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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, June 6, 1934, 4 p.m.- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues to-day the second 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, will supply official weather data.

SUMMARY

The rains of the past week afforded almost general relief to the parched grain fields and pastures of the Prairie Provinces. Heaviest precipitation was recorded in northern and eastern Manitoba, east-central and south-western Saskatchewan and over most of Alberta. Yesterday's rains were of further benefit to eastern and northern Manitoba, western Saskatchewan and southern Alberta. Dry areas are still reported in southern Manitoba, south-eastern, west-central and north-western Saskatchewan, and east-central Alberta. The weather has been cool and cloudy for several days. The light frosts reported from Calgary, Edmonton and Battleford caused no apparent damage.

While the grain crops are temporarily relieved over most of the West, there is continued anxiety regarding the growth of hay and pastures. These crops require more moisture than the spring grains and have suffered severely under the extremely unfavourable conditions.

The general rains will assist the grain crops to withstand grasshopper damage, but it is reported that these insects developed very rapidly during the past week. Poisoning is proceeding actively but serious damage has been done in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. 60 per cent of Manitoba's cropped area is reported as having bad to very bad grasshopper infestation. Heavy damage is evident in southern, central, and especially in south-western Saskatchewan. In Alberta, the damage is confined to the Hanna district and certain localities in the south.

The recent rains brought relief to all of Manitoba excepting the south-western corner, where the drought was most severe. In other districts, particularly in the south, relief is only temporary and pastures need much more rain. The areas around Morden and Souris are still in a drought-stricken condition. Grasshoppers have appeared in epidemic numbers and are causing considerable damage, except in north-western Manitoba.

In Saskatchewan, the drought was broken by rains of the past week-end, but not before irreparable damage had been done. More rain is required almost generally to advance the growing crops, to germinate the late-sown grain, to relieve the grasshopper situation and particularly to provide feed for live stock. Crops in northern and east-central Saskatchewan are making good progress; in the south-west and south-east, they are poor; and in the west-centre, poor to good. Fall rye is generally heading out thin and short. The feed situation is very bad in some southern districts and is causing much anxiety. Grasshoppers developed rapidly during the past week and caused serious damage, especially in the south-western area, where stubbled-in crops are nearly a total loss and crops on fall-cultivated lands about 75 per cent gone. The rapid invasion of crops was forced by the sparse growth on stubble land, pastures and roadsides. Some recovery may be hoped for if heavy rains encourage delayed germination. Wireworms and cutworms are working in scattered localities.

The crop outlook for Alberta was almost completely changed by the heavy and well-distributed rains of the past week. Only limited sections of east-central and extreme southern Alberta failed to receive the needed moisture. More rain will soon be needed in southern Alberta and in some central areas, but crop conditions are decidedly improved in every other district of the province. In northern Alberta, crop prospects are variously described as very good, excellent and ideal, with no reports of damage. Warm weather is mentioned as necessary to advance growth. The rains checked grasshopper and cutworm depredations, especially in lightly-infested areas. The only serious losses are reported from Hanna. Frost was recorded in the foothills and at some northern points on Sunday, but caused no damage.



Reports of Dominion Entomological Laboratories

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Grasshoppers developed very rapidly last week, while most crops stood still until the rains began. In south-west area, stubbled-in crop about 95 per cent total loss while owing to very unfavourable moisture and crop conditions about 75 per cent of crop on plowed and fall-worked stubble destroyed even by the moderate infestations which survived these treatments. Similar conditions obtain over most of area mapped for very severe infestation. Continued hot weather and dryness of stubble fields, pastures and roadsides forced extraordinarily rapid invasion of crops on summerfallow but poisoning has been determined and generally effective with comparatively small losses as yet in these fields. Surveys have shown in many districts of southern Saskatchewan unexpectedly large acreage of good stands capable of making good recovery with timely and repeated rains which will greatly increase the effectiveness of continued poisoning efforts. May be some recovery also even in badly damaged crops by delayed germination if heavy rains continue. Wireworms have done considerable general damage to crops on summerfallow especially in medium soils. Cutworms reported severe around Gravelbourg, Linacre to Burstall, Shackleton to Leader, Dodsland to Harris, Broderick to Hawarden, and much of west-central Saskatchewan, moderate at Gray, Milestone, Rouleau, Rowatt, Keeler, Elbow; slight at Shellbrook.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Lethbridge.

Recent rains have checked cutworm and grasshopper depredations temporarily and will probably relieve situation in lightly infested areas. Excessive grasshopper losses reported from Hanna district but in South losses being held to minimum.

