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Minister of Trade and Commerce

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

Dominion Statistician: Chief, Agricultural Branch: R.H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S. (Hon.), F.R.S.C. T.W. Grindley, Ph.D.

Ottawa, August 25, 4 p.m. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today the eleventh of a series of weekly telegraphic reports on crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces.

SUMMARY.

Harvesting has progressed satisfactorily in Western Canada during the past week, weather generally being warm with only scattered showers. The late crops in central and northern Alberta benefited by the hot weather but cutting will not be general in this area for another week. In the drought area in Saskatchewan wheat and coarse grains are being cut for feed in many areas. Excessive weed growth was reported as interfering with the harvesting of short crops. Sawfly and grasshopper damage is prevalent. The rust situation has not changed materially during the past week. While infection is noticed in Saskatchewan the development is not regarded as serious and damage from this source will be light. Hail storms were reported from several areas during the past week with some severe damage.

The weather in Manitoba has been hot during the past week with a few scattered showers. Good progress has been made with harvesting and threshing has commenced in southern areas. Northern districts are a little later with cutting well under way. Late crops of wheat and oats are badly rusted in central districts. Potatoes, corn, and gardens are suffering for want of rain. Pastures are reported as very dry and in need of moisture.

In Saskatchewan the weather has been generally favourable for harvesting during the past two weeks and about 50 per cent of the wheat crop is now cut. In central and southern sections of the province much of the wheat and coarse grains are being cut for feed. Sawfly and grasshopper damage is prevalent. Scattered hail storms have damaged the crops in local areas during the past week. Rust infection is evident in eastern Saskatchewan but the development is not serious. In the western section of the province in excessive growth of green weeds is reported as making the harvesting of the short crop very difficult and will result in some abandonment. Pastures are reported as fair.

Harvesting is well under way in Alberta with cutting about 50 per cent completed in the southern section of the province, and commencing in the north. In northern areas where the growth is heavy, cutting will not be general for another week. The warm weather of the past week has helped to rature the later crops but further hot weather would be welcome over the greater/horthern Alberta. Haying has been delayed and the quality of the hay crop lowered, by heavy August rains in central and northern Alberta. Some hail damage is reported during the past week.

Hail Damage. The following reports on hail damage were received from our correspondents in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta;

Manitoba: "Severe hail storm twentieth damaged crops northeast of Portage la Prairie, average about sixty per cent crop. Nearly all cut this district".

Saskatchewan: "Considerable hail loss reported last week northwest of Moose Jaw, also Briercrest. Avonlea, Carlyle, and Alida. Owing to previous damage by wind and drought the loss will not be as serious as it might have been. Some loss was also reported at Major, Macklin, Lafleche, Coronach, Truax and Griffin.

Alberta: Claims received from Provost, Cadogan, Hayter, Andrew, Bonaccord, Innisfree, Edmonton, Bittern Lake, Ponoka, Waterglen, Raven, Innisfail, Lidsbury, Crossfield, Coronation and several other points. Heavy damage on many claims.

