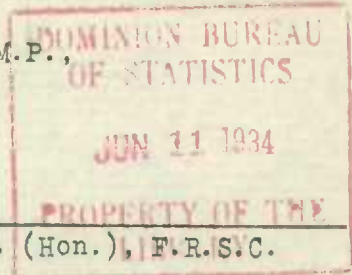


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### TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, May 29, 1934, 4 p.m.- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues to-day the first of a series of 15 weekly telegraphic reports covering crop conditions in the three Prairie Provinces. Forty 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. The Meteorological Service of Canada, Toronto, will supply official weather data.

### SUMMARY

While at this time last year the spring season was generally reported as late but very promising, the 1934 crops are quite early but have been handicapped by distinctly unfavourable conditions. Any benefit which might have resulted from the heavier winter precipitation of 1933-34 has been completely dissipated. Spring precipitation since April 1 has been very light and ineffective. There have been periods of extremely high temperatures which, in the absence of soil moisture and encouraged by strong winds, led to serious soil-drifting over wide areas. The weather and soil conditions have been such as to discourage growth and to promote the early hatching of grasshoppers. Germination and first growth, while well advanced for this period, were weak and spotty. Grasshopper damage has begun but the serious losses to date are due to moisture shortage, high temperatures and soil-drifting. While a general rain would change the picture considerably, a careful study of the correspondents' reports must lead to the conclusion that an extremely serious crop situation exists in the Prairie Provinces.

The districts in which moisture shortage and crop damage are most apparent correspond closely with the drought area of other years - southern, particularly south-western, Manitoba; southern, central and west-central, Saskatchewan; and south and east of Calgary, Alberta. Conditions are more favourable in the remaining areas, but rains would be very welcome.

In Manitoba, only a few scattered spring showers have fallen where heavy and general rains were needed. Germination was spotty and variable and early growth very unsatisfactory. Soil-drifting caused serious damage and appeared in some areas where it had never before been troublesome. The limited moisture, night frosts, and high mid-day temperatures combined with the soil-drifting to affect the early growth of spring grains. Grasshoppers are hatching in the outbreak areas; damage has already started, but the mixing stations have commenced operations and it is hoped to limit the hopper damage to the stubble crops. The grasshopper situation is most serious in the south-western corner, as forecasted. Re-seeding has been necessary in some localities but the results are doubtful. The need of rain is generally expressed and in many districts, it is an urgent necessity.

The crop situation in Saskatchewan has reached a critical stage much earlier than usual. Spring rainfall has been of little consequence in the main wheat areas. Lack of soil moisture is widespread, but is most apparent in southern, central and west-central districts. In the northern and east-central districts, the crops have progressed more favourably as they had better reserves to draw upon, but rain is needed locally. Grasshoppers hatched out three weeks earlier than in 1933 and combined with the other limiting factors on crop growth such as soil-drifting, lack of moisture, and weak germination create a serious situation. As in Manitoba, some re-seeding has been necessary but more will be done if rain falls. There is a general shortage of seed, so that farmers are disinclined to drill grain into a dry top-soil. Fallow crops are still promising since they are better able to resist adverse soil and weather conditions and insect attacks. An early and general rain would be a tremendous benefit to the growing crops and would also cause a further seeding of coarse grains.



Over most of the southern area of Alberta and in scattered central localities, crops are described as in distress. Rain is needed almost generally throughout the province, but in most of the central and northern parts, crops are not suffering. Spring rainfall has been light, scattered and ineffective in the district south and east of Calgary; the top-soil is dry and the sub-soil reserves are becoming exhausted. In central Alberta, between the two railway main lines and east of the Calgary-Edmonton line, crop conditions are fair with rain needed to promote good growth. Warm and windy weather has absorbed the surface moisture. In the Edmonton district and turning north to Athabasca and east to Vermilion, the season is early and growth good. The Peace River district has favourable prospects; rain is needed, but not urgently. The Alberta crop situation would be greatly changed by an early and heavy rain; if rain does not fall, prospects will deteriorate rapidly.



Reports of Dominion Entomological Laboratories, Prairie Provinces

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Brandon, Manitoba.

