

**WHEAT SUPPLIES:** Total Canadian wheat supplies for the 1952-53 crop year are currently estimated at 957,000,000 bushels, consisting of carryover stocks of 362,700,000 and the new crop, estimated on the basis of yields at September 1, at a next-to-record 594,300,000 bushels.

Stocks of wheat in country elevators on October 14, at 178,100,000 bushels, were up considerably from those of a month ago and exceeded by wide margins the stocks of 139,700,000 and 96,900,000 bushels in the same position in 1952 and 1951, respectively.

Stocks in transit in the Western division were 12,600,000 bushels, somewhat below the 14,900,000 last season and 12,900,000 two years ago. Supplies in Eastern elevators were well above those of the preceding two years. Stocks in bay, lake, and Upper St. Lawrence ports at 42,600,000 bushels were up sharply from the 23,100,000 and 16,200,000 in those positions in 1952 and 1951, respectively, while holdings of wheat in Lower St. Lawrence and Maritime ports were almost double those in each of the two previous seasons.

Total visible supplies at October 14 amounted to some 316,600,000 bushels, exceeding by 30 per cent and 58 per cent the total visible supplies of Canadian wheat at approximately the same date in 1952 and 1951, respectively.

Subject to realization of current production and utilization estimates, the balance remaining on October 1 this year for export and for carryover is estimated at 744,300,000 bushels as against 686,600,000 a year ago.

Total exports of Canadian wheat and wheat flour in terms of wheat in September amounted to 24,200,000 bushels, and with the exception of last year, were the highest for the month since 1945. Although this year's September exports were down from both the preceding month and September, 1952, they were some 15 per cent greater than the 10-year average for the month of 21,100,000 bushels.

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**9-MONTHS' CHEQUES \$100 BILLION:** The value of cheques cashed in 35 clearing centres across Canada during September totalled \$10,446,000,000; an advance of nearly four per cent over last year's September total of \$10,065,000,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This brought the cumulative total for the first nine months of 1953 to \$100,015,000,000 as compared with \$90,203,000,000 in the like 1952 period, a gain of 10.9 per cent.

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Canadian chartered banks operate abroad through more than 100 branches, agencies and subsidiaries located in the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Cuba, the West Indies, and Central and South America. The gross assets of these branches totalled more than \$1,000,000,000 at the end of 1952.

**MAJ. GEN. VANIER RETIRING:** The Department of External Affairs announced on November 16 that Major-General George P. Vanier, D.S.O., M.C., Canadian Ambassador to France (since 1944) will relinquish his appointment at the end of this year and retire from the government service after a distinguished career of 38 years in the Army and the diplomatic service.

General Vanier was born in Montreal in 1888. He graduated from Laval University in 1911 and practised law for two years in Montreal before he joined the Canadian Army in 1914. During his active service in France with the Royal 22nd Regiment, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and the Military Cross. He was severely wounded in action. Between 1919 and 1939 he served successively as Aide-de-Camp to the Governor-General; as Canadian Representative to the Permanent Advisory Commission for Military, Naval and Air Questions, as Technical Adviser to the office of the Canadian Advisory Officer at Geneva, and as Secretary at the Office of the High Commissioner for Canada in London. In January, 1939, General Vanier was appointed Canadian Minister to France.

Upon his return to Canada in October, 1940, General Vanier was appointed member of the Canada-United States Permanent Joint Board on Defence, and also served as Joint Chairman, Civilian Recruiting Committee, Montreal. He was then appointed as District Officer Commanding, Military District No. 5 in Quebec.

In January, 1943, General Vanier was appointed Canadian Minister to the Allied Governments in London and, later that year, was made Canadian Representative to the French Committee on National Liberation. He was transferred from London to Algiers in that same capacity in January, 1944, and remained there until his appointment as Canadian Ambassador to France in November, 1944.

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**PETROLEUM PRODUCTION UP:** Crude petroleum production for all Canada amounted to 8,277,152 barrels in August, up from 8,057,507 barrels in July and 38 per cent above last year's August output of 5,997,984 barrels. Aggregate production to the end of August this year was 49,718,249 barrels as compared to 37,735,480 last year, a rise of more than 31 per cent. Production was higher this year than last both in August and the eight months in all producing regions except the Northwest Territories.

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Expenditures on transportation and communications, mainly highways, accounted for nearly 31% of the total net general expenditure (exclusive of debt retirement) of all Canada's provincial governments in the fiscal years ended nearest March 31, 1953, as compared with 28% in the preceding year.