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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

T. W. Grindley, Ph.D.

Ottawa, July 4, 1933, 4 p.m. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues to-day the sixth of a series of 15 weekly telegraphic reports covering crop conditions in the three Prairie Provinces. Forty-two correspondents distributed over the agricultural area supply the information on which the reports are based. Most of these correspondents are agriculturists of the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture but in Manitoba and Alberta, a number of selected private observers and grain men also co-operate in this service.

SUMMARY

Western grain crops entered the critical month of July with less than average prospects. Heat, drought and insects have thinned the stands and shortened the straw. Damage has been most severe in the regions where wheat production is most specialized, namely southern Manitoba, south-eastern, south-western, and west-central Saskatchewan, and southern and central Alberta. During the past week, temperatures were fairly high and the scattered showers received were barely sufficient to maintain the crop in many districts, while further deterioration occurred along the southern boundary. Much of the early-sown wheat is now headed, with both heads and straw short. The grasshopper scourge is still serious. Damage is continuing and with migration imminent, control measures are either stopped or curtailed. Hail damage was limited to a severe storm in south-central Saskatchewan. General rains are required in most districts of the West.

There is a sharp distinction between crop prospects in southern and northern Manitoba. The June drought severely affected the southern grain fields and in many areas, recovery is improbable. Northern districts secured more rainfall and good yields are still possible. Wheat is either in the shot blade or headed. Haying is under way and a light yield is being garnered under unfavourable weather conditions. Grasshoppers are winged but not migrating as yet. The poisoning campaign is over but further damage is expected.

Beneficial rains fell in southern and eastern Saskatchewan during the week, but pessimistic reports come from south-eastern, south western, west-central and northern districts. The Swift Current and Scott districts have suffered particularly; some fields are ruined and only seed will be secured from many others. The grasshoppers are more menacing now that control measures are ineffective, but damage from cutworms and wireworms is practically over for this year. Further reports of the hail storm of June 25 reveal heavy damage in the fertile Qu'Appelle Valley.

Although rains have fallen throughout the Alberta drought areas, they were not sufficient to maintain crop promise. Some improvement was recorded in the south-east, but the normally heavy-producing area along the foothills from the United States boundary north to Lacombe and east to points such as Lethbridge and Hanna is still drought-stricken. Heads are forming on early-sown wheat, but straw and heads will be short. The district west and north of Edmonton, including the Peace River country received good rains which will further improve prospects. The grasshopper menace is not regarded as seriously as it was some weeks ago, but other insect pests are exceptionally abundant.

Reports of Dominion Entomological Laboratories.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Treesbank, Manitoba.

Although no aerial migration has occurred, both winged and immature grasshoppers have been changing their location so rapidly and have spread so uniformly over the fields involved that successful poisoning has become very difficult. With more than fifty per cent of the grasshoppers mature, migratory flights may be expected very soon. Some bait is still being spread, but in most districts, the control campaign ended about June 30. Farmers in nearly every district are well satisfied with the saving resulting from the campaign but drought has largely obliterated result in the extreme south-west. Other insect activities continue as reported last week.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Marked migration of winged grasshoppers beginning. Material damage continues, especially in districts of low moisture or where control campaign incomplete. No new pest reported. Ravages of cutworms and wireworms practically ended.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Lethbridge, Alberta.

Grasshoppers becoming winged but no marked migrations expected. Damage still being held at a minimum by campaign. Other pests of grain, gardens, beets and trees, usually of minor importance, exceptionally abundant. General garden losses quite severe.

Hail Damage.

No damage was reported in either Manitoba or Alberta. Our correspondent at Regina, Saskatchewan, wired as follows:

> "No loss from hail during past week. Storm of June twenty-fifth did extensive damage to crops bordering on the south side of Qu'Appelle valley from Craven to south of Lebret where the storm crossed the valley doing heavy damage south of Abernethy and Lemberg, continuing in a south-easterly direction."

Meteorological Report.

