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AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, August 21, 1934, 4 p.m. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issued to-day the thirteenth 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. The Meteorological Service of Canada, Toronto, supplies the official weather data.

SUMMARY

Relatively dry weather prevailed in the Prairie Provinces during the past week and only a few scattered points received more than one-half an inch of rainfall. Severe hail storms were reported in local areas in southern Alberta and over a wide area in central Saskatchewan. Harvesting is progressing rapidly in Manitoba. Cutting is practically completed in many districts in southern and central Manitoba and is under way in the northern part of the province. Pastures are dry and the feed situation is serious in many areas. About 75 per cent of the wheat crop in southern Saskatchewan is now cut and threshing is under way at a few points. In central districts about half the wheat crop is cut while harvesting is getting under way in the northern part of the province. Severe hail damage was reported during the past week. Some rust is evident in the north-eastern part of the province but damage will be confined to exceptionally late crops. Pastures are very dry and the feed problem is acute in southern areas. Harvesting is under way in southern and central Alberta and some threshing has been done in earlier districts. The effects of drought are marked in parts of central and east-central Alberta. Very little harvesting has been done in northern Alberta where cloudy, showery weather has delayed cutting. Hot, dry weather is required in this area.

MANITOBA

Harvesting is progressing rapidly in Manitoba. Cutting is completed in many districts and threshing is under way in the southern areas of the province. Light showers have delayed threshing at some points. Yields are reported as being variable. In the extreme south-west corner of the province crops are a total failure and live stock are being shipped out to areas where feed is available. Poor to fair yields are reported in other districts in southern and central Manitoba. Harvesting is progressing in northern districts where good yields are in prospect.

SASKATCHEWAN

Only light showers were reported in Saskatchewan during the past week and only a few scattered points received more than one-half an inch of rainfall. Wheat cutting is now general in nearly all parts of the province. Cutting is practically completed in south-eastern Saskatchewan and about 75 per cent of the wheat in southern Saskatchewan is now cut. In central districts about one-half of the wheat crop is cut and harvesting is getting under way in northern areas. Threshing has commenced in some areas in southern Saskatchewan. A severe hail storm damaged standing crops in central portions of the province during the past week. Some rust is reported in north-eastern Saskatchewan but damage will be confined to exceptionally late crops. Pastures are very dry.

ALBERTA

Light showers were reported in Alberta during the past week. Cutting is well advanced in southern and central areas and threshing has commenced in southern districts but will not be general for another week. Light yields are reported from parts of central and east-central Alberta where the effects of drought are most marked and crops have ripened prematurely. In the Edmonton and Athabasca districts harvesting has been delayed by cloudy, showery weather. In these districts hot, dry weather is required to ripen the heavy stands of grain. Some hail damage was reported in southern Alberta during the past week.

REPORTS OF DOMINION ENTOMOLOGICAL LABORATORIES.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory. Brandon, Manitoba.

Showers are delaying threshing but sample good. Grasshoppers mainly concentrated on egg beds and only damaging very late oats and barley. Grasshopper egg bed survey begun.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Damage by grasshoppers to maturing crops although often serious has been materially less than last year considering the infested area as a whole. As drought and high temperatures have again been extremely favourable to the pest this marked reversal and definite decrease in autumn infestation can only be attributed to the general success of the control campaign.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory. Lethbridge, Alberta.

Wheat stem sawfly causing slight losses in Champion-Vulcan area with more severe losses Three Hills district. Grasshoppers causing some damage Drumheller, Hanna, Consort area.

REPORT OF PLANT PATHOLOGIST.

Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Damage to cereals from parasitic diseases overshadowed in most districts by stunting effects of drought. Added to this wheat in some districts shrunk from the effects of firing by hot winds earlier in the season. Stem rust present in most of the fields from Watson to Wilkie but damage will be negligible except in a few of the late crops. Leaf rust, bunt loose smut and septoria glume blotch of little importance. Common rootrot is present in all fields and in some cases has done damage aggravating the condition brought on by drought. Take all is relatively scarce but has caused noticeable damage in some of the newer fields. The effects of browning rootrot are noticeable in districts where it was present in June such fields showing a thin late maturing stand in the affected patches. Covered smut has caused considerable damage in certain fields of oats and barley probably because the seed was not properly treated. Several other diseases of cereal and garden crops were troublesome in isolated cases. Some damage to cereals from frost in early July was reported in southern Saskatchewan. More recently frost has injured potatoes and tender vegetables in parts of north-eastern Saskatchewan.

