

22-002
no. 10
1934
July 17
c. 1

Historical File Copy

Published by Authority of the Hon. H. H. STEVENS, M.P.,
Minister of Trade and Commerce
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

Dominion
Chief, Agricultural Branch:

R. H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S. (Hon.)
T. W. Grindley, Ph.D.

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, July 17, 1934, 4 p.m. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issued to-day the eighth 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

The past week of hot, dry weather has emphasized the shortage of reserve moisture and rain is now urgently needed over most of the west. Effective rainfall of the past week was practically limited to central and northern Alberta - where it was needed least. The recent period of drought has also aggravated the grasshopper plague and the situation is described as increasingly critical. Migrations are occurring but actual damage is limited to the southern districts. Hail again caused severe local damage and a storm cut through central Alberta with disastrous effects on the good crops of that region. The frost of July 6 caught some wheat in the blossom stage in west-central Manitoba, causing considerable damage. Telegraphic advices are pessimistic, almost without exception, and immediate rains are needed to prevent further declines in crop prospects.

The Manitoba reports are quite pessimistic and distressing advices come from the south-west corner. There is no crop worth harvesting west of Deloraine. From Morden west to Deloraine, south of the Canadian Pacific main line, the crop is also very poor. In the remainder of the province, prospects are fair to good, although there has been a definite decline during July. Heavy rains over most of the province are urgently required. Grasshoppers are numerous and are migrating. Damage is reported from scattered districts.

The Dominion Rust Research Laboratory at Winnipeg reports that stem rust of wheat was first observed on July 5 in southern Manitoba and that by July 13 a trace was present on 10 per cent of the plants from Morris southward to Emerson and westward to Morden. The infection thins out to the westward. Stem rust of oats was also present over the same area in about the same degree of prevalence.

The reports from Saskatchewan stress the damaging effects of the week's drought and the immediate need of heavy rains. Much of the wheat is now headed and more moisture is necessary to promote filling. There have been numerous flights of grasshoppers and the situation has become more alarming to the authorities with the change in the weather. Damage is reported in the south. Hail was reported from two sections of the province with the most extensive damage around Macklin, Senlac and Unity. No stem rust is reported from Saskatchewan as yet.

Having greater moisture reserves, Alberta crops are making better progress, but rains are needed in the south and centre of the province. Heavy rains fell in the west-centre and north of the province during the week and crop prospects were further improved in these areas. Hail caused severe damage in several good crop districts of central Alberta and west and north of Edmonton. Grasshoppers are migrating in the south but little damage is reported. Frost caused crop losses in west-central districts during the week.

Reports of Dominion Entomological Laboratories

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Brandon, Manitoba.

The past week has been hot and dry and crops have suffered considerably. Grasshopper activity has increased and many barley fields are completely destroyed. Several extensive flights have occurred in northerly and easterly directions.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Generally drier warmer conditions during the past week have tended to increase damage by grasshoppers. The situation is increasingly critical in the large southern area where moisture has been below normal throughout the season and where infestations are very severe and largely of the stubble type rendering complete control much more difficult. In much of the central and west-central crop districts the outbreak appears largely under control for this season unless extensive flights occur.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Lethbridge, Alberta.

Extensive grasshopper migrations occurring and population increases reported from foothills area. Some losses reported from Glenwood and Pincher Creek but in most areas grasshoppers under control.

Hail Damage

Saskatchewan.

Extensive damage reported as a result of storm July tenth in Macklin, Senlac and Unity territory; also damage reported at North Battleford, Young, Assiniboia, Roadlyn, Wheatstone and Indian Head.

Alberta.

On July tenth a disastrous storm swept right across the province starting in township twenty-seven on the west side and coming out in township forty on the east. Smaller storms occurred on July twelfth, confined mostly to districts north of Edmonton.

Meteorological Report

The following report from the Dominion Meteorological Service, Toronto, gives the rainfall (in inches) in the week ending Monday, July 16 at 7 a.m.:

<u>Manitoba</u>		<u>Saskatchewan</u>		<u>Alberta</u>	
Winnipeg	-0.1	Prince Albert	-0.1	Coronation	-0.1
Boissevain	-0.1	Regina	-0.1	Drumheller	0.1
Emerson	-0.1	Broadview	-0.1	Jasper	0.3
Portage la Prairie	-0.1	Consul	-0.1	Vegreville	0.5
Cypress River	-0.1	Battleford	0.1	Beaverlodge	0.7
Pierson	0.1	Saskatoon	0.1	Stettler	0.9
Brandon	0.2	Yorkton	0.1	Fairview	1.4
Virden	0.2	Swift Current	0.2	Edmonton	1.7
Dauphin	0.2	Qu'Appelle	0.2	Red Deer	1.9
Swan River	0.2	Kamsack	0.2		
Russell	0.3	Macklin	0.2		
Le Pas	0.4	Lloydminster	0.2		
Minnedosa	0.4	Moosomin	0.3		
		Indian Head	0.3		
		Yellow Grass	0.4		
		Estevan	0.5		
		Assiniboia	0.5		
		Melfort	0.5		

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

REPORTS OF CORRESPONDENTS

MANITOBA

Dominion Experimental Station, Morden.

