

canes dealt such stunning losses to the German attackers that Hitler was forced to ease his daylight aerial offence. Although night bombing continued, the Battle of Britain was won and the immediate threat of invasion removed.

The Battle of Britain has special significance for the RCAF. It was the Force's baptism of fire when, in August, 1940, No. 1 Squadron of the RCAF (later designated 401 Squadron) flew into action against the enemy near London, won its first victories and suffered its first casualties. Another fighter squadron, No. 242 of the RAF Fighter Command, and composed of Canadian pilots in the RAF, also won for the RAF and Canada great distinction for its action during the prolonged air battle.

Forty-seven Canadian officers and men serving with the RAF and RCAF gave their lives in the Battle of Britain. They served not only in Fighter Command, but in Bomber and Coastal Commands as well.

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## CROPS FORECAST

Production of all wheat, all rye, rapeseed and tame hay will be lower this year than last, but production of oats, barley, mixed grains, flaxseed and mustard seed will be larger, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, first official forecasts for the year, based on yields indicated at August 15. Present prospects point to a 339,000,000-bushel wheat crop, 9 per cent below last year's estimate of 371,000,000 and 31 per cent below the ten-year (1948-57 average). The oats and barley crops are placed at 384,000,000 bushels and 229,000,000 bushels, respectively, with flax estimated at 22,000,000 bushels. Fall and spring rye together account for some 8,000,000 bushels. Average yields per acre of the principal field crops this year are close to those of a year ago and the long-term average but generally below the recent ten-year average.

Canada's 1958 wheat crop, currently forecast at 338,700,000 bushels will, if realized, be 9 per cent smaller than last year's estimate of 370,500,000 and 31 per cent below the ten-year (1948-57 average) of 489,800,000. The decrease from 1957 is attributable jointly to the decline of 1 per cent in acreage and a reduction of average yield from 17.6 bushels in 1957 to 16.2 bushels per acre this year.

The 1958 crop of spring wheat, forecast at 314,900,000 bushels is being harvested from a seeded area of 20,300,000 acres, yielding an indicated 15.5 bushels per acre. The 1957 spring wheat crop was produced on 20,400,000 acres, yielding an average of 17.2 bushels per acre. The 1958 yield for Ontario's winter wheat crop is placed at a record 41.0 bushels per acre as compared with 33.2 in 1957. A 2 per cent reduction in acreage was more than offset by the increased yield, and production

at 23,800,000 bushels is up 21 per cent from last year's 19,600,000.

Production of oats in 1958 is forecast at 384,100,000 bushels, an increase of 1 per cent from last year's 380,600,000 but a decline of 5 per cent from the ten-year average of 403,300,000. The increase is entirely due to larger yields as the acreage is the same as the year previous. The average yield for the 1958 all-Canada oat crop is estimated at 34.8 bushels per acre as against 34.5 in 1957. Average yields in Ontario set new records. The increased yields in this province coupled with a larger acreage is largely responsible for the greater Canadian production.

The 1958 barley crop is forecast at 228,900,000 bushels, some 6 per cent higher than last year's 216,000,000 and 6.5 per cent above the ten-year average of 214,900,000. The increase in production this year is due to a 2 per cent increase in acreage coupled with a 4 per cent increase in yields per acre compared with one year earlier.

Production of rye, forecast at 8,000,000 bushels is 6 per cent below last year's outturn of 8,500,000. The crop is less than half the ten-year average of 16,800,000 and the smallest since 1945. Some 6,900,000 bushels of this year's crop is fall rye which averaged 16.8 bushels per acre, and the spring rye crop is forecast at 1,100,000 bushels, averaging 10.2 bushels per acre.

This year's flaxseed crop, currently forecast at 22,000,000 bushels will, if realized, be some 14 per cent higher than last year's 19,200,000, despite a drop in acreage of 24 per cent. Average yields at 8.2 bushels per acre are 49 per cent greater than in 1957 when the average was 5.5 bushels due to a combination of drought and the disease "aster yellows".

Production of rapeseed is placed at 401,000,000 pounds compared with 433,000,000 the year previous. Although acreage seeded to this crop this year increased 10 per cent over 1957, average yields of 590 pounds per acre are some 16 per cent below last year's average of 701 pounds. Production of mustard seed is currently forecast at 74,000,000 pounds, about 4 per cent larger than last year's 71,000,000.

Canada's 1958 crop of mixed grains, grown mainly in eastern Canada, is forecast at 63,700,000 bushels compared with last year's 63,300,000 and the ten-year average of 61,600,000. The increased average yield from 43.6 bushels in 1957 to 44.8 in 1958 slightly more than offset the decrease in acreage of 2 per cent. Production of tame hay is forecast at 16,800,000 tons, 12 per cent below last year's outturn and 8 per cent below the ten-year average.

The 1958 potato crop, on the basis of conditions on August 15, is forecast at 37,700,000 cwt., 14 per cent below the 1957 crop of 44,100,000 cwt. and 4 per cent below the ten-year average of 39,300,000 cwt. The decrease