HAIL DAMAGE

Saskatchewan-

Bad hail storm crossed the province on Friday evening August seventeenth doing continuous damage from Alberta boundary to north of Lipton. Points reporting damage are Marango, Laporte, Kindersley, Glidden, Madison, Eston, Bickleigh, Chipperfield, Gunworth, Eughton, Forgan, Wiseton, Dinsmore, Anerley, Tichfield, Durblane, Loreburn, Girvin, Craik, Liberty, Penzance, Strasbourg, Earl Grey, Southey, Markinch and Cupar.

Alberta -

Disastrous hail storm Tuesday fourteenth from west of High River to east of Carmangay fifty miles long. Another storm Friday seventeenth from east of Didsbury to Saskatchewan boundary.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

The Dominion Meteorological Service, Toronto, reports the following precipitation in the week ending Monday, August 20, at 7 a.m. (in inches): -

Manitoba

Virden	- 0.1
Dauphin	- 0.1
Wan River	- 0.1
Winnadosa	0.1
Le Pas	0.2
Brandon	0.2
Fortage la Prairie	0.2

Saskatchewan

Swift Current	- 0.1
Qu'Appelle	- 0.1
Indian Head	- 0.1
Shaunavon	- 0.1
Kamsack	- 0.1
Kindersley	- 0.1
Battleford	0.1

Alberta

Foremost	- 0.1
Cardston	- 0.1
Beaverlodge	- 0.1
Macleod	0.1
Red Deer	0.1
Medicine Hat	0.2
Edmonton	0.2

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<u>Manitoba</u>	
Russell	0.2
Winnipeg	0.3
Pierson	0.3
Morden	0.3
Boissevain	0.4
Cypress River	0.4
Emerson	0.7

<u>Saskatchewan</u>	
Broadview	0.1
Moosomin	0.1
Lloydminster	0.1
Moose Jaw	0.2
Prince Albert	0.2
Saskatoon	0.2
Yorkton	0.2
Outlook	0.2
Elbow	0.2
Humboldt	0.2
Regina	0.3
Assiniboia	0.3
Yellow Grass	0.4
Estevan	0.5
Macklin	0.6
Melfort	0.7

<u>Alberta</u>	
Empress	0.2
Drumheller	0.2
Stettler	0.2
Vegreville	0.2
Calgary	0.3
Brooks	0.3
Coronation	0.3
Fairview	0.4

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

REPORTS OF CORRESPONDENTS

MANITOBA

Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

Past week brought to considerable areas in southern Manitoba heaviest rains of year. Pastures and corn much helped but threshing retarded. Cutting varies from being completed in places to being half done in some northern districts. Threshing just nicely started.

Dominion Experimental Station, Morden.

Threshing fifty per cent complete. Yield low. Coarse grains sample thin. Pastures improving since visited by rain. Corn short. Potato and root crops light. Indications point to a heavy infestation of grasshopper eggs throughout district.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Melita.

No crop to thresh west of Deloraine to Saskatchewan boundary and south of Lauder-Tilston line. Only a few loads of green grain and Russian thistles saved. Around 600 cars of stock shipped out of this area to winter feeding grounds already. Feed needed for balance.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon.

Grain crops about eighty per cent cut. Threshing delayed by light showers. Wheat has stood up fairly well but oats and barley light over most of the district with some improvement in north. Fall ploughing difficult owing to dried out conditions of soil. Pastures bare and live stock not making normal gains.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Dauphin.

Cutting practically completed and wheat nearly all threshed in local district. Area around Dauphin yielding well with good sample but average for several municipalities will not be over 15 bushels per acre. Coarse grains very light yield on basis sown acreage; around 8 bushels. Fall rains urgently needed.

Agricultural Representative, Teulon.

Past week ideal weather for threshing. Five per cent completed. Wheat is of a good quality and grading mainly One Northern; yielding from twenty to twenty-five bushels; average twenty-two. Barley thirty-five. Rye twenty bushels per acre.

