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Chief, Agricultural Branch: T. W. Grindley, Ph.D.

Ottawa, May 11, 1932, 4 p.m. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issued to-day the first crop report of the present season, indicating (1) the intended acreage of principal field crops as reported by crop correspondents at May 1; (2) the progress of spring seeding and (3) winter-killing and condition at May 1, of fall wheat, fall rye and hay and clover meadows.

Summary

According to the intentions of farmers at May 1, the spring wheat acreage of Canada is estimated at 24,671,500 acres, a reduction of 3 p.c. or nearly 1 million acres from the area of 25,554,205 acres of spring wheat sown in 1931. Most of the decrease occurs in the main wheat-growing provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. In the Maritime and Eastern Provinces, the intended acreages of the crops under review show little change from 1931 areas, with the exception of increased coarse grain acreage in Quebec. For the whole of Canada, the intended acreages of oats, barley and mixed grains were practically identical with those of 1931, with reductions planned in rye and flaxseed. The latter reductions are almost entirely due to changes in the three Prairie Provinces.

For the second successive year, the winter-killing of fall wheat was well below average, being only 4 p.c. in Ontario and British Columbia and 8 p.c. in Alberta, with a 4 p.c. average for Canada. The area under fall wheat is reduced from 1931, but the condition at April 30 was higher.

Winter-killing of fall rye was also moderate and while the area is about 40,000 acres less than in 1931, the condition at April 30 was 94 compared with 86 last year.

The condition of hay and clover meadows is considerably lower than at April 30, 1931, due to poor winter conditions in the Maritime and Eastern Provinces. In the Prairie Provinces, condition figures are much higher than last year.

Generally, seeding in the six provinces is considerably later than in any of the past three years.

Interpretation of 'Intentions' Report

Since the first 'Intentions to Plant' report for Canada was issued in 1931, it is not yet possible to adjust the 'Intentions' figures in accordance with normal deviations from the farmers' plans at May 1. In 1931, the intended acreages of oats, flaxseed and mixed grains were particularly close to the areas finally established by the decennial census, while the wheat acreage intended had to be revised considerably upward and barley and rye downward. It is difficult to say whether the same tendencies will change farmers' plans this year. It should be noted, however, that while the same period of 1931 in the Prairie Provinces was typified by extreme uncertainty with regard to moisture supplies and prices, such conditions do not rule this year. Surface moisture is generally adequate and some districts have good reserves, while prices have been relatively stable at low levels. Thus May 1 plans should be more definite this year than in 1931. Some concern in Alberta with regard to the effect of the late season on wheat acreage has been largely overcome by the favourable seeding weather of the past ten days; it is now considered likely that farmers' plans will be realized.

The acreages shown in this report for 1932 should not be expected to compare exactly with those released on August 10 and resulting from the Annual Survey. The intended acreages are only indicative of farmers' plans at May 1 and the actually sown acreages may be changed by many later considerations such as soil and weather conditions and price movements.

Weather Conditions Since May 1.

Throughout Canada, the spring season is generally late but promising. In the Maritime Provinces, precipitation has been normal but the cool weather has retarded new growth and postponed work on the land. The season is two weeks behind that of 1931. In Quebec and eastern Ontario, the snow was late in disappearing, but the clear, warm days in May have encouraged pastures and fall grains. Work on the land and spring seeding is now being rushed. In southern and western Ontario the season is further advanced and the condition of all crops is promising.

In the Prairie Provinces, the season is two to three weeks later than average, but heavy and well-distributed precipitation has resulted in the best germinating conditions since 1928. The present warm weather will be extremely helpful to seeding, germination and pasture conditions. Since May 1, seeding has proceeded rapidly in the park belt, but further rains in the southern areas have again hindered all work on the land. Probably 55 percent of the western wheat crop has been seeded, ranging from 85 percent in Manitoba to 60 percent in Saskatchewan and 35 percent in Alberta. The seeding of coarse grains is well under way. The danger of spring soil-drifting in the drought areas of the West is precluded by the heavy precipitation, but regular additions to the present moisture supply will be very necessary. Although seeding has been retarded in Alberta, the heavy rain and snow and the recent warmer weather have resulted in a more advanced stage of growth of pastures and early-seeded grains than in the other two prairie provinces.

During the first ten days of May, the weather in British Columbia has been much more favourable for growth and for spring work. Present conditions of bloom and setting in the fruit districts promise a general increase in production.

