

While longevity has improved for both sexes, there has been only slight improvement for males beyond middle life. The rapid decline in the death-rate for infants of both sexes has been continuing with slower declines with advancing age, so that relatively stationary death rates have been established from about 50 years onwards for males although females have shown improvement at later years.

The improvement in life expectancy, particularly among children and adolescents, is due mainly to the substantial reduction in recent years of mortality from infectious diseases; on the other hand, diseases associated with middle and old age are much less amenable to control. It is therefore unlikely that improvement in life expectancy in the future will be comparable to that of the past quarter century.

As approximately 11 per cent of deaths in the 1955-57 period occurred among infants and an additional 75 per cent among persons over age 50, any additional improvement must come as the result of further declines in mortality from conditions associated with childbirth and early infancy, further control of infectious diseases, prevention of accidents, and advances in combating diseases associated with middle and old age, such as heart, circulatory, kidney conditions, and cancer.

WHEAT STOCK FOR UK

On August 6, Prime Minister Diefenbaker told the House of Commons, in the following statement, of the Government's plan to form a wheat stockpile in the United Kingdom:

"I should like to make an announcement with regard to the Government programme for assisting NATO countries to set up strategic stockpiles of wheat flour. Hon. Members will recall that on June 1 of last year I informed the House of the Government's intention to ask Parliament for \$10 million for that purpose. I stated at that time that I had made this proposal, in general terms, at the meeting of the heads of the governments of NATO countries in Paris in December, 1957, whereby I suggested the establishment of a food bank amongst the NATO countries for use in the event of any outbreak of hostilities. I expressed at that time the willingness of the Canadian Government to play its part in the establishment of such food reserves, and these facts were communicated to the House on July 19, 1958.

AGREEMENT WITH OSLO

"Negotiations with the NATO allies took longer than was expected. It was not until April of this year that the first agreement under the programme was completed, and on April 26 the Secretary of State for External Affairs informed the House of the conclusion on the preceding day of an agreement with Nor-

way under which Canada would provide 20,000 tons of wheat flour for wartime emergency stockpiling purposes in that country. I am now able to announce the conclusion on August 5 of an agreement with the United Kingdom under which Canada will provide 30,000 tons of wheat flour later this year for wartime emergency stockpiling in the United Kingdom. Provision has already been made by the House in the supplementary estimates of the Department of External Affairs for the expenditures required under this agreement and the agreement with Norway.

"The agreement with the United Kingdom took the form of an exchange of notes between the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom. These notes set out the terms and conditions under which the flour will be provided by Canada and stored by the United Kingdom...

UK AGREEMENT

"The agreement provides that 30,000 tons of flour, suitably packaged for long storage, will be delivered to Canadian seaports to be specified by the Government. The United Kingdom will inspect and assume title to the flour at these ports, with all expenses thereafter being borne by the United Kingdom Government. They will transport the flour to the United Kingdom, where it will be stored for emergency use should war occur. When it is no longer fit for human consumption, it will be replaced by the United Kingdom, so as to maintain the original level of the stockpile at the initial amount."

RECORD STRATFORD SEASON

Tyrone Guthrie's production of "H.M.S. Pinafore", which concluded its run in Stratford, Ontario, on Saturday, August 6, was the most successful musical production in the eight-year history of the Stratford Festival. In 24 performances, staged during a period of three weeks, the Gilbert and Sullivan opera played to approximately 27,000 people in the Avon theatre, resulting in a box-office gross of \$83,000.

During the entire run there were only 18 vacant seats, all of them at one performance. From all other performances patrons had to be turned away. If the Avon Theatre had not been committed to other Festival events, it is estimated that Dr. Guthrie's production could have doubled the length of its engagement.

Although it has weighed anchor at the Stratford Festival, the good ship "Pinafore" will sail on to other ports. With its original cast, it will be video-taped by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation late this month in Toronto for showing on October 3 as the first of the television "Festival '61" series. On September 7 it will move to New York for a five-week engagement at the "off-Broadway" Phoenix theatre.