Grasshoppers hatched all through southern and western portions of Manitoba. Mixing stations in operation. Road allowances and margins of fields badly trimmed in severe area. Outbreak corresponds very closely to that predicted on grasshopper map.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Grasshopper development about three weeks ahead of last year, hatching beginning early in May and general in all districts by May 15 to 20. Coupled with delayed and weak crop growth, this greatly intensifies powers of damage. Stubbled-in crops already largely ruined by pest in areas of light and medium soils, but this injury just developing in heavy soils owing to somewhat later hatching there. Due to absence of spring rains to pack the soil together with inability of some farmers to plough adequately, some infestation has developed in the crop on ploughed stubble but these crops as well as those on fall-discd stubble can generally be saved by moderate use of poison. Most of crop on fallow being effectively protected from invasion in spite of more rapid movements of pest induced by high temperatures and shortage of green growth. Effectiveness of grasshopper control campaign would be greatly aided by immediate good rains. Outbreak area closely following lines of forecast. Wireworms widely prevalent in medium soils, heavily thinning the crop. Definite losses from cutworms at Wilcox, Riceton, Rowatt, Milestone, Kincaid, and Holdfast with reports elsewhere. In some instances, however, spotty condition of the crops has resulted from insufficient moisture at seed level for germination. Actual crop injury observed from soil-blowing, although considerable in heavy and light soils, materially less than indicated by dust storms.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Lethbridge, Alberta.

Grasshopper hatching practically completed and considerable damage being done by small hoppers to grain that is being held back by drought. Considerable cutworm damage occurring southern Alberta at Lethbridge, Cowley, New Dayton, Vauxhall, Turin. All pests abundant.

Meteorological Report

The following report from the Dominion Meteorological Service, Toronto, gives the rainfall (in inches) in the week ending Monday, May 28 at 7 a.m.-

<u>Manitoba</u>		<u>Saskatchewan</u>		<u>Alberta</u>	
Pierson	-0.1	Broadview	-0.1	Foremost	-0.1
Emerson	-0.1	Moosomin	-0.1	Stettler	-0.1
Morden	-0.1	Indian Head	-0.1	Beaverlodge	-0.1
Virden	-0.1	Yellow Grass	-0.1	Medicine Hat	-0.1
Cypress River	-0.1	Assiniboia	-0.1	Coronation	-0.2
Russell	-0.1	Yorkton	-0.1	Red Deer	-0.2
Swan River	-0.1	Elbow	-0.1	Vegreville	-0.2
Boissevain	-0.2	Kindersley	-0.1	Cardston	-0.3
Winnipeg	-0.2	Macklin	-0.1	Drumheller	-0.3
Dauphin	-0.2	Lloydminster	-0.1	Edmonton	0.4
Portage la Prairie	-0.3	Kamsack	-0.2	Calgary	0.5
Minnedosa	-0.4	Outlook	-0.2		
		Humboldt	-0.2		
		Swift Current	-0.2		
		Regina	-0.3		
		Battleford	-0.3		
		Melfort	-0.3		
		Prince Albert	0.4		
		Qu'Appelle	0.4		

Note:- The minus signs denote less precipitation than the amount indicated.

Rain was reported on eight or ten days during May but mostly light, although very fair showers generally on 21st and 22nd and locally good in southern Saskatchewan on the 9th.



Precipitation from April 1 to date has been heaviest in eastern, east-central and northern Manitoba, eastern, east-central and northern Saskatchewan and in central Alberta. Generally, however, the precipitation has been less than half of last year's in the same period and much below normal. The driest districts are in south-western Manitoba, south-central and western Saskatchewan and most of southern Alberta.

The precipitation at the Dominion Experimental Farms and Stations during the month of April was one of the lowest on record. The average for eight stations was less than half-an-inch, 0.48 inch, to be exact. In April, 1933, it was 1.16 inches. Surveying the records back to 1909, only three Aprils of lower precipitation are found - 1910 (0.43 inch, four stations), 1913 (0.26 inch, six stations), and 1931 (0.36 inch, eight stations).

There has been little or no improvement during May to date.

#### REPORTS OF CORRESPONDENTS

##### MANITOBA

##### Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

Few light roving showers have visited many parts Manitoba, but general, heavy rain greatly needed as soil in some southern areas quite to very dry. Soil-drifting was very bad over unusually wide area early in May but damage from that cause rather less than was then feared. May frosts did only slight damage. Crops rather retarded and germination spotted but differing considerably in local districts. Grasshoppers hatching generally where anticipated; very bad in south-western corner of province.

