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AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, July 19, 1932, 4 p.m.-- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today the eighth of a series of 15 weekly telegraphic reports on crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces. This service is based upon the co-operation of 35 correspondents composed of agriculturists of the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture as well as a number of selected private observers.

SUMMARY

Still greater variation in western crop prospects became evident during the past week. The lack of reserve moisture in the drought areas has led to some burning of early wheat, in the recent absence of effective rainfall. The areas affected are mainly in southern and central Saskatchewan, southern Alberta and the Peace River district. There was a notable improvement in crop conditions in southern Manitoba, and generally optimistic reports came from most of northern Saskatchewan and the entire central region of Alberta.

Nearly all the western wheat is in head and in the earliest districts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, filling and ripening are under way. The rye crop will be harvested in the next two weeks, with wheat cutting due to start about the first of August. Rust is present only in traces as yet. Further severe hailstorms damaged the crops in all three provinces. Although the area covered was relatively small, the local destruction of crop was heavy. Grasshoppers are still causing damage to coarse grains. Common root rot is reported as very prevalent in Saskatchewan wheat fields.

During the past week, southern and west-central Manitoba, northern Saskatchewan and some points in central Alberta received good rains, but a large area of wheat land, where rain is needed, was not benefited. Recent rainfall in southern and central Saskatchewan and in southeastern and extreme northwestern Alberta has not been sufficient to maintain the heavy stands engendered by the heavy spring and June rainfall.

Manitoba.--

Growth is proceeding normally with a distinct improvement in conditions in southern districts, where heavy rains have fallen. Although insects (particularly grasshoppers and wheat stem maggots) are widespread and numerous, damage has not been severe. Grasshoppers are now confining their attentions to coarse grains and grass lands. Haying is nearly completed. Indications point to an early harvest of spring grains, with wheat cutting to begin about the first of August. Only traces of rust have yet been observed.

Saskatchewan.--

Variable weather conditions, combined with difference in moisture reserves, have caused a wide variation in wheat prospects in Saskatchewan. Most promising conditions for all grains are found in the northern, east-central and west-central districts, with less promise in the south and centre. The harvesting of rye will begin this week. Weed growth is troublesome in both fallows and growing crops. The lack of reserve moisture (a factor which was not in evidence earlier due to heavy rains) has become increasingly noticeable in recent weeks.



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Alberta.-

Reports of severe drought damage were received from southern Alberta and the upper Peace River district, but normal growth is proceeding over the rest of the province. The crop is more uniformly good than in 1931, but the bumper crops harvested in central districts in 1931 will not be repeated this year. Moisture conditions are particularly good along the western side of the province, and there are few complaints from central areas. Grasshoppers and hail caused further slight damage during the week.

Plant Diseases.

Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Winnipeg.

Only trace of stem rust July fourteen north of Winnipeg - Brandon highway, but south, amount varied in different localities from a light infection on most plants in Jordon, Mather, Pipestone and Carberry district to a trace in south-west corner and little over trace east of Portage and Carman. Most wheat in early milk state.

Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Saskatoon.

Surveyed Indian Head, Regina, Moose Jaw and Saskatoon districts: Common root rot severe in many fields of wheat. Difficult to determine injury; complicated in the south, especially around Indian Head and Regina by Browning and dying of leaves probably lack of reserve moisture. Browning root rot observed frequently but not determined as severe. Traces of take all and prematurity blight especially around Saskatoon. Slight common root rot in oats and barley. Traces of loose smut in wheat and barley.

Hail Damage.

Our correspondent at Winnipeg wires that heavy hail damage is reported from St. Jean and Morris, Manitoba, with lighter damage at Sperling and Carman. Only a small area was affected at each point.

The Hail Insurance Board of Alberta reports that claims were received from twelve municipal districts in that province, with heavy damage in three.

Meteorological Report.