Saskatchewan Telegraphic Report

The following telegram was received from the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, based on telegraphic reports received from their correspondents:

"Splendid progress has been made with seeding operations during the last week or ten days. The south eastern section of the province is most advanced in this respect where about ninety percent of the wheat is seeded and taking the province as a whole almost sixty percent of the wheat seeding is now completed. Only a small proportion of the coarse grain acreage, possibly not more than seven percent, is seeded. Rains during the last two weeks of April greatly improved moisture conditions and in most sections of the province, the surface soil has now a good supply of moisture and conditions are at present favourable for germination. The soil is also reported in good condition for cultivation and is working up nicely. Spring growth has been somewhat slow due to cool weather but during the last few days warmer weather has resulted in more rapid growth and some early-sown fields are beginning to show green. Fall rye is in fair condition and has been making good growth recently. It is pointed out by one correspondent that brown spots perceptible in some fall rye fields due to lack of moisture last fall and early this spring are disappearing with more moisture. Recent rains have checked soil drifting for the present and no damage has been experienced from this source since seeding began. Pastures are coming slowly and live stock generally are in fair condition although somewhat thin in some of the southern districts due to limited supplies of fodder."

Intended Acreages of Principal Crops

For all Canada, the intended acreages for 1932 as reported at May 1 are as follows, with the 1931 acreages within brackets: Spring wheat 24,671,500 (25,554,205); oats 12,905,000 (12,871,341); barley 3,688,400 (3,768,269); spring rye 163,900 (179,023); flaxseed 559,450 (627,430); mixed grains 1,198,000 (1,186,877).

For the Prairie Provinces, the intended acreages for 1932, as compared with 1931 in brackets, are as follows: Spring wheat 24,446,500 (25,329,935); oats 8,300,000 (8,311,967); barley 3,115,000 (3,202,727); spring rye 155,000 (169,596); flaxseed 551,000 (618,561); mixed grains 47,000 (49,398). By provinces, the acreages are as follows: Manitoba - Spring wheat 2,552,000 (2,577,780); oats 1,484,000 (1,495,944); barley 1,081,000 (1,112,863); spring rye 13,000 (15,329); flaxseed 81,000 (97,562); mixed grains 11,000 (11,324). Saskatchewan - Spring wheat 14,184,000 (14,775,047); oats 4,369,000 (4,368,735); barley 1,325,000 (1,366,092); spring rye 87,000 (95,410); flaxseed 443,000 (492,168); mixed grains 19,000 (20,165). Alberta - Spring wheat 7,710,500 (7,977,108); oats 2,447,000 (2,447,288); barley 709,000 (723,772); spring rye 55,000 (58,857); flaxseed 27,000 (28,831); mixed grains 17,000 (17,909).

Intended Acreages of Principal Crops, May 1, 1932, in percentages of 1931.

Provinces	Spring Wheat	Oats	Barley	Spring Rye	Flax-seed	Mixed Grains
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
Prince Edward Island	103	100	100	-	-	97
Nova Scotia	103	102	100	-	-	100
New Brunswick	106	100	101	-	-	100
Quebec	107	104	104	95	97	104
Ontario	97	99	101	-	95	101
Manitoba	99	99	97	88	83	96
Saskatchewan	96	100	97	91	90	94
Alberta	97	100	98	93	92	94
British Columbia	100	100	96	93	90	97
CANADA	97	100	98	92	89	101

Progress of Spring Seeding

In the Maritime provinces and in Quebec, practically no seeding had been done at the end of April. In the other provinces, the percentages of seeding completed by April 30 are as follows, with the figures for 1931 within brackets: Spring wheat - Ontario 34 (67); Manitoba 52 (79); Saskatchewan 23 (54); Alberta 17 (55); British Columbia 57 (76). Oats - Ontario 36 (61); Manitoba 7 (13); Saskatchewan 2 (10); Alberta 3 (13); British Columbia 40 (58). Barley - Ontario 36 (56); Manitoba 4(8); Saskatchewan 2 (5); Alberta 1 (6); British Columbia 43 (64). Total seeding and planting - Ontario 36 (62); Manitoba 26 (43); Saskatchewan 12 (40); Alberta 9 (41); British Columbia 53 (54).

Winter-killing of Fall Wheat, Fall Rye and Hay and Clover Meadows

Of the 518,400 acres sown to fall wheat in Canada last November, 4 p.c. or 21,900 acres is now reported as winter-killed, leaving the area to be harvested at 496,500 acres. By provinces, the figures are as follows: Ontario, sown 489,000 acres, winter-killed 4 p.c. or 20,000 acres, to be harvested 469,000 acres; Alberta, sown 19,000 acres, winter-killed 8 p.c. or 1,500 acres, to be harvested 17,500 acres; British Columbia, sown 10,400 acres, winter-killed 4 p.c. or 400 acres, to be harvested 10,000 acres.

