

yields 20 per cent in excess of average. India's crop, although slightly below average should be 20 per cent larger than in 1947. In North Africa the wheat crop is expected to be below average but will exceed the 1947 outturn.

In the Southern Hemisphere where harvest will not begin until near the end of the year, reports from Australia indicate reduced wheat seedings but crop conditions to date have been quite good. Argentine farmers have apparently again seeded a relatively low acreage of wheat and late reports indicate that some of the more important wheat areas are in need of rain.

Despite increased bread-grain production this year in most importing countries, there are many indications that import requirements will remain at high levels during the current crop year. This view is substantiated by reports from member governments of the International Emergency Food Committee. These reports indicate a desire on the part of importing countries to improve bread rations, reduce extraction rates, rebuild working stocks from the very low levels reached during the past two critical food years and to slacken the rigid grain collection programs in effect in some countries since the beginning of the war. Many countries are still giving wheat and rye top priority on their import list even though their domestic crops are much better this year.

CANADIAN DELEGATION: The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced September 10 that the Canadian Delegation to the forthcoming Extraordinary Session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization will be composed of Mr. Victor Dore, C.M.G., Canadian Ambassador in Belgium as Delegate and Mr. Paul Beaulieu, Second Secretary in the Canadian Embassy in Paris, as Alternate Delegate. The Conference will take place in Paris on September 15.

At the Mexico City Conference of UNESCO, which met in November and December 1947, it was decided that the Third Session should be held in Beirut, Lebanon, in October of this year. Owing to unsettled conditions in the Middle East it has become necessary to convene an Extraordinary Session to reconsider this decision.

MR. MITCHELL IN NETHERLANDS: Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour, is now in the Netherlands conferring with labour officials on matters of mutual interest to Canada and the Netherlands; his office in Ottawa announced September 9.

On Wednesday, Mr. Mitchell discussed labour conditions in the Netherlands with Dr. A.M. Joekes, Dutch Minister of Social Affairs at The Hague, Holland. Previous to this Mr. Mitchell visited Brussels for discussions with Leon Elie Troclet, Belgian Labour Minister.

Following his talks in the Netherlands, Mr. Mitchell will make a tour of the Displaced Persons Camps in Germany, where officials of his Department are assisting in the selection of immigrants to Canada.

R.C.A.F. APPOINTMENT: The appointment of Group Captain H.M. Carscallen, DFC, of Hamilton, Ont., as Chief Staff Officer, North West Air Command, with the rank of Air Commodore, was announced September 9 by the Hon. Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence. He replaces Air Commodore J.L. Hurley, CBE, whose appointment as Senior Liaison Officer for the RCAF in London was announced several months ago.

BANK OF CANADA BUILDING: The Bank of Canada announced September 8 plans for the construction of a five-storey building in Montreal on Victoria Square at the corner of Craig Street. Excavation and the laying of foundations will begin immediately to allow construction of the building above street level to get under way as soon as possible.

The new building will serve as a permanent home for the Bank of Canada which, since 1935, has been operating in rented premises at 200 St. James Street West. The Bank was not able to extend the lease of these premises beyond the spring of 1950, and the target date for completion of the new building has accordingly been set for the early months of that year. The structure, which will occupy a frontage of 180 feet on Victoria Square, to a depth of 73 feet, will be built entirely of Canadian material except for a very small percentage which is not available in this country. The new building will also house the Industrial Development Bank and the Foreign Exchange Control Board office, both of which organizations are now occupying rented space in Montreal.

FARM CASH INCOME: Canadian farmers realized a cash return from the sale of farm products of approximately \$974,212,000 during the first six months of this year, according to a preliminary estimate by the Bureau of Statistics. This amount compares with \$732,704,000 in the similar period of 1947 and \$620,193,000 in 1946. With the inclusion of supplementary cash payments under the provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, the Wheat Acreage Reduction Act, and the Prairie Farm Income Act, cash receipts for the half year aggregated \$989,572,000, as against \$742,626,000 in the like period of 1947.

A large share of the increase in total farm cash income in 1948 over that of 1947 can be attributed to substantial sums paid out in Western Canada by the Canadian Wheat Board in connection with adjusting, participation and final equalization payments on wheat, flaxseed and oats.