; British Columbia, nine per cent; and Ontario, nearly eight per cent.

Long-time Crop Yields: Average annual yield per acre of all wheat in Canada during the 41 years from 1908 to 1948 inclusive was 16 bushels, fall wheat averaging 25 bushels and spring wheat 16 bushels, according to a summary of long-time average yields of field crops issued by the Bureau of Statistics. British Columbia had the highest average yield of spring wheat at 25 bushels, followed by Ontario with 19 bushels, Alberta and the three Maritime Provinces with 18 bushels each, Manitoba and Quebec with 17, and Saskatchewan with 15 bushels. Ontario's fall wheat crops have averaged 25 bushels per acre.

Across Canada: Monday and Tuesday were the hottest 8th and 9th of August Ottawa has experienced since temperatures were first recorded in 1890. Temperatures were recorded at 97 and 96 degrees respectively....Some 40 small forest fires were reported burning in Northern Ontario's bushlands.