

WORLD WHEAT SITUATION: With the present outlook for European crops favourable, there is promise of the tight wheat supply situation of the past two or three years being relieved to a considerable extent, according to the monthly review of the world wheat situation by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Excluding Russia, Europe's crop of wheat and rye is tentatively estimated by the United States Department of Agriculture at 2,016 million bushels, which is sharply above the 1947 output of 1,493 million bushels and also considerably above the 1946 production of 1,791 million bushels. It is still 300 million bushels below the pre-war average, however, and Europe will again need considerable imports in the coming crop year.

Supplies available from exporting countries from new crops are still an unknown factor, except in the United States where the second largest crop in history is expected. The official forecast now placed the United States winter wheat crop at 877.2 million bushels. No official estimate of the spring crop has been made, but average yields would give a production of 315 million bushels. Prospects for nearly all other crops in the United States are average or better.

Due to the protracted June drought throughout a large part of the wheat-growing area of the Prairie Provinces, the Canadian outlook at present is not so favourable. The wet spring delayed seeding of the major part of the acreage and abnormally high temperatures dried the surface soil, resulting in poor germination and growth of late-sown crops. Grasshoppers are also doing considerable damage. Unless weather conditions are particularly favourable in the next few weeks a large crop cannot be expected this year in Canada.

According to trade reports, Australia has seeded a somewhat smaller acreage to wheat than last year, but recent rains over the greater part of the country should give newly seeded grain a good start. In the Argentine, weather conditions have been favourable also for wheat planting, but it is expected that the acreage will again be on the small side, probably about the level of last year or smaller. A large increase in acreage of spring grains in Russia is reported and, judging from recent reports of agreements made by Russia with several European countries, a volume of export supplies is anticipated.

GOLD MINING INDUSTRY: Canadian production of fine gold in 1946 amounted to 2,832,554 troy ounces valued at \$104,096,359 as compared with the preceding year's output of 2,692,727 troy ounces worth \$103,823,990, according to the annual review of the industry by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The employment situation showed only slight improvement which

might account for the increase in quantity of gold, but in July 1946 the Canadian dollar was brought to parity with the United States dollar, thus lowering the price of gold from \$38.50 to \$35.00 per ounce. This price change had an adverse effect on the gold mining industry. Increased costs and limited supply of mining equipment retarded the development of many mines.

Ontario was the largest contributor to the gold production with 64 per cent, followed by Quebec with 21.8 per cent, and British Columbia 4.8 per cent. The Balance of the year's output was accounted for by Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia and Alberta, in that order.

Gold yield, according to the type of deposit or nature of recovery included, in crude gold bullion produced at gold mines, 80.91 per cent; in blister and anode copper, 13.48 per cent; in ores, matte, slags, etc. exported, 3.30 per cent; in alluvial gold, 2.15 per cent; and in base bullion at lead smelters, 0.16 per cent.

The lifting of restriction allowed development of ground previously explored by diamond drilling. The footage drilled on auriferous quartz deposits was 4,984,752, which was more than in the preceding year. During the latter part of the year, diamond drilling activity declined very rapidly.

U.S. ASKS FARM AID: The demand for Canadian harvesting equipment in the United States is gradually developing, said Arthur MacNamara, Deputy Minister of Labour, on July 6, and up to the present time 415 harvesting combines have been requested by the United States.

About a month ago, the prospects for the employment of Canadian combines south of the border were very slim, but, due to improved weather conditions there is now a demand for this assistance in the mid-Western States, principally in Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota.

In cooperation with the Provincial authorities, the National Employment Service has allocated the demands for combines as follows: Saskatchewan, 220; Alberta, 96; Manitoba, 91; British Columbia, four; and Ontario, four.

OLYMPIC BOXER: Stores Assistant Eddie Haddad, Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian amateur lightweight boxing champion and No. 1 man on Canada's Olympic boxing team, will arrive in Halifax shortly to undergo special boxing training under Naval auspices in H.M.C.S. "Stadacona" the R.C.N. training base on the east coast, it was announced by Naval Service Headquarters today. Haddad will leave Halifax for London and the 1948 Olympic Games on July 15 aboard the liner Aquitania.