##### Dominion Experimental Farm, Morden.

Seeding completed. Germination uneven. Considerable crop affected by drifting. Some oats fields frozen, necessitated re-seeding. Grass and pasture backward. Rain long overdue. Crop suffering from lack of moisture. Grasshoppers hatching. Poison bait being scattered. Crop prospect very unfavourable.

##### Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon.

Sufficient moisture for germination of early-sown seed. Sub-soil moisture below normal. Soil-drifting, scanty moisture supply and frost have checked growth of grain. Pasture poor. Grasshoppers now hatching. Mixing stations starting operations. Seeding well advanced. Rain badly needed.

##### Supervisor of Illustration Stations, Brandon.

District covered Boissevain, Deloraine, Medora, Melita, Pipestone. Acreage seeded greatly curtailed especially in Melita area. Much crop lost by soil-drifting. Some re-seeding but late crop doubtful due to grasshoppers now hatching. No beneficial rain. Top-soil dry; sub-soil very dry. Growth poor. Pasture bare.

##### Telegraphic Correspondent, Dauphin.

Spring grain looking good. Sub-soil moisture plentiful. Spring rains one-half inch. Top-soil needs rain at present. Soil-drifting not serious but worst yet seen in this district. Pastures good after late start but need rain. No grasshopper reports yet; no trouble anticipated. Last three days very hot.

##### Telegraphic Correspondent, Carman.

Crop prospects good at present, but rain needed soon. Considerable damage from wind. Hoppers hatching in great numbers. Mixing stations starting. Pastures fair. Live stock fair.

##### Telegraphic Correspondent, Russell.

There has been enough moisture for germination and spring grains are advancing favourably, but very little sub-soil moisture and rain required soon. Some damage from drifting but not much re-seeding. No grasshopper damage but they are more prevalent than last year. Pastures are very poor.



MANITOBA - Continued

Agricultural Representative, Toulon.

Seeding practically completed. Sufficient moisture but recent weather unusually warm and is sapping moisture. No soil-drifting to any extent nor grasshopper damage. Pests just beginning to hatch. Cereal crop acreage normal to slight reduction although a marked increase in fodder crops particularly corn; increase too in potato acreage.

SASKATCHEWAN

Department of Agriculture, Regina.

Wheat seeding is nearly completed, although a good rain in the near future would cause a greater acreage to be seeded. Seeding of coarse grains has been retarded by dry weather and is from 60 to 65 per cent completed. In the northern and east-central districts it is reported fairly good although there are a few complaints that it has been somewhat slow. Over the province about 70 per cent of the wheat is showing green. A general need for rain is expressed by correspondents in the southern, central and west-central areas. In the northern and east-central portions of the province, conditions in this respect are more favourable although in some of these districts rain would also be welcome, but there the crops are not suffering. The dry weather and some high winds have caused considerable soil-blowing and damage from this source is quite severe in the lighter lands in the south-central districts and in the south-western area north of the main line as well as in some of the south-eastern districts. The amount of re-seeding will largely depend upon moisture conditions as there is a general shortage of seed and farmers are holding back in hope of an early rain. Grasshoppers have hatched in large numbers over the area affected by drought. Although actual damage from this source is light, taking the province as a whole, serious injury has been caused mostly to stubble crops in certain sections, particularly in the south-central portion of the province. Summerfallow crops on the whole are fairly free from infestation. A vigorous poisoning program is in progress to save the crops, particularly those on summerfallow. Cutworms and wireworms have done some damage in patches, but on the whole the damage is not great from this source. Pastures and live stock in the northern and east-central districts are in fairly good condition. In other sections, pastures are becoming bare particularly in the south-central area. Good rains would greatly change the general crop situation.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Indian Head.

Crop throughout territory thin and patchy due to drought and dust storms. Wheat acreage under normal; slight increase flax. Moisture condition fairly satisfactory at three to four inches surface soil and sub-soil moisture abundant at four feet. Sweltering temperatures favourable for grasshopper hatching. Mixing stations busy distributing poison. Pastures drying up. Rain urgently required.

Dominion Experimental Station, Swift Current.

Wheat seeding complete, coarse grains seventy-five per cent. Fallow crops up four inches. Stubble crop uneven. Rain needed soon. Fall rye eight inches heading out. Grasshopper menace increasing; some stubble crops damaged where precautions not taken. Severe drifting damage on light and some heavy lands. Re-seeding delayed till rain or prevented by feed or seed shortage. Weather very warm and dry. Live stock thin to fair. Pastures fair but showing effects of drought.

