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Prairie Crop Report: Cooler weather and rains have maintained and even improved crop prospects in some parts of the West, but there remain large areas in Saskatchewan and Alberta where serious deterioration is continuing. The outlook in Manitoba and most of eastern Saskatchewan is generally good to excellent, while crops in southern sections of Alberta have responded to recent rains. In south-western Saskatchewan particularly, and to a somewhat lesser extent in central and west-central areas of that province, rains are urgently needed. Similar conditions prevail over most of central Alberta from the Calgary-Edmonton line eastward to the Saskatchewan border. Drought is causing rapid deterioration in this large area and frost has caused local damage. Grasshopper infestations appear to be well under control in all three provinces, although the possibility of severe damage still exists, particularly in the most seriously affected districts of central Saskatchewan.

Rains and cool weather during the past week in Manitoba have further improved the crop outlook in that province.

Although general crop prospects have improved in Saskatchewan during the past month, poor conditions still exist in the greater part of south-central and south-western districts.

Although cool weather has helped to maintain conditions in some areas, crops are deteriorating rapidly in much of central Alberta.

Three New War Vessels: The first contract in the naval anti-submarine escort shipbuilding program was announced on June 22 by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, who stated that Canadian Vickers Limited, of Montreal, would commence work immediately on the preparation of detailed working drawings of the hull structure for the first three ships from the basic design provided by the Royal Canadian Navy.

Every effort will be made to advance the work without delay and it is hoped that the first keels will be laid down at the end of the year or early in 1950.

"These will be classed as major war vessels and, as such, are the first to be designed completely in Canada," the Minister continued.

While specific details of the ships cannot be disclosed for reasons of security, they are designed primarily for the detection and destruction of modern fast submarines. They will be the first to be built anywhere to meet the new requirements.

In function they replace the frigates and corvettes of the Second World War. Like the latter vessels, their design has been worked out so that in the event of an emergency they can be produced rapidly and in quantity.

Scientific Congresses: Canada will be represented at two important scientific congresses being held in Europe in July, according to an announcement by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson.

W. B. Timm, Director of the Mines, Forests and Scientific Services Branch, will head the Canadian delegation to the Fourth Empire Mining and Metallurgical Congress held in Great Britain July 9 to 23. Mr. Timm will present a paper outlining the changes in Canada's mineral resources during the past ten years.

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