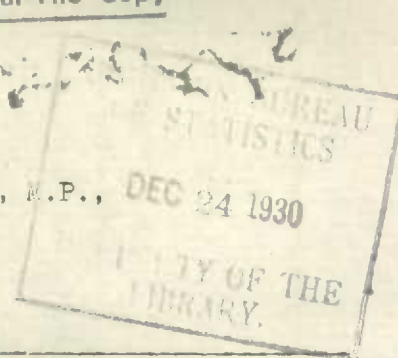


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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
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AGRICULTURAL BRANCH



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Ottawa, December 23, 1930. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports the receipt of a cablegram from the Canadian Trade Commissioner at Buenos Aires communicating the first official forecast of the yields of wheat, flaxseed and oats in Argentina for the season 1930-31: Wheat 271,404,000 bushels from 21,316,000 acres, as compared with 137,434,000 bushels from 19,440,000 acres in 1929-30 and 219,184,000 bushels from 19,703,000 acres, the annual average for the five years 1925-26 to 1929-30; flaxseed 84,405,000 bushels from 7,403,000 acres, as compared with 52,254,000 bushels from 7,170,000 acres in 1928-29 and 71,743,000 bushels from 6,879,000 acres, the five year average; oats 68,324,000 bushels from 3,938,000 acres as compared with 68,294,000 bushels from 3,733,000 acres in 1929-30 and with 64,154,000 bushels from 3,374,000 acres, the five year average. The exportable surplus of the wheat crop, including the carry over from last year's crop is placed at 200,000,000 bushels, while that of flaxseed is placed at 83,776,000 bushels.

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MINISTÈRE DU COMMERCE
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Ottawa, le 23 décembre 1930. Le Bureau Fédéral de la Statistique communique un câblogramme du Commissaire canadien du Commerce à Buenos Aires, donnant le premier pronostic officiel de la production du blé, de graine de lin et d'avoine, de l'Argentine pour la saison 1930-31: blé 271,404,000 boisseaux provenant de 21,316,000 acres comparativement à 137,434,000 boisseaux et 19,440,000 acres en 1929-30 et à 219,184,000 boisseaux et 19,703,000 acres, moyennes quinquennales de 1925-26 à 1929-30; graine de lin, 84,405,000 boisseaux de 7,403,000 acres, comparativement à 52,254,000 boisseaux et 7,170,000 acres en 1928-29 et à 71,743,000 boisseaux de 6,879,000 acres, moyennes quinquennales avoine, 68,324,000 boisseaux de 3,938,000 acres, comparativement à 68,294,000 boisseaux et 3,733,000 acres en 1929-30 et à la moyenne quinquennale de 64,154,000 boisseaux et 3,374,000 acres. Le surplus exportable de blé, y compris le report de la récolte précédente, est estimé à 200,000,000 de boisseaux; celui de graine de lin est fixé à 83,776,000 boisseaux.

NEW CROP CONDITIONS:

The present condition of the new crop of Wheat can still be described as good, although the weather during the month has been so unseasonable that there may be danger ahead.

The precipitation has been far above the average for the month of July, and this, combined with unduly high temperatures, has induced an excessive growth of the young plants which may make them an easy prey to frosts by and bye. The crop of weeds, too, promises to be unusually heavy, and past experience of such seasons leads one to anticipate bad plagues of insects towards harvest time.

Already in the north a plague of locusts has appeared. It is a very unusual condition for locusts to make their appearance in the month of July, and whilst their activities have been mostly in the provinces north of the cereal zone, they are gradually working south, and have done some damage in the provinces of Cordoba, Santa Fe and Entre Rios in the grain fields. In the northern part of Santa Fe it is described as the worst invasion for thirty years.

Although many fields of Wheat and Flax have been stripped by the insects, the damage is not irreparable, as the ample supply of moisture in the soil makes regrowth probable, and unless the same fields should again be visited and stripped later the grain will come along all right although a little late.

Great efforts are being made by the National Department of Agriculture to cope with the locust plague, and there has just been voted by Congress an additional sum of a million pesos to cover the extra expenses being incurred in this campaign.

Records show that these locust plagues usually attain great proportions every six years, and this happens to be the year when they are due. The Department of Agriculture is, theoretically, well equipped to cope with it, having stores of the necessary materials distributed throughout the agricultural areas, but this department of the civil service has been more than usually under the influence of political patronage in recent years, and how it will meet the needs of the grave situation which apparently faces the country, remains to be seen.

Although the general moisture condition is that there has been ample rainfall, with too much in the province of Entre Rios, where some of the lower lands are flooded, there are still parts of the province of Cordoba and the territory of the Pampa, on the fringe of the cereal zone, where the condition is dry and moisture is needed, but without present detriment to the growing crops.

The weather forecast is for more warm weather, with light rains. What is needed is the very opposite.

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