Meteorological Report

The following report from the Dominion Meteorological Service, Toronto, gives the rainfall (in inches) in the week ending June 4th at 7 a.m.

<u>Manitoba</u>		<u>Saskatchewan</u>		<u>Alberta</u>	
Pierson	-0.1	Moosomin	-0.1	Foremost	0.2
Boissevain	-0.1	Broadview	0.2	Brooks	0.3
Emerson	-0.1	Yellow Grass	0.2	Drumholler	0.3
Portage la Prairie	-0.1	Yorkton	0.2	Coronation	0.4
Virden	-0.1	Macklin	0.2	Calgary	0.5
Cypress River	-0.1	Assiniboia	0.3	Medicine Hat	0.5
Minnedosa	-0.1	Kamsack	0.3	Lethbridge	0.8
Winnipeg	-0.1	Empress	0.3	Stettler	1.0
Brandon	-0.1	Saskatoon	0.3	Beaverlodge	1.1
Dauphin	0.2	Qu'Appelle	0.3	Red Deer	1.3
Morden	0.3	Kindersley	0.4	Jasper	1.3
Russell	0.3	Humboldt	0.6	Edmonton	1.3
Swan River	0.7	Shaunavon	0.7	Vegreville	1.5
		Lloydminster	0.7		
		Swift Current	0.7		
		Moose Jaw	0.7		
		Elbow	0.9		
		Outlook	1.1		
		Melfort	1.1		
		Consul	1.3		

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

Reports for Estevan and Indian Head are incomplete. Additional rains fell on Tuesday as follows (in inches):- Lethbridge, 0.6; Edmonton, 0.1; Calgary, 1.7; Medicine Hat, 0.9; Saskatoon, 0.3; Swift Current, 0.4; Minnedosa, 0.2; Winnipeg, 1.9; Brandon, 0.4; and lesser amounts elsewhere. Change to cooler weather on Sunday, with light frosts reported from Calgary and Battleford.



REPORTS OF CORRESPONDENTS

MANITOBA

Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

Monday brought first widespread rain of season and temporarily relieved drought of southern Manitoba. Further heavy rains, however, needed if adequate pasturage for south-western Manitoba is to be supplied as soil there is bone dry. Grasshoppers at opening of this week were bad to very bad over sixty per cent Manitoba's cropped area. Worst in driest parts.

Dominion Experimental Station, Morden.

Crop suffering from continued drought. Grasshopper epidemic alarming. Poison bait being scattered over large areas. Excessive heat burning crops. Pastures poor. Prospects for crop discouraging.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon.

One light but beneficial rain outside of drought area in south. Crops have held their colour and many drifted fields have recovered. Many late-sown fields now germinating. Live stock suffering as a result of dried-up pastures. Report of grasshopper outbreak coming in from north and west of Brandon.

Agricultural Representative, Dauphin (reporting from Roblin).

Crop looking well. Spring rains spotty; very little at Dauphin, but more precipitation west. Pastures looking good and forage crops growing well. No grasshoppers reported. Crop prospects about average for this time of year. Real good rain needed.

Agricultural Representative, Toulon.

Weather unusually warm early part of week but somewhat cooler at present. Only light scattered showers although grain making good progress, but late crops could do with moisture. Grasshoppers hatching in numerous quantities and indications are that they will be much more severe than formerly and covering a wider area. Mixing stations at work and farmers spreading bait. Crops good in northern parts but poorer south of here. Hay crops likely to be short unless more rain comes soon.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Swan River.

Seeding practically completed. Crops looking well. Pasture good. Plenty of moisture. No grasshoppers. No soil drifting to damage. Several good rains lately. Cultivated grasses, clovers, alfalfa doing fine.

SASKATCHEWAN

Department of Agriculture, Regina.

With the exception of the south-eastern portion, the protracted drought in southern and central Saskatchewan was broken the latter part of last week and over the week-end by rains which varied from light showers to some fairly good rains, but more is required for the crops and also to provide feed for live stock, which is causing some anxiety. In the south-east, where the rainfall was negligible, immediate rains are badly needed, not only for crops but to relieve the feed situation. Grasshoppers are numerous in southern, central and west-central Saskatchewan. Many of the stubble crops have suffered but not much damage has occurred in summerfallow crops. Farmers are busy poisoning throughout infested area. Crops in northern and east-central Saskatchewan are making good progress, while in west-central they are variable, ranging from poor to good.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Indian Head.

