

ROME EMBASSY: The Department of External Affairs announced June 2 that on the proposal of the Canadian Government, an agreement has been reached between the Governments of Canada and Italy to raise their respective Legations in Ottawa and in Rome to the rank of Embassies.

The President of the Italian Republic has given his agreement to the appointment, as Canadian Ambassador, of Mr. Jean Désy who is at present accredited as Minister Plenipotentiary to Italy.

CROP CONDITIONS: Cool weather and frequent rains during most of May have made the season very late throughout the Maritime Provinces.

Crop conditions in Quebec at May 31 are about one week earlier than they were at the same date a year ago. If the weather remains fair, sowing will be completed soon in several districts, particularly in the regions above Three Rivers. Correspondents in the Lower St. Lawrence and Gaspé districts report that only very little seeding has been completed to date.

Much warmer weather has been experienced in Ontario during the past few days and crop development is expected to be very rapid. Cold weather and excessive rainfall during the middle of May retarded growth and in some countries of south-western Ontario spring grains were damaged by excessive precipitation with the result that some fields and parts of others have had to be reseeded. In eastern and northern Ontario spring grains have been seeded under favourable conditions and yield prospects are promising. Farmers are now planting late-sown crops and a good percentage is already in the ground. Fall wheat, fall rye, alfalfa and hay and clover crops have grown satisfactorily during the past month and good yields are anticipated.

Warm, dry weather prevailed over the Prairies during the past week and excellent progress was again made in seeding operations. Wheat seeding is now completed in Manitoba and nearing completion in Saskatchewan. In Alberta the percentage of all seeding completed varies from 100 per cent in the south-east of the province down to about 25 to 30 per cent in the Calgary-Claresholm area where excessive moisture delayed field work until a few days ago.

Thousands of acres of farm land in British Columbia are now under water and the situation grows hourly worse. At Agassiz, the agriculturally important Fraser Valley is completely flooded except for high points where livestock are stranded without food. Many cows have not been milked for days and disease has set in. In the Creston district some 7,500 acres are under water and all work on the land has stopped as further flooding is expected. The situation on Vancouver Island is much better. No flooding is reported and frequent rains have greatly benefited the pasture and hay crop.

REPORTING PARLIAMENT

BRITISH COLUMBIA RELIEF: The Prime Minister announced in the House of Commons on June 3 that the Federal Government has informed Premier Byron Johnson of British Columbia that it is prepared to assist the Province financially, not only in meeting the expenditures required for immediate relief, but also in meeting the costs of rehabilitation and restoration necessary as a result of the floods. The Government, he said, has suggested the creation of a Fraser Valley Relief and Rehabilitation Commission with representation from both Governments. Mr. King read a telegram of sympathy from Prime Minister Attlee.

IMMIGRATION STATEMENT: The Acting Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. MacKinnon, in the House of Commons on June 2, made a statement on immigration in reply to an earlier question by T.L. Church, (P-C, Broadview). Mr. Church had asked:--

"Would the Acting Minister of Mines and Resources make a statement with respect to aid granted to immigration to Canada by allowing those coming from Britain to secure more cash, and what action if any is being or has been taken in the matter?"

The Minister replied:--

"The Canadian Government through the office of the High Commissioner for Canada in London, has been in consultation with the Government of the United Kingdom in connection with this matter. We would be glad to see the present heavy restrictions on export of currency outside of the sterling area lifted in favour of immigrants coming to establish themselves permanently in Canada. However, we understand the difficulties with which the United Kingdom is faced and for the time being the restrictions announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer are still in force. Immigrants from the United Kingdom are allowed £1,000 payable in four equal annual instalments. This, of course, is a matter in which the Government of the United Kingdom and not the Government of Canada has the final responsibility.

NEWFOUNDLAND REFERENDUM: A second referendum to decide Newfoundland's political future was reported by Canadian Press Friday morning to be almost sure. Reports at this time said the second referendum would be a straight issue between responsible government and confederation with Canada, with commission government dropped from the ballot paper. Friday morning's latest available report on the vote of June 3 was about 19,000 votes for commission government; confederation 53,000 and responsible government more than 59,000. These totals were said to cover 132,000 of the 176,000 eligible voters.