The following report from the Dominion Meteorological Service, Toronto gives the rainfall (in inches) in the week ending Monday, July 3 at 7 a.m. and in the month of June:

Manitoba	Saskatchewan			Alberta			
Weel	Month		Week	Month		Week	Month
Le Pas Nil Minnedosa 1.1 Winnipeg 0.2 Pierson 0.1 Boissevain 0.1 Enerson 0.3 Morden 0.3 Portage 1a Prairie 0.1 Virden 0.1 Brandon 0.8 Cypress River 0.1 Russell 0.2 Dauphin 0.4 Swan River 1.1	2.7 1.0 1.0 2.2 1.3	Broadview Moosomin Estevan Indian Head Yellow Grass Assiniboia Shaunavon Consul Outlook Elbow Kindersley Macklin Melfort Humboldt Lloydminster Swift Current Moose Jaw Qu'Appelle Battleford Prince Albert	0.8 2.8 0.2 0.5 0.1 0.1 0.2 5 0.1 0.2 5 0.2 0.2 0.1 0.2 5 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2	3.4 1.30 2.4 1.2 3.4 1.2 9.9 1.3 1.7 5999212 2.2 2.2 2.2 2.2 2.2 2.2 2.2 2.2 2.2	Fairview Beaverlodge Edmonton Calgary Foremost Cardston Macleod Brooks Empress Drumholler Coronation Stettler Red Deer Vegreville Medicine Hat	0.6 0.1 0.6 2.6 1.0 0.5 1.2 0.9 1.1 0.5 1.8 0.6 1.1	3.2 1.7 3.4 1.1 3.7 1.1 0.8 1.5 1.0 1.3 2.3 2.2 4.5 1.8

It will be seen that sub-normal precipitation has fallen over most of the prairie wheat areas, with rainfall particularly limited in southern and central districts.

Forecast: Thunder storms have occurred in some section of the western provinces chiefly in Manitoba and northern Alberta. Manitoba - a few local thunder storms to-day; mostly fair and not quite so warm to-night and Wednesday. Saskatchewan mostly fair and warm to-day and Wednesday. Alberta - mostly fair and comparatively cool to-day and Wednesday; probably a few light scattered showers.

REPORTS FROM CORRESPONDENTS.

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Provincial Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

Fairly good local rains in scattered places during past week but in others, crop is badly burned; in some places in south-western Manitoba almost if not quite past recovery. Moisture supplies generally better in northern than in southern areas. Sweet clover haying in progress. This crop lighter than average. Grasshoppers still very numerous in worst districts. Now full grown and starting to migrate. Further poisoning impractical. Early wheat headed. Harvest likely to be early with very light crop in southern Manitoba.

Dominion Experimental Station, Morden.

Weather continues dry and hot. Wheat in head. Oats and barley backward. Corn looking well. Crop suffering from drought. Hay and clover crop light. Grasshopper epidemic bad in local areas. Wheat crop will be light. Oats and barley fifty per cent normal. Rain long overdue.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon.

This week has been cooler and more favourable to crops but recent heat wave thinned stands and burned the leaves on late seedings. Rain has been fairly well distributed in northern Manitoba but lighter and more spotted in the southern section. Grasshopper situation bad in a number of places.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Minnedosa.

Have been needing rain badly. Thunder showers tonight. Need two days' rain. Most grain short. Wheat all in shot blade or headed. Some barley heading. Hay fair crop. Weather bad for haying; enough rain to wet hay not sufficient to help crop. Summer-fallows very dry. Stock doing fair.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Dauphin.

Last week has been unsettled, with very hot weather relieved by scattered showers. Good rain tonight following very hot day. Crops doing fine. Wheat nearly all headed and should be a good height. A lot of hay cut and weather has been decidedly bad for curing it.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Russell.

The dry weather during the past week was relieved by moderate rain July third. All crops needed rain badly. The wheat crop will be light but coarse grains will improve if rainfall is sufficient.