The Dominion Meteorological Service, Toronto reports the following rainfall (in inches) in the week ending July 18 at 7 a.m.:

<u>Manitoba</u>		<u>Saskatchewan</u>		<u>Alberta</u>	
Swan River	0.1	Moose Jaw	0.1	Beaverlodge	0.1
Cypress River	0.2	Moosomin	0.1	Vegreville	0.2
Emerson	0.2	Kamsack	0.2	Red Deer	0.2
Portage la Prairie	1.1	Yellow Grass	0.3	Stettler	0.2
Morden	1.1	Elbow	0.4	Brooks	0.3
		Outlook	0.7	Drumheller	0.8
		Saskatoon	0.7	Coronation	1.1
		Macklin	0.9	Foremost	1.4
		Shaunavon	0.9		
		Consul	1.0		
		Humboldt	1.3		
		Lloydminster	1.5		
		Melfort	1.7		
		Kindersley	2.5		
		Empress	3.0		

Reports received later for other stations during the same period are as follows: Swift Current, Sask., 0.5; The Pas, Man., 0.5; Edmonton, Alta., 0.9; Battleford, Sask., 0.9; Winnipeg, Man., 1.1; Prince Albert, Sask., 1.5; and Medicine Hat, Alta., 1.7. Minnedosa, Qu'Appelle and Calgary had less than one-tenth of an inch.

The weather has been somewhat unsettled in the west, with showers and local thunderstorms in some districts. It has been warm in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and rather cool in Alberta. Manitoba - Partly cloudy and warm today and Wednesday with scattered showers or local thunderstorms. Saskatchewan - Partly cloudy today and Wednesday with a few scattered showers and local thunderstorms. Alberta - Mostly fair and rather cool with a few scattered showers. Wednesday, probably fair and moderately warm.

MANITOBA

Agricultural Representative, Carman.

Crop prospects in general very good. Harvesting will start in two weeks. Later crops just heading. Insect damage slight considering number present. Hay and feed plentiful. Stock doing well.

Dominion Experimental Station, Morden.

Early wheats ripening; some fields will cut in seven days. Oats filling well. Barley beginning to ripen. Indications point to a very early harvest. Grasshoppers doing considerable damage on oats and barley. Big improvement all crops during last three weeks. .80 inches of rain during week.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon.

Weather warmer and drier and crop growth has been satisfactory. Very little rust in evidence as yet. Considerable time has been spent by farmers on summerfallows during the week.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Minnedosa.

Past week, good haying weather. Wheat advancing well. No rust to hurt as yet. Some wheat stem maggot. Plant lice present in large numbers on wheat. Oats and barley promise to be good crops. No hail damage. Stock doing well, but flies are bad.

Agricultural Representative, Dauphin.

Crops ripening fast with hot dry weather. Cutting wheat likely to be general by August 1st if present weather holds. Haying will be completed in a few days. Weather has been excellent for haying last few days. Rust reported in some heavy oat stands.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Treesbank.

There is little change in insect conditions since our last report. The clear winged grasshopper is now collecting on the grasslands preparatory to egg laying while extended flights of the lesser migratory grasshopper are still taking place. Depredations by the wheat stem maggot covering a wide area and occasionally exceeding five per cent have taken place.

SASKATCHEWAN.

Department of Agriculture, Regina.

The wheat prospects show quite a wide variation in different parts of the province. In the northern, east-central and west-central districts, the prospects are very good for both wheat and coarse grains. In the central and southern areas, the crop is more patchy and not so promising and here there are several districts where rain is badly needed as the lack of reserve moisture has left the crop largely dependent upon precipitation during the present season. There are also complaints that weed growth has been exceptional in some of these districts, particularly the southeastern. In other districts, there is generally ample moisture. About eighty per cent of the wheat is now in head and also quite a large portion of the coarse grains. Scattered hail storms have occurred during the past fortnight, the most serious one extending from a point northwest of Bulvea to the district north of Grenfell. The damage however over the province has not been great. The crop is generally reported healthy. Grasshopper injury is reported in scattered districts, but the total damage is not material. Weather during the past fortnight was possibly a little dull and cool during the early part and warm during the latter days, but on the whole fairly favourable for growth. Pastures in most districts have made good growth and live stock are generally in good condition.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Indian Head.

Early wheat showing effect of high temperature and hot winds during the past week. Apparent lack of subsoil moisture. Regular rains required to carry crop through to ripening. Coarse grains making good progress. Rye crop ripening quickly and should be ready to harvest this week. Pastures good. Fallows late and weedy.