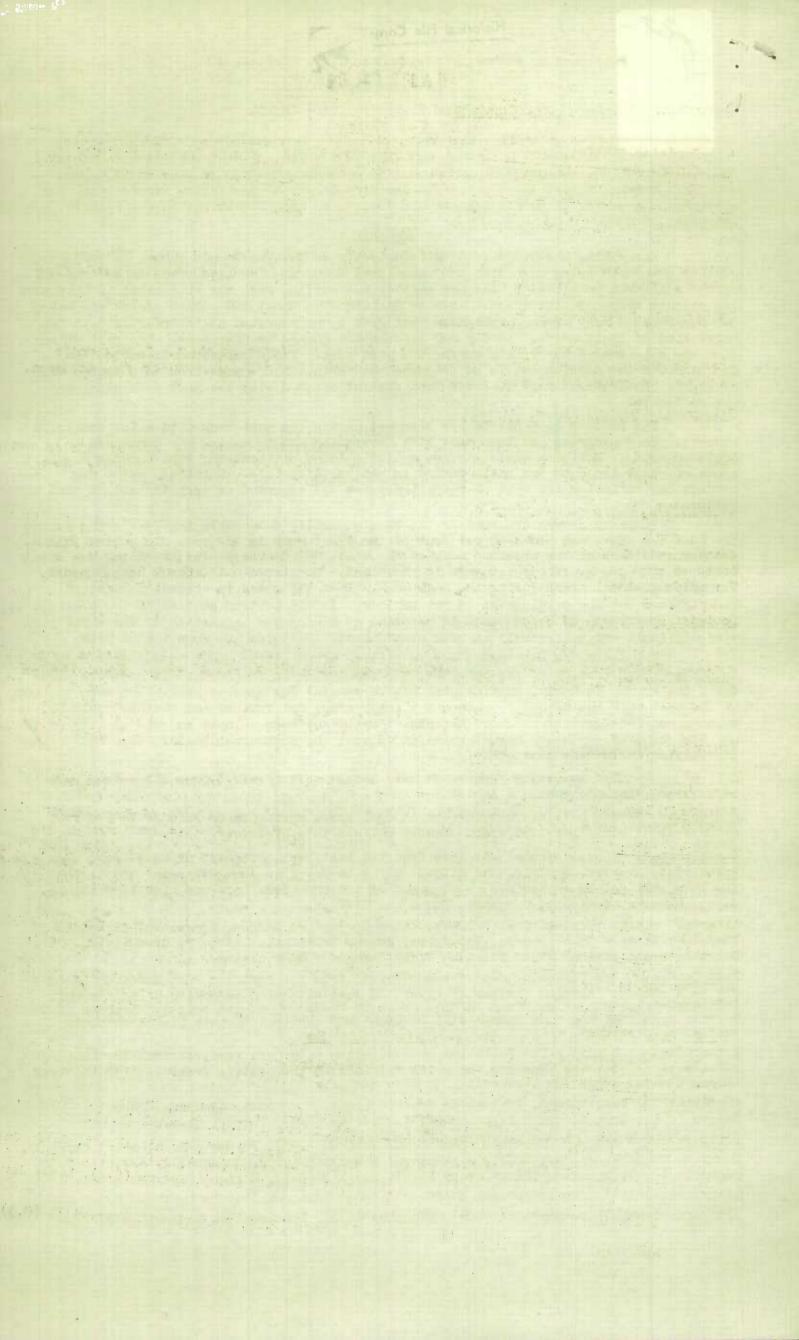
Rust Damage. The following report was received from the Dominion Rust Research Laboratory in Winnipeg: "Nothing further to report on rust situation in Manitoba (last report indicated 'rust damage confined to late crops of common wheat and cats'). Reports from Saskato ewan indicate rust damage will be light and confined to late fields northern section of province".

Meteorological Report. The following precipitation data were received from the Dominion Meteorological Service, Toronto, covering rainfall in the prairie provinces for the week ending 8 a.m., August 24 (inches):

Manitoba: Le Pas, Virden, Portage la Prairie (.05), Minnedosa, Winnipeg, Dauphin, Morden (0.1), Swan River, Boissevain (0.5), Pierson (0.9), Russell (1.1).

Saskatchevan: Outlock, Moosomin, Saskatoon, Estevan (.05), Prince Albert, Swift Current, Macklin, Kamsack, Melfort (0.1), Battleford, Eroadview (.02), Qu'Appelle, Assimiboia, Humboldt (0.4), Yorkton, Yellow Grass (0.5), Marquis (0.6), Regina (0.8), Moose Jaw (1.0), Lloydminster (1.5).

Alberta: Drumheller, Stettler (.05), Edmonton (0.2), Beaverlodge, Vegreville (0.3).



MANITOBA

Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

Past week brought some very hot days. Scattered showers but mostly dry. Harvesting well advanced. Threshing well along in south and starting in north. General situation as to yields and feed unchanged. Heavy rain needed to moisten parched soil and help potato crop.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon.

Warm dry weather has permitted rapid progress with cutting. Threshing commencing. Wheat yield on fallow 10 to 18 bushels. Green kernels lowering grade from 1 to 2 Northern in some cases.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Minnedosa.

