

Food Supplies Still Far Short Of World's Needs

ROME, Nov. 13 — (Reuters) — The world's farmers have made a little headway in boosting farm output, but the inhabitants of densely populated areas are about as underfed as ever, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization said Tuesday.

The report, which is the first of an annual series, says that the agricultural production increase of two per cent this year occurred mainly in commodities other than food.

Food consumption per person in under-developed and populous areas such as Southeast Asia still is substantially below prewar averages, which themselves were insufficient, the F. A. O. said.

The U. N. specialized agency, whose headquarters are in Rome, released the information in the 1952 edition of "The State of Food And Agriculture."

The report said a small improvement in the last two years, mainly in caloric levels, was not enough to change the general bleak picture.

"Indeed, the diet in the poorest of regions has become, if anything, even more unbalanced as indicated by the deterioration in consumption of animal foods."

F. A. O. Recommendations

To satisfy the growing demands of mankind and to stabilize the food economy, the F. A. O. recommended bigger investments of public and private funds in agriculture and international commodity agreements.

Progress was cited toward a renewal of the International Wheat Agreement and the establishment of agreements on sugar, cotton, rubber and other commodities.

Reviewing the present situation and outlook for major farm and fisheries products, the report said: Canada and the United States had a record-breaking wheat harvest this year.

Western Europe's food output is expected to be even better than last year's.

Latin America's production dropped two per cent owing to bad weather and emphasis on industrialization.

Australia was unable to meet commitments under the International Wheat Agreement. Severe drought a smaller area sown to wheat, and emphasis on industry were partly responsible.

The Middle East farm production showed some improvement over last year thanks in part to bumper crops in Turkey.

The Far East continued its post-war role of net importer, instead of exporter, owing to an unfavorable ratio between population and production and bad weather.

World rice output failed to expand in 1951-52, causing a serious situation in rice-eating areas. Livestock products, such as meat, milk and cheese, expanded on the whole, but butter fell below last year's level. World fats and oils output increased and prices dropped.

Fisheries products increased about four per cent and forest products also increased, especially in sawn softwood and pulpwood the F. A. O. said.

BULLETINS FROM BIRDLAND

BY WINIFRED E. WILSON



LOONS' LOOKS

The weird calls of the Common Loon are familiar to those of us spending a summer near some lake whether it be a fairly large body of water or merely a pond. Unless driven away by too many summer residents, one pair appropriates each small lake and the big lakes

perhaps have room for two pairs. Even near their own homes they are recognized more by their voices than their looks, and city dwellers know little about them. However, most people are acquainted with the superstition that when a Loon's quavering laugh is heard at dawn the day will be fine, whereas when the bird gives that long, mournful, descending wail there will be rain before sunset. There may be no truth in this, but certainly the Loon's voice is more frequently heard before a storm.

This large bird, with an average length of 31 or 32 inches, is comparable with a Duck but with a longer neck. It might be taken for a Merganser, yet it is a larger, and especially a stouter, heavier bird. When flying, the Loon holds its head horizontally, parallel to its body, but lower, which crows the neck, giving us a unique silhouette, as though the bird were humped back. Unlike a Merganser, its big feet extend out behind the tiny tail, and its wing-beats are slower than those of a Duck. At a distance, the long, sharp-pointed bill resembles the Merganser's, and both birds swim low in the water.

The breeding plumage of a common Loon is quite beautiful. The sexes are indistinguishable. Black-barred white rings the black neck and also forms a crescent decal on the throat. Bill and head are both black, the underparts white, and the back and wings checked black and white. The complete bird makes a striking looking picture.

Winter plumage is less interesting, mostly greyish, with cheeks, throat, and underparts white, and brownish bills. Immatures are dressed in much the same costume as their parents though oftenaler.

An odd feature is that a Loon's black, webbed feet turn lighter in winter.

This is the season when there is a possibility of seeing a small flock in migration. They journey alone, or in groups of 5 or 6. Only when gathered in a favourable feeding ground on some big river or lake do companies of 75 or 100 remain together. Fortunate indeed is the nature lover who comes upon such a spectacle.

Are Chickadees chummy?

To Cut Red Tape In Air Traffic

MONTREAL, Nov. 13 — (CP) — The International Civil Aviation Organization Tuesday announced action to cut red tape involved in crossing of national borders by air.

The action was taken through amendments, adopted by I. C. A. O.'s council, to the organization's standards and recommended practices. They deal particularly with documents which national authorities in I. C. A. O.'s 57 member states may require for entry and departure of aircraft.

The amendments include items involving aircraft operators and others involving passengers, crews and cargo.

Entrance visas, which still required for temporary visas, are simplified and standardized, the announcement said. They must indicate clearly for the traveller the date of expiry, the number of entries permitted into the country and the authorized duration of each stay.

Arrangements for direct transit of passengers through a country, including transfer from one airport to another, are simplified to avoid necessity for visas and inspections. I. C. A. O. said procedures facilitating operation of private as well as

Stories Persist Hydrogen Bomb Exploded By U.S.

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind., Nov. 13 — (AP) — A sailor wrote home that a hydrogen bomb was exploded on a South Pacific atoll Nov. 1.

The Michigan City News-Dispatch printed parts of the letter Tuesday but did not identify the sailor. Other eye-witness accounts have been published in Los Angeles and Lima, O.

The sailor wrote that the bomb was hauled from San Francisco to the Marshall Islands aboard his ship with extraordinary precautions. While it was in port, he said, small boats circled it continuously. The sailor said the bomb was put in a compartment, the door welded shut and chains welded across the door. He said there were more security guards aboard than navy men.

"I didn't get to see the actual blast. I was standing there with my eyes shut and my face pushed into my arms, and still I saw the other non-scheduled aircraft are also established.

Previously no special standardization of simplification of advance notices or permits normally required by governmental authorities for flights in this category had been undertaken.

Stories Persist Hydrogen Bomb Exploded By U.S.

The ship's radar picked up an unidentified submarine on the way to the Marshalls, but the sailor said nothing came of the alarm.

His report of the big blast was much like the earlier ones.

"We were anchored in the bay just off Kwajalein," he wrote. "The bomb went off at 7:15 A.M. our time Nov. 1. That's 4:15 your time (Central Standard Time). We were cruising out 35 miles from the test island.

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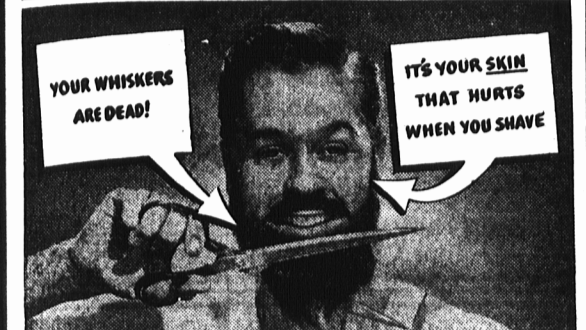
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