Dominion Experimental Station, Swift Current.

Early wheat burned before July rains not recovering but later crop comprising seventy-five per cent of total in fair to good condition with sufficient moisture for present in most localities. Prospects for average crop wheat and better than average oat crop.

Dominion Experimental Station, Rosthern.

Grain crops continuing to make rank growth with lodging in places. Rain delaying haying operations. No rust. Heat required. Live stock in good condition. Pastures excellent.

Dominion Experimental Station, Scott.

Favoured by almost an inch of rain and warmer weather, crops have made satisfactory progress during past week, but are later than usual. A good average grain crop is in sight. Hay is yielding better than expected and pastures are holding well for this season of the year.

ALBERTA

Dominion Experimental Station and Supervisor of Illustration Stations, Lethbridge (reporting from Medicine Hat).

Crops Lethbridge west good, but some sections there need rain. Lethbridge east to Burdett, unirrigated grain burning. Burdett east, recent rains helped revive crop but early grain seriously injured before rains came. Farther south, crops better but more moisture required. Some hail damage. Fair crop winter rye now being harvested.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Hanna.

Crops sixty per cent out in head, from two to three feet in height. Heads are large and will make thirty bushel crop if we get more rain to fill. Weeds are bad in some places. No grasshoppers or damage from any other sources.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Olds.

Crop conditions continue good. Considerable rain has fallen during past week. Breaking, summerfallow and spring ploughing looking good. Stubbled-in wheat is poor. Average per acre 25 bushels in this district. Oats and barley coming on fine; little later than other seasons on account of too much rain and cold weather.

Dominion Experimental Station, Lacombe.

One half inch rain received in five showers making hay harvesting difficult. Alfalfa yielding over two tons per acre. Eighty per cent wheat headed. Warm dry weather needed to ripen late-seeded coarse grains and general crop of district. More rain would do more harm than good.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Edmonton.

Edmonton district - heavy showers and warm. Good growth wheat from fifteen to twenty inches high, all in shot blade or heading. Coarse grains six to fifteen inches. Slight hail at several points from one to two per cent damage. General conditions good. Peace River districts have had fairly good rains. Good improvement. Cutworm damage five to ten per cent in odd district. Yield estimated at twenty-five per cent below last year. General conditions considered only fair.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Vermillion.

Crop conditions very good. Plenty of moisture. Very little damage of any kind.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Athabasca.

Crop conditions fair to good. Many fields show uneven germination, probably due to cold, wet spring. Wheat all headed out. Plenty of moisture. Total rainfall to date for season seven and half inches. Present conditions indicate fair average crop.

Dominion Experimental Sub-station, Beaverlodge.

Whole upper Peace country both sides river badly needing rain. Precipitation July tenth totalling .63 inches at Beaverlodge helped crops across southern area, but was scant or absent farther north. Present prospect for wheat crop twelve to eighteen bushels depending on future weather. Oats could still benefit greatly by early rains.

Late Reports.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Russell, Manitoba.

Crops continue to make satisfactory progress. Wheat well filled; no damage. Coarse grains good. Weather has been too warm last few days. Hay and pastures good. On the whole, the crop promises to be about average, ranging from poor to very good within few miles owing to unequal rainfall in May.

Agricultural Representative, Teulon, Manitoba.

Heavy rains experienced again during past week have aided crops materially, but retarded haying slightly. Grain filling nicely while insect damage will not be heavy. No hail thus far. Cutting will be general at least a week earlier than last year.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Stettler, Alberta.

Wheat crop eight y-five percent headed and very even on account no drifting soil this season. Have had good supply moisture. Stooling not so good, apparently held back by fairly cool weather. Yield much the same as last year though about two weeks later. Other grains showing up fair.

Dominion Range Experiment Station, Manyberries, Alberta.

Heavy rain during past week improves general conditions. Later seeded wheat considerably improved. Estimated that twenty-five percent of early crop in south-east affected by burning. Hay crop good. Haying general throughout district. Pastures and water conditions good on range.



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