Last week very hot. No rain. Cooled off Saturday night. Little white frost in valley. Wheat cutting is nearly completed. Cutting other grains well advanced. Pastures and gardens suffering for rain.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Morden.

Weather continues dry and hot. Threshing well advanced. Average yields wheat eight bushels, cats twenty, barley thirteen. Pastures poor. Water scarce. Corn drying up badly. Rain needed badly. Vegetables burning up. Stock fair.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Dauphin.

Two weeks of very hot harvest weather broken by shower and fog last Frilay. Cutting will be wound up this week. Several machines threshing. Excellent samples wheat threshed with yields running from twenty to thirty-five bushels. Dockage fairly heavy. Very little oats or barley threshed. Sample seed supply assured.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Treesbank.

Wheat nearly all cut. Threshing starting, sample good. Late grains badly rusted. Weather dry and warm mean maximum temperature ninety point seven. Precipitation point naught five. Pastures drying up badly.

SASKATCHEWAN

Department of Agriculture, Regina.

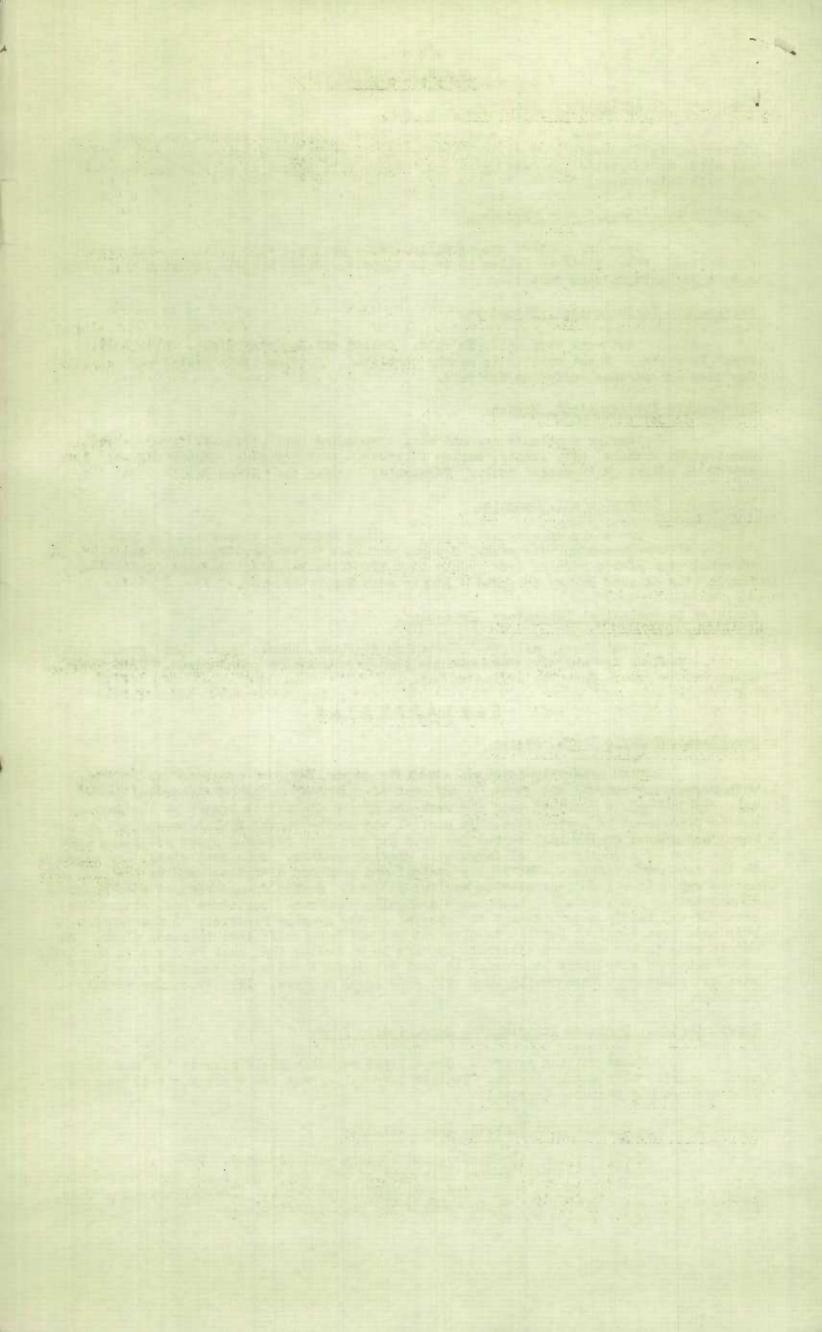
With generally favourable weather prevailing good progress has been made with harvesting operations, about 50 per cent of the wheat being cut according to telegraphic reports received over the week-end by the Statistics Branch of the Saskat-chewan Department of Agriculture. In central and south-central Saskatchewan much of the wheat and coarse grains will be cut for feed and the late reseeded crops are being left in the hope of a continuance of favourable growing weather. Some good yields are expected in the northern districts, but in the central and southern districts much of the crop will not be any better than indicated in earlier reports. Sawfly damage becomes more apparent as harvesting proceeds and grasshoppers are quite numerous. Scattered hail storms have occurred and fairly severe damage is reported in the Avonlea District. A few reports of rust have been received but the development has not been sufficient to cause alarm. The potato crop in the northern districts appears to be better than last year and in the drier areas although very light it appears to have withstood the drought remarkably well. The past two weeks have been mostly warm with some local showers. Live stock are in fair condition.