SASKATCHEWAN

Department of Agriculture, Regina.

Wheat cutting is now general in nearly all parts of the province. In the south-eastern portion of the province wheat cutting is nearing completion and over the southern part generally from 75 to 80 per cent of the wheat is cut. About half the wheat crop in the central districts is cut and in the north from 20 to 25 per cent. In the southern districts the coarse grains are mostly being cut for fodder. Very little threshing is reported and it is not yet possible to estimate the yields from the actual outturn of the machines. There has, however, been very little change in weather conditions. Hot and dry weather with a few scattered showers is generally reported and the expectation of yield is much the same as in previous reports. Poor to a failure in the south. Poor to fair in the centre and west-central and fairly good in the east-central and northern districts. There have been some severe hail storms during the past week which did considerable local damage. Some sawfly injury is also reported but the damage generally is not any greater than in an average year. Some rust is apparent in the north-eastern districts but with the possible exception of some late crops no material damage is expected. Pastures in nearly all parts need rain badly.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Indian Head.

Weather continues dry. Serious hail damage some districts. Harvesting well advanced. Threshing operations in progress. Fallow returns quite satisfactory and grain excellent quality. Stubble crop very light. Serious feed shortage in many districts.

Dominion Experimental Station, Swift Current.

Harvesting general. Twenty-five per cent wheat cut. Fifteen per cent coarse grains cut. Yields of wheat eight to ten bushels. Oats twenty-five to thirty. Barley sixteen to twenty. No grasshopper damage. More than five thousand acres damaged by hail, fifty to seventy-five per cent. Pastures poor. Feed roughage prospects satisfactory so far.

Dominion Experimental Station, Rosthern.

Weather has been hot and dry with no beneficial rainfall. Eighty per cent wheat and fifty per cent coarse grains cut. Wheat yields will average about twelve bushels per acre. Considerable rust where wheat late as in parts of northern districts. Pastures badly dried up and supplying little feed.

Dominion Experimental Station, Scott.

Fully half of the grain is cut in west-central Saskatchewan and a week of fine weather will see cutting practically completed. North cutting is just getting under way. A terrific hail storm passed through part of heavy land area north of south Saskatchewan River with million dollar loss.

ALBERTA

Dominion Range Experiment Station, Manyberries.

Cooler weather prevailing for the past week but no rain to amount to anything. Harvesting eighty per cent complete. Threshing is in progress yields vary from ten to thirty bushels per acre on summer-fallow. Good quality grain but small in most cases. Grass on range is short with winter grazing prospects poor.

Dominion Experimental Station, Lacombe.

With not one good rain since June 30, hot, dry weather has forced premature ripening all crops. Ten per cent all crops cut and sixty per cent ripe. Frost, hail and drought have all taken heaviest toll in many years. Some fields frosted in blossom have empty heads. Much hailed crop not even fair pasture on many dried out fields. Tips of heads are entirely empty. Yields of both straw and grain barely half of normal. Large acreage oats being cut for feed or pastured.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Stettler.

Dry, hot weather has done heavy damage to crops. Hailed grain that might have made a crop is now only fit for feed. One-quarter inch rain last week. Pastures not good. Impossible to estimate yield yet.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Camrose.

Wheat harvest fifty per cent completed. Will have to reduce estimate on yield from last report of twenty-five bushels to twenty for Marquis wheat and seventeen bushels for Garnet wheat to the sown acreage. Early-sown oats thirty bushels. Late-sown will be cut for feed. Threshing will start in ten days.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Edmonton.

Harvest being held up by cloudy, showery weather. Need clear warm days to ripen up late wheat and coarse grains. Good heavy yield of wheat expected. Oats and barley will only make from poor to fair crop. Most fields still green. Wheat harvest only started, about five per cent cut.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Athabasca.

Weather still continues showery delaying cutting and haying. The odd field of wheat being cut but cutting not yet general. Dry weather necessary.

Dominion Experimental Sub-station, Beaverlodge.

Three or four per cent of farmers in Peace cutting at end of week with many preparing to commence Monday if present rain does not interfere. Frost Saturday morning touched potatoes on low land some districts. Grain exceptionally plump.



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