Supervisor of Illustration Stations, Swift Current.

Fox Valley and Piapot districts - no effective rain this spring. Surface soil dry. Sub-soil moisture fair. Soil-drifting damage severe on all crops on fallowed lands, much beyond recovery. Fall rye short; needs rain. Grasshoppers hatching; not much damage yet. Pastures short.

Dominion Experimental Station, Rosthern.

Ninety per cent wheat and forty per cent coarse grains seeded. Moisture sufficient on good summerfallow, but stubble land dry. Shortage of feed has delayed spring work and will no doubt result in reduced acreage of wheat and small increase in acreage coarse grains. Grasshoppers not present in damaging numbers.



SASKATCHEWAN - Continued

Dominion Experimental Station, Scott.

Except for triangular area having apex at Scott and base some twenty miles south-west, where good rains received, stands of grain south to Saskatchewan River are generally uneven, somewhat backward, show evidence of early spring drifting, and need rain. Poisoning of grasshoppers in progress commencing fifteen miles south.

Supervisor of Illustration Stations, Scott.

In districts between Battleford and St. Paul, Alberta seeding almost completed except green feed. Soil dry but improved by Monday's rain. More rain needed. Some soil drifting but damage not great. No grasshoppers reported. Growth of grain fair to good. Pastures fair.

ALBERTA

Dominion Range Experiment Station, Manyberries.

Seeding practically all complete; early summerfallow is up, but later sown grains need rain before germination begins. Dry, hot winds prevail. Moisture badly needed. Grasshoppers present grave menace. Range grasses drying especially around Medicine Hat. Conditions are not at all promising.

Dominion Experimental Station and Supervisor of Illustration Stations, Lethbridge.

No effective rain for two months so top-soil very dry and poor germination on late seedings. Spring grain making slow growth. Rain urgently needed. Sub-soil moisture exhausted on winter grain fields and range pastures. Soil-drifting has occurred on some farms but many farmers are effectively controlling drifting which has not destroyed much crop nor has been sufficient to affect weight of fleece on range sheep.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Calgary.

Recent rains make top-soil fair moisture, sub-soil none. Soil-drifting five per cent. Spring grains height six inches. Pastures dry, turning brown. Grasshoppers fairly plentiful; damage three per cent.

Hail Insurance Board of Alberta, Calgary.

Soil conditions in south and south-east very dry with little sub-soil moisture. Grasshoppers bad. Pastures drying up. Some soil-drifting. Conditions in north good but more rain in many parts needed soon. No damage from hail so far.

Dominion Experimental Station, Lacombe.

Sufficient moisture, good germination, with season ten days early. Cereals have made good start. With only eight inches precipitation last ten months, moisture reserves low and all crops, particularly hay and pastures, need rain. Some injury from soil-drifting but very little re-seeding necessary. No grasshoppers, but some cutworm damage.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Stettler.

Seeding finished. Have had one-half inch rain this month. Top-soil very dry. Very little moisture in sub-soil. Season two weeks earlier than last year. Pastures not good. Grain looks fair. No damage from grasshoppers reported, just south and east of Coronation.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Camrose.

All seeding is completed and most of the grain is showing well above ground. Weather has been warm and windy, more rain would be of benefit. No soil-drifting or hopper damage in district. Prospects for a crop much better than on same date year ago.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Vermilion.

We have considerable sub-moisture and a fair top moisture. Rain would be welcome but can do without for a week or two. Soil drifted in a few spots but damage is small. No hopper damage reported. Grains are growing well and pastures are good. Considerable coarse grains to be sown yet.

ALBERTA - Continued

Telegraphic Correspondent, Edmonton.

Crop conditions very good up to date. Top-soil drying out by last few days' warm weather, but not suffering. Good sub-soil moisture. No soil-drifting. Early-sown wheat up six to seven inches and good growth both grains and pastures. No grasshopper or other damage.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Athabasca.

All wheat seeded. Coarse grain seeding nearing completion. Season three weeks earlier than last year. Wheat average height four inches. Growth has been good. No damage from pests. Rainfall for April 0.67 inches, for May 0.63 inches. Weather hot and rain needed.

Dominion Experimental Sub-station, Beaverlodge.

Seeding nearly finished, except in a few low or flat districts. Good reserve of moisture and crop prospects favourable though most districts would welcome an early rain.





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