

CROP DEVELOPMENT: Crop development over the greater part of the Prairie Provinces, although still uneven, has improved somewhat during the past week. Temperatures have ranged slightly higher and, with only minor exceptions, moisture supplies remain adequate to excessive. Early-seeded crops are beginning to head in most parts of Manitoba and Alberta and in some sections of Saskatchewan. Above-average yields of fall rye are in prospect. Hay stands are generally excellent but haying, as well as summer-fallowing and weed spraying, has been seriously retarded by excessive moisture. Sweeping hail storms have caused considerable damage over wide areas of southern Saskatchewan and Alberta. Weeds constitute a serious problem in most districts but insect damage is at a minimum. Much of the crop is still considered to be ten days to three weeks late and accordingly faces a greater than usual potential threat from rust and frost.

The stand and maturity of Manitoba crops are extremely variable. Crops are generally heavy, however, on light, well-drained soil. Heading of cereal crops is becoming general, particularly in southern areas. There is much late crop, with growth in the wetter areas retarded, and warm weather urgently needed to speed development. Recent rains have extended the area of flooded crops which is now estimated as high as 5 per cent of the seeded acreage.

TRACES OF RUST

Some traces of rust have been noted but development has been very slow due to cool weather. Harvesting of an excellent hay crop has commenced but many areas are too wet to permit full scale operations. Pastures have never been better. Only scattered hail damage has been reported and there is no insect activity of any importance. Grasshoppers will not be a threat this year, many of their eggs still being unhatched.

Although development of grain crops in Saskatchewan is later than usual, growth has been fairly good. The weather continues to be cool and showery, with most areas requiring a warm, dry period to hasten crop development. The height of spring grain crops varies considerably, with wheat averaging about 12 inches compared with 19 inches a year ago. Oats and barley average about nine inches in height.

Somewhat warmer weather in most sections of the Province has considerably improved development of Alberta crops. A number of districts, however, particularly along the foothills, and in the Peace River area report crop damage in low-lying areas from excessive moisture. Early-seeded crops are starting to head. Sweeping hail storms have caused widespread damage in southern areas during the past week. No insect damage of any consequence has been reported.

CANADA, U.S. EXPEDITION: A joint Canadian-U.S. oceanographic and hydrographic expedition in the Beaufort Sea is scheduled for the period July to October, 1953, it was announced in Ottawa and Washington on July 5. The Beaufort Sea is in the lower Arctic Ocean north of Alaska.

Known as the Beaufort Sea Expedition, the project is in its fourth year and employs units of the United States Navy, the Coast Guard, and the RCAF. The US Navy icebreaker "Burton Island", under command of Commander Eugene Hugh Mahor, USN, and the US Coast Guard icebreaker "Northwind" commanded by Captain Richard E. Morell, will participate.

A detachment of Lancasters from the RCAF's 404 Maritime Squadron will make ice reconnaissance flights out of Resolute Bay, on Cornwallis Island, during a period of the expedition.

The icebreaker will endeavour to deliver supplies to the Joint Arctic Weather Station at Mould Bay, Prince Patrick Island. If successful, this will be the first visit to this station by icebreaker.

PETROLEUM JUMP: Canada's output of crude petroleum jumped to 47,615,534 barrels valued at \$116,655,238 in 1951 from 29,043,788 barrels worth \$84,619,937 in 1950 while natural gas production rose to 79,460,667 M cubic feet valued at \$7,158,920 from 67,822,230 M cubic feet worth \$6,433,041, according to the annual report by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The number of operating crude petroleum wells increased to 4,761 from 3,849 in 1950, while the number of natural gas wells was slightly lower at 3,985 as against 3,991. Alberta accounted for 96 per cent of the total crude oil output in 1951 and 88 per cent of the natural gas production.

SIX MINESWEEPERS: The Minister of Defence Production, Mr. C.D. Howe, announced on July 7 that contracts will be awarded to Canadian shipbuilding yards for the construction of six minesweepers for the Royal Canadian Navy. These vessels are in addition to the 14 minesweepers now under construction. They will replace the six that are being transferred to NATO, as part of Canada's Mutual Aid programme.

MAY CHEQUES \$11,178,000,000: Value of cheques cashed in 35 clearing centres in May totalled \$11,178,000,000, an increase of 4.4 per cent over last year's corresponding total of \$10,711,273,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. All five economic areas recorded advances with the Atlantic Provinces showing a gain of 18 per cent.