For fall rye, the area estimated as sown in Canada was 539,000 acres, of which 8 p.c. or 40,700 acres is reported as winter-killed, leaving the area to be harvested at 498,300 acres. In Ontario, of the 52,000 acres sown, 4 p.c. or 2,000 acres is reported as winter-killed, leaving 50,000 acres to be harvested; in Manitoba, 24,000 acres were sown, 3 p.c. or 700 acres were winter-killed and 23,300 acres remain to be harvested; in Saskatchewan, 382,000 acres were sown and 8 p.c. or 31,000 acres were winter-killed, leaving 351,000 acres to be harvested; while in Alberta 81,000 acres were sown, 9 p.c. or 7,000 acres were winter-killed and 74,000 acres remain to be harvested.

The percentages of hay and clover reported as killed during the winter of 1931-32 are as follows, with the corresponding figures for the preceding winter within brackets: Canada 11 (4); Prince Edward Island 8 (2); Nova Scotia 4 (3); New Brunswick 6 (1); Quebec 13 (4); Ontario 13 (5); Manitoba 4 (3); Saskatchewan 4 (7); Alberta 3 (8); British Columbia 3 (1).

Condition of Fall Wheat, Fall Rye and Hay and Clover Meadows

The condition of fall wheat, fall rye and hay and clover meadows at the end of April, 1932, expressed as percentages of the long-time averages is reported as follows, the condition at the same date in 1931 being given within brackets: Fall wheat - Canada 100 (97); Ontario 100 (98); Alberta 96 (87); British Columbia 98 (101). Fall rye - Canada 94 (86); Ontario 97 (100); Manitoba 96 (88); Saskatchewan 93 (84); Alberta 96 (87). Hay and Clover - Canada 90 (97); Prince Edward Island 95 (104); Nova Scotia 97 (101); New Brunswick 93 (104); Quebec 90 (100); Ontario 87 (95); Manitoba 94 (80); Saskatchewan 90 (80); Alberta 101 (85); British Columbia 100 (101).

General Conditions at the End of April

Maritime Provinces.- The spring season in the Maritimes is in rather distinct contrast to that of 1931, which was early and dry. The weather has been cold, rainy and windy, so that spring work has hardly started and growth is very limited. Present indications are that spring seeding will begin about the middle of May or later. Although the amount of winter-killing is still indefinite, meadows appear to be in good condition. The nights have been very cold so that frost is coming out of the land very slowly. Precipitation in April was unusually heavy and snow fell towards the end of the month. The season promises to be about two weeks behind that of 1931, but soil moisture conditions are much better this year.

Quebec.- April has been particularly cold. Slow thawing has delayed sowing, which is not yet started, but is expected to be general by the middle of May. Damage to meadows by frost is generally reported and the condition of hay and clover is below average.

Ontario.- The condition of fall wheat is reported as being exceptionally good. Winter-killing has been small and reports from Western Ontario indicate that prospects for fall wheat seldom were better. Some fields of alfalfa on low land have heaved badly and are being ploughed up. Hay and clovers have suffered considerable damage from winter-killing. Cold weather has delayed spring seeding, particularly in eastern and central Ontario. In eastern Ontario, spring seeding will be from three weeks to a month later than last year. Growth is backward and some farmers report a scarcity of live-stock feed owing to the very slow growth of pastures.

Manitoba.- The season is generally late but more promising than for several years. The weather during April was very changeable with an alternation of cold and warm periods and general rains in the last ten days. In the latter part of the month the hard night frosts on the wet land prevented field work until late in the day and as a result, seeding was ten days to two weeks later than the past few years. Over most of the province, conditions are described as promising, but there is still some uncertainty in the south-west. Moisture reserves in the Deloraine, Souris, Killarney and Turtle Mountain districts are light although there is p nty of surface moisture to start the crop. Feed and seed are scarce and work animals are reported to be in poor condition in some of the drought areas. In the Red River Valley, there are some complaints of excess moisture. The dangers of grasshoppers and cutworms are mentioned in a number of reports. Some correspondents in the Minnedosa area state that more rain is required. The wet weather in recent weeks has encouraged weed growth, which is troublesome in a late spring.

Saskatchewan.- At the end of April wheat seeding was well under way in most parts of the province, especially in the southeastern and east central sections, where more than half of the wheat was seeded by the end of the month. In the other sections, seeding operations were not so far advanced but taking the province as a whole, about 23 percent of the wheat was seeded. Some good rains during the last two weeks of April improved moisture conditions and checked soil blowing. Fall rye has come through the winter in fair condition.

