



# AIRMAIL BULLETIN

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**Prairies Crop Report:** Continued dry weather and high temperatures are causing rapid deterioration of moisture reserves throughout the Prairie Provinces. In large areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta rain is urgently needed to promote germination and is generally needed throughout the west to promote growth. Seeding is well advanced but has been brought to a halt in many areas where drought is severe. Grasshoppers are hatching rapidly in many southern areas and control measures are under way in the most seriously affected districts, according to the Bureau of Statistics' May 17 report.

Growth of crops in Manitoba has been very satisfactory to date. Reserve moisture is being rapidly depleted, however, and general rains are greatly needed to improve the crop outlook.

While about 83 per cent of Saskatchewan's wheat crop is now in the ground, seeding has been brought to a halt in many areas in the south, southwest and northeast of the Province, where the moisture deficiency is particularly severe. In some of these districts only 60 to 75 per cent of the intended wheat crop is in. About half of the Province's coarse grain acreage is seeded. Grasshoppers are hatching in large numbers in many areas and control measures are already in operation between Moose Jaw and Saskatoon.

Alberta suffered from warm, dry, windy weather during the past week. A general rain is needed badly throughout the Province to promote germination. Moisture supplies are fair to good on summerfallow fields, while stubble seeded fields are dry. Sub-soil moisture in most of the Province is being rapidly depleted.

**RCAF Appointment:** Air Commodore F.R. Miller, CBE, formerly Air Officer Commanding the RCAF's Air Materiel Command, is to become Air Member for Operations and Training at Air Force Headquarters, Ottawa, it was announced on May 20 by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton. Air Commodore Miller, at present in Washington, D.C., where he is attached to the Canadian Joint Staff, takes over his new duties September 1, with the rank of Air Vice Marshal.

A/C Miller will take over as head of the Operations and Training Division from Air Vice Marshal C.R. Slemon, CB, CBE, who becomes Air Officer Commanding, Central Air Command, Trenton, Ont.; upon the retirement of Air Vice Marshal E.E. Middleton, CBE.

**Family Allowances:** When the family allowance cheques for May are issued this week, total payments since this program began to operate three years and 11 months ago will pass the one billion dollar mark.

This was announced on May 20 by the Minister of Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin, who pointed out that family allowance payments are now running at \$23,600,000 per month.

With the inclusion of 122,400 children from the new Province of Newfoundland, the total number of children now receiving family allowances has passed the 4,000,000 mark.

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