Superintendent, Dominion Experimental Farm, Indian Head.

Wheat cutting general. Crops light probable yield five to ten bushels per acre. Considerable sawfly damage. Weather favourable past two weeks for late sown crops. Feed assured and pastures improved.

Superintendent, Emperimental Station, Swift Current.

Wheat cutting with binders and headers well advanced. Great difficulty being experienced due to green weeds, this causing some abandonment and much cutting for feed. Combines beginning to work where weed conditions permit. Weather hot dry. Oats, barley mostly cut. Yields all grain crops worse than anticipated.



SASKATCHEWAN - Cont'd.

Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Saskatoon.

Saskatchewan area south of line through Battleford, Saskatoon, Yorkton root rot of wheat. Several severe cases will cause some reduction in yield and grade. Slight infections very common same area barley. Some moderate to severe cases outs and rye. Chiefly slight infections prevalent north of this line. No severe cases in any cereal observed slight infections common.

ALBERTA

Department of Agriculture, Edmonton.

Cutting fifty per cent completed in south and now general in the north-central and northern parts of the province. Recent warm weather excellent for hastening maturity in heavy crop districts. Quality of wheat threshed high. Considerable hail damage. Rust not a serious factor. Second cut alfalfa in stacks in irrigated area. Haying delayed and quality injured by rains in north-central and northern Alberta.

Dominion Range Experiment Station, Manyberries.

Weather continues hot and dry. Harvesting in full swing with most wheat yields varying from nothing to ten bushels. Considerable unthreshed wheat being sold for cattle feed. Stock in fine condition despite short range. Heavy weed growth since the rains.

Dominion Experimental Substation, Beaverlodge.

Wheat cutting well advanced at most points though checked occasionally by light rains totalling point three one here. No recent frost. Harvest season generally favourable but in most districts kernels lean from drought and oats short. Pastures drying but plenty of feed.

Experimental Station, Lacombe.

Hail caused heavy damage in districts east and west of Lacombe during week. Cool weather delaying ripening. All crops filling extra well. Some wheat and barley cut August 22 and considerable cutting will be done during this week but cutting will not be general before September 1.

School of Agriculture, Vermilion.

Harvest well under way all grain ripening. Excellent crops in evidence. I inch of rain August 21. No frost. A little hail. No rust. Second cut alfalfa heavy crop.

School of Agriculture, Olds.

Grain is maturing slowly. Wheat fair to good. Barley and oats good. Some cutting started will be general about September 1. Very little rain in past two weeks.

