

## SMALLER WORLD WHEAT CROP FORECAST

**DESPITE INCREASED ACREAGES:** Prospects are for a somewhat smaller world wheat crop this year in spite of increased acreages in major producing countries, states the Bureau of Statistics in the July issue of its monthly review of the wheat situation.

In the United States, the acreage of all wheat for harvest in 1949, estimated at 75,500,000 acres, is five per cent above the 71,900,000 acres harvested in 1948, and exceeds the previous record of 74,400,000 acres harvested in 1947 by 1.5 per cent. The total planted acreage of all wheat in the United States this year is estimated at 83,200,000 acres, six per cent above the previous record of 78,200,000 planted for the 1947 crop. In Canada the 1949 wheat acreage is estimated at 27,500,000 acres, second only to the record 28,700,000 planted in 1940, and 17 per cent above the ten-year (1939-1948) average of 23,500,000 acres.

With seeding in Australia and Argentina nearing completion, indications are that there will be some increase in wheat acreage in the southern hemisphere. Preliminary figures place Australia's wheat acreage at 13,300,000 compared with 13,000,000 in 1948 and 13,900,000 in 1947. Trade sources indicate that plantings in Argentina will fall short of the goal of 17,300,000 acres.

The major exception to the general trend in increased wheat acreages appears to be in Europe. Despite definite plans on the part of many governments to encourage increases, actual plantings have fallen short of officially

projected targets in several countries with the result that European wheat acreage, excluding that of Russia is likely to differ little from last year.

Indications are that this year's output of breadgrains in Europe, excluding the Soviet Union, will be about five per cent below the 1948 level and more than 10 per cent below the 1935-39 average. On the basis of conditions at July 1, the United States wheat crop was estimated at 1,189,000,000 bushels, eight per cent less than the 1,288,000,000 produced last year but about 20 per cent more than the average of 992,000,000 bushels. Although the combined carry-over and prospective new-crop supplies were insufficient to necessitate the introduction of marketing quotas, the United States Department of Agriculture has announced national wheat acreage allotments of 68,900,000 acres for the 1950 crop, a reduction of 17 per cent from this year's seeded acreage.

The first official estimate of Canada's 1949 wheat crop will not be available until August 16. Despite the near-record acreage, however, present indications are that the output will be below last year's 393,300,000 bushels. The condition figure at June 30 for all wheat was only 72 per cent of the long-time average yield of 16 bushels per acre. Although there has been some improvement in moisture conditions during July, deficiencies in preseasonal precipitation continued to affect crop developments adversely, especially in those areas where rainfall is normally low.

**MR. JOHNSON'S VISIT:** The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, announced on August 6 that the Hon. Louis Johnson, United States Secretary of Defence, had accepted his invitation to visit Ottawa on Thursday, August 11.

"Mr. Johnson is paying us a call for an exchange of views on matters of mutual interest", he said, "and we are looking forward to making his acquaintance."

Mr. Johnson, who was appointed by President Truman last March to head the three armed services of the United States met Prime Minister St. Laurent, Mr. Claxton and other members of the Cabinet Defence Committee shortly after his arrival. He laid a wreath at the War Memorial and was the guest for lunch of His Excellency the Hon. Laurence A. Steinhardt, United States Ambassador to Canada.

At Rockcliffe the Royal Canadian Air Force provided a guard of honour for the arrival of the Defence Secretary, and the 30th Field Regiment, RCA, fired a 19-gun salute as he stepped from his plane. In addition, an honour guard from the Canadian Army attended Mr. Johnson when he laid his wreath at the foot of the Cenotaph.

**HARVESTER MOVEMENT:** The annual federal-provincial movement of harvesters to the Prairie Provinces commenced around August 10, according to an announcement by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell.

The exact number required for the movement is not yet known, but the demand is not as heavy as last year when 2,200 made the trip and it is expected there will be sufficient experienced volunteers to meet the requirements, the Minister explained.

The harvest is somewhat earlier than last year, especially in parts of Manitoba, so the workers will in many cases start work in Manitoba and work West through Saskatchewan and Alberta. The peak of the movement will be reached around August 25, Mr. Mitchell stated.

Transportation is being provided for the workers at a low rate of \$15.00 going and \$11.50 for the return journey.

Earlier this Summer, as in past years, workers were brought from the West to Ontario for early hay harvesting operations. The demand, which was less than last year, was fully met by workers from the West and a few from the Maritimes, the Minister stated.