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Smaller World Wheat Crop: Prospects are for a somewhat smaller world wheat crop this year in spite of increased acreage 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 acreage 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.

RCAF Changes: The transfer of four senior Air Force officers and the retirement of one of the original members of the RCAF, was announced in Ottawa on August 8 by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton. Air Commodore D. E. MacKell, CBE, of Ottawa, Deputy Air Member for Personnel, a veteran of 35 years' service, is retiring from the Air Force and will be replaced by Air Commodore F.G. Wait, CBE, of Ottawa, presently Commander of the RCAF Group at Halifax. Air Commodore R.C. Gordon, CBE, of Harris, Sask., Air Attaché and Air Member of the Canadian Joint Staff in Washington, will take command of the Group at Halifax. Air Commodore J.G. Bryans, CBE, of Ottawa, now attending the Imperial Defence College in Britain, has been appointed Deputy Air Member for Air Plans (Organization) replacing Air Commodore W.E. Bennett, of Halifax, who has been transferred to the Imperial Defence College. The changes are effective the latter part of this year.

Gen. Simonds Assumes New Post: Lieutenant-General G.G. Simonds, CB, CBE, DSO, arrived at Kingston over last week-end prior to taking over his new appointment as Commandant of the National Defence College and the Canadian Army Staff College next week. He replaces Major General J.F.M. Whitely, CB, CBE, MC, present Commandant, who has been serving in Canada on exchange duty from the British Army for the past two years and who will return to England in the near future.

Since the exchange of these two senior officers went into effect in January, 1947, General Simonds has been Army Instructor at the Imperial Defence College at Camberley, England. At the same time, General Whitely took command of the Canadian Army Staff College, and, when it opened in January, 1948, of the National Defence College.

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