

## PRAIRIE CROP PROSPECTS IMPROVE WITH RAIN

**GRASSHOPPER THREAT:** Timely rains have fallen over wide areas in the Prairie Provinces and average precipitation since the first of April is now much nearer normal than it was two weeks ago. Despite this over-all improvement, moisture reserves remain far below normal throughout much of central, east-central and north-eastern Alberta; western and east-central Saskatchewan, and in a few localities in Manitoba. In these areas frequent rains during the growing season will be required to produce a satisfactory crop. Pastures are already suffering seriously in these districts. Heavy frosts have occurred in all three Provinces but damage has evidently been limited in most cases to early stands of oats and barley. Some reseeded has been required in central and northern sections of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Grasshoppers are hatching freely in affected areas and control measures are in full swing. The infestation is particularly severe in central Saskatchewan but the ultimate extent of the damage cannot yet be estimated.

Seeding is practically completed in Manitoba. Growth of crops is promising with sufficient moisture for the present, although general rains will be needed soon. Weed growth is heavy and some reseeded has been necessary because of wild oats. Grasshoppers are not hatching in any numbers except on light soils where spraying operations have commenced.

In Saskatchewan good showers have generally improved conditions except over wide areas of the central and south-western districts. In these sections moisture is urgently needed to promote growth and development of stands damaged by soil drifting, grasshoppers and frost. The cooler weather of the past two weeks has been of assistance in the grasshopper baiting program. In most districts wheat averages from three to five inches in height while almost half of the coarse grain is showing.

Crop prospects in Alberta improved during

the last two weeks with good rains in many districts and showers in other areas of the Province. Moisture conditions are favourable in the south-western districts and in the north-central and Peace River districts but elsewhere rain is needed, particularly in central, eastern, and north-eastern Alberta. Wheat seeding is practically completed and seeding of coarse grains is well advanced. Germination has been generally fair to good although wheat is patchy in areas where spring rainfall has been light. Severe frosts were experienced in central and northern areas during the week ending the twenty-eighth. No permanent damage to wheat is anticipated from this cause but some fields of oats and barley have had to be reseeded. Grasshopper populations are reported to be generally light with local severe spots.

Prospects for field crop production throughout Ontario are still considered generally promising despite unfavourable growing conditions during much of May. Continued cold weather retarded growth of spring grains and hay crops and frost affected some garden crops in the western and northern parts of the Province. Fairly dry conditions prevailed during most of the month but widespread rains in the past week have greatly relieved the situation. Given warmer weather, moisture conditions should now be adequate to promote rapid growth of all crops.

Cool, wet weather which has prevailed over most of Quebec since the middle of May has slowed field operations and retarded growth.

Variable weather has prevailed in British Columbia throughout the past two weeks but good rains from May 19 to 23 benefited all crops. Fall sown grains and hay are making excellent growth although spring grains in some areas, need more moisture.

Seeding has progressed satisfactorily in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and work on the land is well ahead of last year at this time.

**TRADE FAIR OPENED:** The second Canadian International Trade Fair was opened in Toronto, Monday, May 30, by U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Charles Sawyer, upon invitation of the Canadian Government. Official host was the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howes. Thirty five countries are exhibiting their goods to buyers from more than seventy countries.

When the United States' Secretary of Commerce opened the Fair, he was standing on the same steps that his son stood on as he started training as a Lancaster bomber Pilot for the R.C.A.F. in November 1941. Trade Fair authorities reported. The Coliseum Building, nerve centre of the Trade Fair, was the R.C.A.F. Manning Depot during the war.

**R.C.A.F. APPOINTMENT:** Air Force Headquarters has announced the appointment of Wing Commander W.F.M. Newson, DSO, DFC, 31, of Victoria, B.C., and Ottawa as Commanding Officer of R.C.A.F. station Centralia, Ont., home of the R.C.A.F.'s Flying Training and Instrument Flying Schools. He replaces Wing Commander W.C. Van Camp, DFC, 31, of Marwayne, Alta., who has been transferred to North West Air Command Headquarters, Edmonton, where he becomes Senior Personnel Staff Officer.

**CHEQUES CASHED:** Financial transactions in cheques cashed in clearing centres rose almost six per cent in April over April last year.