SASKATCHEVA

Provincial Department of Agriculture, Regina.

Rains during past week benefited crops and particularly feed. Several points in southern Saskatchewan received good rains. Generally however, south-eastern areas need more. Crops in other parts of the province continue to make good progress. Rain and cloudy weather reduced grasshopper activity during the week.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Indian Head.

Beneficial rains during week improved general crop conditions. Summerfallow work in progress. Total precipitation June 4.22 inches.

Dominion Experimental Station, Swift Current.

One to two inches rain over south-western Saskatchewan greatly improved conditions; good chance now to get feed and seed in western part where early drought ... injury was most severe. Swift Current east - early crop will be short; late crop depends on further rain. Pastures benefited. Feed prospects much improved.

SASKATCHEWAN (Con.)

Dominion Experimental Station, Scott (reporting from Wilkie).

West-central Saskatchewan is destined to have one of the lightest crops on record and only in a few spots which caught heavy thunder showers at a critical time is there prospects of a fair crop. Plowing down or pasturing fields of wheat is not uncommon in area mentioned. Supervisor of Illustration Stations, Scott (reporting from St. Walburg).

Rain badly needed at Meota, where heavy crops are drying fast. Spruce Lake has benefited by recent rains and is not in immediate need of moisture. St. Walburg has ample moisture for present needs. Reward and garnet heading out.

Dominion Experimental Station, Rosthern.

Sufficient rain fell last week to carry crops but there is no reserve moisture. Early-sown wheat heading and will be rather short. Sweet clover for hay being cut and crop rather light. Pastures still good. No insect damage.

ALBERTA

Dominion Range Experiment Station, Manyberries.

Heavy rain past week improved crop conditions. Early-sown crops headed out. Crops very good in Cypress Hills and adjacent areas on west slope. Slight damage from grasshoppers. Grazing conditions and watering facilities improved.

Dominion Experimental Station and Supervisor of Illustration Stations, Lethbridge.

General rains over southern Alberta during the past week have greatly improved crop situation although many fields had suffered to such an extent that significant recovery was impossible. More rain would be welcomed everywhere and in some areas is urgently needed. Early sown wheat heading out; straw is short.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Calgary.

Crops in this district benefited from good rains last week. Hard to estimate damage done by heat but think further good rains and most favourable weather needed to realize better than just fair crop.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Hanna.

No rain to do any good since last report. Wheat on well-worked summerfallow 60 per cent normal; balance 30 per cent. Considerable damage from gophers. Pastures very dry.

Dominion Experimental Station, Lacombe.

With very hot week and only 1.9 inches rain in June all crops suffering. Hay grops have dried up. Wheat on stubble prematurely headed at ten inches; heads very short. Wheat on fallows later and still has some chance but heavy rains urgently needed for all crons.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Vermilion.

The past week has been good with scattered showers but a general rain would be welcome. Grain crops will not be heavy. The hot days in June must have thinned them out. Wheat heading out short although the country looks green enough for a bumper crop of everything.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Edmonton.

Crop conditions continue very good. Fair amount of rainfall. Early sown wheat not so good as the later sown crop. No damage reported. Good to fair crop in sight. Some fields of wheat will measure from twenty to twenty-four inches high.

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ALBERTA (Con.)

Te legraphic Correspondent, Athabasca.

Weather for past week good, with one inch rainfall. Wheat heading out but the heads appear small on the average. Fields showing uneven germination. Average cropprospects.

Dominion Experimental Sub-Station, Beaverlodge.

Growth stimulated by rains latter part of June has gone far to relieve the late spring and crop prospects are everywhere bright although grades problematical. No grasshoppers, few cutworms and less wireworms damage than usual.

Late Reports

Agricultural Representative, Teulon, Manitoba.

Districts benefited by rain on Friday which was fairly general but hot. wind yosterday has rendered much of this moisture negative; hence more rain will be required to finish crops properly. Wheat fully in head. Loose snut rather prevalent. Haying in progress. Grasshoppers flying.