Light showers and cool weather past week beneficial to crops. Fall rye fully headed and short. Hay crops light. Pastures very poor. Precipitation 0.27 inches. Seeding completed and farmers working fallows. Grasshopper damage eastern Saskatchewan patchy and marginal; working mostly on stubble fields and roadside pastures.



SASKATCHEWAN - Cont'd.

Dominion Experimental Station, Swift Current.

One inch rain this week-end. Sixty-five per cent stubble crop lost by hopper damage. Some fallow crops also damaged. Farmers now re-seeding blown-out fields to wheat and feed crops and risking hoppers to get feed of any kind. Farmers in severe drought-stricken areas without sufficient seed or feed.

Dominion Experimental Station, Rosthern.

All wheat and ninety per cent coarse grains seeded. Grass lands all suffering severely until rain of 0.56 inches on June second. Germination uneven on much of stubble land crop. Crop on summerfallow in good condition. No evidence of extensive damage from insects or disease.

Dominion Experimental Station, Scott.

Moderate to heavy showers have fallen in drought-stricken areas of west-central Saskatchewan but much more is needed as low sub-soil moisture is indicated by premature heading of fall rye and grasses as well as bloom of flowering shrubs. Cool, cloudy weather has retarded feeding of grasshoppers.

ALBERTA

Dominion Range Experiment Station, Manyberries.

General rains followed by cooler weather have improved the crop outlook. Grasshoppers still serious; poisoning in progress. Early grains which were slightly burned are recovering with no damage to them. Late-sown crops are germinating. Range and pasture have renewed growth. Further rains needed, however.

Dominion Experimental Station, Lethbridge.

Week-end rains of over 2 inches in Foothills to over 1 inch at Medicine Hat entirely change crop prospects for southern Alberta. Winter grains were badly damaged by drought, but spring grains, while injured, can now make normal crops. Range pastures greatly benefited.

Supervisor of Illustration Stations, Lethbridge.

Crop conditions changed southern Alberta past week. Friday night rain general Lethbridge division; crops steadied and refreshed. Pincher, Lethbridge to Champion and Vulcan good stand spring grains. Monday from Calgary to Hanna in rain; countryside soaked over district travelled. Rains in time to revive and carry crops forward.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Cardston.

Have had 2½ inches rainfall in past four days with every appearance of more to come. Sufficient moisture at present to bring most of grain crop back to normal with favourable weather conditions. Hoppers have been checked for the present and pastures much improved.

Hail Insurance Board of Alberta, Calgary.

Satisfactory general rains. No hail.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Olds.

Started raining this morning and still raining at 3 p.m. and looks as if it might continue all through the night and believe it to be pretty general. Crops are doing fine. No damage of any source reported. This rain will greatly benefit pastures.

Dominion Experimental Station, Lacombe.

With 2.25 inches of rain and unusually warm weather since May seventeenth, all crops have made excellent growth. Rains have checked injury from wireworms and cutworms, which was just starting. Large acreage alfalfa and some crested wheat grass being seeded. Sufficient moisture for present but no reserves.



ALBERTA - Cont'd.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Stettler.

1½ inches rain since last report. Ground well soaked. Past week has been cloudy and cool. No damage at Stettler but east of here grasshoppers are doing some damage. Rain general to eastern boundary. Crops looking good. Pasture fair.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Camrose.

Had 2 inches rain past ten days which gives us ample moisture. Wheat is seven to eight inches high, well stood and good stand. Oats are all seeded and showing well above ground. Pastures and hay good. No damage by drifting or hoppers. Slight damage by wireworms at Olaton. Outlook for crops very good.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Vermilion.

Had nearly 2 inches of rain during the past week and it is still showery. Grains, pastures and gardens are very good and there is no talk of any damage. Prospects never looked better.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Edmonton.

Crop conditions since last report of May 28th have been ideal. Rain starting May 30th lasted two days. Weather fair to cloudy with more showers at night. Slight touch of frost over the week-end. No damage. Weather inclined to be cool. Warm weather needed for steady growth.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Athabasca.

Weather for past week cooler. Rainfall 2.03 inches. Crops coming along well; no damage.

Dominion Experimental Sub-station, Beaverlodge.

Crop prospects good, with comparatively little insect damage yet. General rain with subsequent scattered showers aggregating at Beaverlodge 1.16 inches for the week has greatly brightened outlook.

Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Edmonton.

Recent good rainfall makes crop prospects average for this time of year north and north-west of line from Calgary to Provost and in general condition improved northward with best showing in Edmonton area. Root system of cereals well established with not more than usual showing of disease at this stage. Expect dry conditions in south to have increased disease in roots of cereal crops. Recent rain should greatly improve prospects.



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