Alberta.- There are general complaints that the preparation of land and seeding operations have been held up by rain and snow, but all correspondents rate soil moisture conditions from good to ideal. The germination, although slow, will be even and strong, but the wheat seeded before the rainy period in the third week of April will ripen sooner than the general seeding which began in the first week of May. From some districts in the south, there are complaints of shortages of both feed and seed. Previous to the storms of late April there was some soil-drifting, but many farmers now regard moisture as excessive, which is a very unusual complaint in these southern areas. Correspondents report that the rains of April 20-25 were an important factor in diverting land from summer fallow to crops. In the park belt further west and north there is a different tendency in that the late season may reduce wheat acreage in favour of summer fallow and coarse grains. Heavy snow and cold weather in west-central Alberta had stopped all work on the land up until the end of April. Moisture is particularly abundant and seeding particularly late along the foothills from High River to Lacombe. The same conditions exist along the Saskatchswan and Athabasca Valleys with some fear that stubbling-in will be necessary. In the Peace River district the season is a little earlier and prospects are unanimously described as excellent. With a period of warm weather, prospects over the entire province would be the best in years.

British Columbia.- The season is very backward, with frequent rains and cool weather retarding spring seeding. There is plenty of moisture in the soil to ensure rapid growth when the weather warms up.

Intended Acreages of Principal Crops, May 1, 1932, as compared with 1931

Field Crops	Area 1931	Intended Area 1932
	Acres	Acres
CANADA -		
Fall wheat	560,445	496,500
Spring wheat	25,554,205	24,671,500
All wheat	26,114,650	25,168,000
Oats	12,871,341	12,905,000
Barley	3,768,269	3,688,400
Fall rye	598,511	498,300
Spring rye	179,023	163,900
All rye	777,534	662,200
Flaxseed	627,430	559,450
Mixed grains	1,186,877	1,198,000
P. E. ISLAND -		
Spring wheat	20,291	21,000
Oats	149,059	149,000
Barley	3,732	3,700
Mixed grains	21,903	21,000
NOVA SCOTIA -		
Spring wheat	2,927	3,000
Oats	83,743	85,000
Barley	7,672	7,700
Mixed grains	3,878	3,900
NEW BRUNSWICK -		
Spring wheat	7,673	8,000
Oats	216,516	217,000
Barley	9,845	10,000
Mixed grains	1,938	1,900
QUEBEC -		
Spring wheat	40,499	43,000
Oats	1,680,525	1,748,000
Barley	95,279	99,000
Spring rye	5,456	5,200
Flaxseed	1,529	1,500
Mixed grains	107,903	112,000
ONTARIO -		
Fall wheat	526,136	469,000
Spring wheat	99,575	97,000
All wheat	625,711	566,000
Oats	2,343,884	2,320,000
Barley	439,483	444,000
Fall rye	56,398	50,000
Flaxseed	7,065	6,700
Mixed grains	999,568	1,010,000

Field Crops	Area 1931	Intended Area 1932
	Acres	Acres
MANITOBA -		
Spring wheat	2,577,780	2,552,000
Oats	1,495,944	1,484,000
Barley	1,112,863	1,081,000
Fall rye	33,799	23,300
Spring rye	15,329	13,000
All rye	49,128	36,300
Flaxseed	97,562	81,000
Mixed grains	11,324	11,000
SASKATCHEWAN -		
Spring wheat	14,775,047	14,184,000
Oats	4,368,735	4,369,000
Barley	1,366,092	1,325,000
Fall rye	415,152	351,000
Spring rye	95,410	87,000
All rye	510,562	438,000
Flaxseed	492,168	443,000
Mixed grains	20,165	19,000
ALBERTA -		
Fall wheat	22,787	17,500
Spring wheat	7,977,108	7,710,500
All wheat	7,999,895	7,728,000
Oats	2,447,288	2,447,000
Barley	723,772	709,000
Fall rye	93,162	74,000
Spring rye	58,857	55,000
All rye	152,019	129,000
Flaxseed	28,831	27,000
Mixed grains	17,909	17,000
BRITISH COLUMBIA -		
Fall wheat	11,522	10,000
Spring wheat	53,305	53,000
All wheat	64,827	63,000
Oats	85,647	86,000
Barley	9,531	9,000
Spring rye	3,971	3,700
Flaxseed	275	250
Mixed grains	2,289	2,200

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