

RAINS IMPROVE PRAIRIE CROP CONDITIONS

SOME DRY AREAS. Widespread rains over the greater part of the Prairie Provinces have considerably improved crop conditions in the West. The growing crops are now in quite good condition, except in fairly larger areas of central Alberta and south-central and south-western districts of Saskatchewan where rain is still urgently required. While the situation has improved remarkably in the last two weeks, sub-soil moisture reserves are still inadequate in many areas and much additional moisture will be required to bring the growing crops to maturity.

Cooler, wet weather during the past fortnight has retarded grasshopper infestation, although severe outbreaks are reported from some localities in central Saskatchewan. Grasshopper control campaigns are being carried on in the affected areas there and elsewhere, with good results generally reported. Recovery from frost damage has been good but some re-seeding of coarse grains was necessary in a few districts.

In Manitoba seeding is almost completed, although some delay has taken place due to heavy weed growth and the necessity for some re-seeding. In the area from Morden westward to the Saskatchewan boundary and north to Russell the heavy rains of a week ago further delayed late seedings but restored moisture reserves. Slight flood damage occurred in low spots. In the districts around Winnipeg and in the mid-lake area rains would now be welcomed, especially by market gardeners.

Crops in general are progressing satisfactorily in Manitoba with fall rye heading out. Early wheat is well stooled on a heavy stand, although there is considerable late crop. Some damage has been reported on light land due to soil drifting. Grasshoppers have been hatching on light soils but municipal spray rigs are operating in affected areas and little damage is indicated. Over 17,000 acres of sugar beets have been planted and thinning started this week. The potato and hay crops are promising.

As a result of the recent rains, general

crop prospects in Saskatchewan are greatly improved, except in south-central and south-western districts where moisture conditions are still unsatisfactory. Conditions in the eastern half of the province appear quite favourable with grain stands fair to excellent, wheat averaging five inches and coarse grains three to four inches in height. In other areas stands are slightly shorter. Most crops have recovered from the May frosts, although some permanent damage is reported from the west-central section of the province. Insect damage during the past week has generally been slight but serious grasshopper outbreaks have been reported in some localities in the central part of Saskatchewan. An extensive control campaign, utilizing poison baits and sprays, is proving effective in most areas. While considerable recovery has been made in general crop conditions, further progress of crops will be dependent on the receipt of timely rains, since sub-soil moisture reserves are still far from adequate.

Good rains were received over much of Alberta this past week. Seeding is now completed in most of the province and, weather permitting, very little will remain by the end of the week. Grain crops are quite generally fair to good with the important exception of a large moisture deficient area in the central part of the province. This dry belt is bounded roughly by a line running northward from Calgary to Wetaskiwin and thence north-east to the Vegreville-Vermilion area. The edge of the dry area then drops south-westward to the Hanna district and back to Calgary. Growth has been poor and germination uneven in this dry section, and rainfall is urgently needed.

Throughout Alberta the height of wheat varies from two to eight inches and coarse grains from one to six. Grasshopper damage has been light. Wheat crops are recovering from the effects of the May frost but some re-seeding of oats and barley has been necessary in north-eastern sections.

DR. CAMERON DELEGATION HEAD. Dr. G. D. W. Cameron, Deputy Minister of National Health, will head the Canadian delegation to the Second World Health Assembly which opens in Rome next Monday, June 13; it was announced June 9 in Ottawa by the Minister of National Health and Welfare and the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

The world health program for 1950 to be discussed by the Assembly includes joint activity by the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization in combating related problems of food and health; an expanded program of maternal and child health activities, including greater stress on im-

munization against childhood diseases; the first international program in the field of mental health; increased attention to typhus and plague; efforts to help member governments strengthen their public health services and operation of a limited medical-supply service to governments, as well as continuation of work in such fields as malaria, tuberculosis and venereal disease control.

In addition to the program for 1950, the Health Assembly will study administrative and financial problems, details of regional organization, membership applications and other matters directly or indirectly connected with the work of WHO.