COMMON LEAF SPOT (Pseudopeziza trifolii f. sp, melliloti) caused slight defoliation in 3/8 Sask. fields (H.W. Mead). (See discussion under Common Leaf Spot of Alfalfa (D. W. C.).

B. OIL SEED CROPS

FLAX

Flax Diseases in Saskatchewan in 1959

T. C, Vanterpool

The flax acreage in Saskatchewan in 1959 was 1,162,000 and the average yield was 7.5 bu./ac. Largely because of the dry, warm, and bright conditions prevailing in May, June and July, diseases of a pathogenic nature were scarce and did not affect yields in any part of the province. However, these same meteorological conditions were responsible for severe non-pathological heat canker which was widely distributed on the open plains. Conspicuous heat canker damage was recorded from Colonsay, Kindersley, Madison, Milden and Swift Current.

Rhizoctonia seedling blight, caused principally by R. praticola, was well below the average despite the occurrence of the warm, dry conditions which usually favor its development.

Aster Yellows was first recorded as a trace infection at Naicam on 30 July and did not develop to more than a trace in the province as a whole, Leafhoppers were unusually scarce.

Two suspected mineral deficiency disorders were encountered:

(1) On a semi-degraded soil at Goodsoil, a condition was noted in which leaves developed yellow tips which graded into a region with brown to dark brown necrotic flecks, Nitrogen deficiency was suspected.

(2) A white leaf-spotting and general stunting occurred at Kindersley. The high soil pH suggested a deficiency, possibly of zinc.

Chemical injury from herbicides was observed in one field, The growing points were damaged and growth of side branches stimulated, resulting in a late crop.

Flax Diseases in Manitoba in 1959

J. W. Martens and W. E, Sackston

About 625,000 acres were sown to flax in Manitoba in 1959. It was dry early in the season in the western part of the province, but rains fell in time and the yield forecast in September was over 9 bushels per acre. Excessive rainfall