



AIRMAIL BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

Not for Publication -- Not for Distribution in Canada

Vol. 7, No. 109

Wednesday, June 15, 1949.

Crop Conditions Vary: Scattered rains only fell over the Prairie Provinces during the past week and mean temperatures varied from 3.4 degrees above normal in Manitoba to 7.5 degrees above normal in Saskatchewan. These weather conditions made for good growth in those areas which benefited from the rains received in the latter part of May and early June, but in many sections, particularly in western, south-western and south-central Saskatchewan and in central and north-central Alberta, rain is urgently needed to halt deterioration, reports the Bureau of Statistics.

In Manitoba the situation is relatively favourable, except for areas around Winnipeg and Teulon where moisture is required. In eastern and northern Saskatchewan and in southern Alberta and the Peace River area prospects remain favourable and the general appearance of the crops is good. However, with moisture reserves relatively low, continued satisfactory progress even in these areas will depend upon the receipt of further timely rains.

Grasshoppers are hatching in many areas but widespread poison spray campaigns are evidently proving quite effective. Despite this, there is still potential danger of serious grasshopper damage, particularly in some parts of central Saskatchewan where heavy losses have already been reported from some localities.

Growing conditions in British Columbia, especially in the Peace River and central-interior sections, have been good but more moisture is needed over much of the province.

Prolonged drought, accompanied by unseasonable extremes in temperature, has seriously reduced crop prospects in Ontario. Heavy precipitation is urgently needed in central and south-western Ontario where conditions are most serious.

Tobacco, soy beans, corn and tomatoes have been particularly hard hit by late frosts, necessitating considerable replanting of these crops. The dry, cool weather and frosty nights have retarded growth of practically all field crops. In the greater part of Ontario the drought is the most severe on record and immediate, prolonged rains are needed to ensure even a partial recovery in the most seriously affected areas. Last night's (June 13) showers provided the first relief that some areas have had for several weeks.

Weather conditions in the province of Quebec vary all the way from extremely dry in western districts, especially around Montreal, to extremely wet in the area from Lake St. John to Gaspé and Baie de Chaleur.

Anti-Sub. Exercises: The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, announced June 15 that a Royal Air Force Squadron of Coastal Command is to visit Canada in mid-July, to take part in anti-submarine exercises off the East Coast. The RAF aircraft, general reconnaissance Lancasters, will work together with RCN anti-submarine vessels and RCAF aircraft in the exercises. A modern submarine on loan to the RCN from the Royal Navy will take part.

Both naval vessels and aircraft will practice anti-submarine searches and attacks, using methods developed to cope with post-war submarine improvements, including the snorkel, a device allowing submarines to remain submerged for a lengthy period of time.

(over)