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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

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THE GRAIN SITUATION IN ARGENTINA

Ottawa, December 4, 1944 - The correspondent of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in Buenos Aires has forwarded the following report under date of November 20, 1944.

Crop Conditions

The official report of the Ministry of Agriculture, which made its appearance in the newspapers on the morning of the 11th instant made it clear that whatever risks the field crops may have to face in this traditionally critical month of November there is small probability of drought being one of them.

In summary the official report is as follows: The rains which fell during October favoured the prosecution of work on the land and the development of the crops already germinated. This statement does not apply to the western, southern and south-eastern areas of the province of Cordoba, where the drought persisted up to the first week in November. Rains of varying intensity fell in the remainder of the country benefitting the crops.

The report continues: Some hailstorms occurred in the centre of the province of Buenos Aires in the centre and south of Santa Fe, in the south-east of Entre Rios, and in the north of the Rio Negro Territory.

Widespread and violent winds also made themselves felt. The preparation of the fields destined for maize, sorgos and rice is proceeding normally, favoured by the October rains, which supplied the moisture needed for effective ploughing. For this reason the planting of these crops will now become general.

Prospects for the wheat and linseed crops have been improved by the rains. Linseed planting has been finished, after being delayed by the intense drought preventing the cultivation of the fields.

Referring particularly to the wheat crop, the report says that prospects were improved by the rains in almost every zone. In the province of Buenos Aires the fields are judged to be from good to very good, with the exception of some parts of the north-west which are dry. Sporadic attacks of rust are to be observed and also some smut. These attacks are encouraged by the prevalent dampness, but for the moment no important damage is to be observed, although it may increase if favourable conditions develop. In Santa Fe, Entre Rios, Cordoba, Santiago, San Luis and the Pampa there have been variable losses resulting from drought, attacks of green fly and violent winds. The crops here are backward and have not stooled well, but the rains have improved them. In the rest of the country the wheat crop generally is in good condition.

Wheat - The final calculation of the area seeded for this season gives a total of 15,368,632 acres, a decrease of 1,461,844 acres, or 8.7 per cent as compared with 1943-44.

Linseed - Planting of this seed has been completed after considerable delay occasioned by drought. The fields in the province of Buenos Aires, except in the north-west zone, look well generally. In north-west Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Santa Fe and Entre Rios, because of adverse conditions, especially keen frost, the crops have deteriorated, showing losses in some cases ranging from 30 to 40 per cent.

Linseed (continued)

In Buenos Aires the prospects are generally good. In the other zones below normal yields are expected. The total plantings, according to official estimate, show a decrease of 950,000 acres or 17 per cent below 1943-44.

Barley - In Buenos Aires and San Juan the fields of this crop look well, as they do also in the Pampa and Rio Negro. The replantings, which were effected south of Bahia Blanca because of green fly ravages, look fairly well, with a tendency to improve, thanks to rains which have fallen. Crops have suffered damage in parts of Cordoba, Santa Fe, south-east Entre Rios, and Mendoza. Barley, including malting barley, covers an area this season of 1,757,000 acres, which represents a drop of 1 per cent from the area of last season. The fields in Buenos Aires, San Juan and Mendoza are in good condition. In southern Santa Fe, eastern Cordoba and the southern Pampa they are improving. In the rest of Cordoba, Santa Fe and the Pampa they appear poor. In the rest of the country they look fair.

Rye - The rye fields look well in the province of Buenos Aires, while those in southern Santa Fe and southern Pampa are improving. In the remainder of the country the condition is below normal, especially in northern Cordoba, western and central Santa Fe and the rest of the Pampa, where the crop can be considered poor. Rye plantings reached 3,978,804 acres, a decrease of 531,759 acres, or 11.8 per cent from last season.

Maize - In some of the maize producing zones preparations for planting have been completed, thanks to the helpful October rains. The work is proceeding with the handicap of being behind time for lack of adequately prepared land at the appropriate time. Such of the seed which has germinated is considered good and very good, with the exception of the fields of western Cordoba and east and south of the Chaco, where the condition is fair. In eastern Santiago del Estero some damage has been done by hail.

SEEDING AREAS - THIRD (AND FINAL) OFFICIAL ESTIMATE

The Statistical Department of the Ministry of Agriculture has now issued what are stated to be the definite figures of the seeded areas for the 1944-45 crops of wheat, linseed, oats, barley and rye. Unfortunately, the figures show a still further decrease in the plantings, as compared with those of last season. The shrinkings apply in varying degrees to each of the crops, ranging from 7 percent to a maximum of 29 per cent in the case of linseed.

The drought mentioned in the previous reports is blamed for the reduction in planted areas, which is set out in the following statement.

	<u>1944-45 Plantings</u>	<u>Decreases from 1943-44</u>
Wheat	15,368,600	1,461,900
Linseed	4,693,400	949,900
Oats	4,918,000	387,700
Barley	1,757,100	17,300
Rye	3,978,800	531,800

The revised estimates of the areas seeded to wheat, linseed and barley are now below the five-year average, but on the other hand, those of oats and rye show respective increases of 17 and 16 per cent over the five-year average.

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