Weather continues dry and hot. Crop suffering from lack of moisture. Early wheat beginning to brown and tip-burn. All grain in critical stage and badly in need of moisture to permit filling. Hay crop light. Corn and roots suffering from drought.

Agricultural Representative, Carman.

Crop prospects were exceptionally good until recent hot winds and lack of moisture have caused some burning. Heavy growth now but rain badly needed for filling. Hoppers numerous in some places and doing considerable damage. Stock doing well and feed prospects good.

Agricultural Representative, Melita.

Hot, dry weather continues. Stock moving north much faster now; 285 cars gone to date. No crop likely to be threshed west of Deloraine in Manitoba regardless of rain. All crop west of Morden and south of Canadian Pacific Railway line looking very poor.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon.

With only fifty per cent of normal rainfall, grain crops are short and feed situation is cause of great deal of anxiety in west-central Manitoba. Two warm days during week stimulated growth of fodder corn. Good rain badly needed.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Russell.

The frost of July sixth caused considerable damage to wheat in blossom stage. Severe damage from hail during past week over portion of the district. Haying in progress but crop light. Rain again needed.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Dauphin.

Crop has gone back this past week. Showers have ceased and late crops particularly are suffering. Sweet clover nearly all cut; fair crop. Other hays fair. Weather hot during the day but nights cool. Below average crop predicted for district. Pastures are drying up. Stock holding fair.

Agricultural Representative, Teulon.

Weather during past week quite warm and hot with no precipitation but crops making steady progress. Wheat stem maggot prevalent in early wheats. No rust. No hail damage. Haying general and crops generally will be earlier. Some pastures are showing signs of heavy grazing.

SASKATCHEWAN

Department of Agriculture, Regina.

Weather during the past week generally dry and in southern districts also some parts of central Saskatchewan there is immediate need of rain as crops have scarcely held their own. In west-central area, growth generally reported fair and in east-central and northern districts there has generally been good growth. Flying grasshoppers numerous. Scattered hail storms reported.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Indian Head.

Dry weather generally affecting crop conditions southern Saskatchewan. Fallow crops fairly good but require moisture to carry on. Stubble crops and pasture fields drying up. Hail damage heavy in some districts. Hoppers migrating to new fields. Rain urgently required.

Dominion Experimental Station, Swift Current.

Prospects of early and late crop continue good. Some areas need rain; others improved by recent heavy showers. More rain and cool weather however, required to assure reasonably good harvest. Prospects for feed crop very encouraging compared with recent years. Grasshoppers numerous and active during recent spell of hot weather. Few heavily infested wheat fields cut for hay.

Supervisor of Illustration Stations, Swift Current.

Avonlea - more moisture urgently needed. Wheat mostly headed. Prospects below average yield. Some stubble land crop may not be worth harvesting. Weyburn-Radville - scattered showers past week. Good rain urgently needed. Fallow crop mostly headed. Fair stand stubble land ripe and patchy. Light frost Weyburn July sixth. Grasshoppers flying; damage not serious.

Dominion Experimental Station, Rosthern.

Weather very variable during week with excessive heat, strong winds and cool days. No recordable rain fell though haying delayed by light showers and misty rains. Seventy-five per cent wheat headed and most of coarse grains in shot blade. Hay fields about one-half ton per acre. Pastures good.

Dominion Experimental Station, Scott.

Effect dry, hot spring strikingly evident on grain crops in west-central and north-western Saskatchewan. Generally speaking grain crops show gradual improvement north from south Saskatchewan River for one hundred miles but there are large areas with crop failure or light prospective crop. Grasshopper baiting concluded with situation hopeful.

ALBERTA

Dominion Range Experiment Station, Manyberries.

Very dry, hot weather with high winds has prevailed for past week. Some crops are burning now; unless rain comes soon, crops which have headed out will not fill properly. Range pastures are beginning to dry up and burn. Rain urgently needed.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Cardston.

No rain since last report but not suffering. Crops are looking excellent with wheat about 50 per cent headed. Most of the fall rye being cut for hay. About 10 per cent damage from grasshoppers early in the season. No damage being done at present.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Olds.

Past week weather warmer. Good rain would help considerably. Getting very dry. Damage to crops last week possibly 15 per cent by frost. About 50 per cent wheat heading out, very short heads, not going to be heavy crop.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Stettler.

Three-quarters of an inch rain since last report. Eighty per cent of district hailed out. Possible chance of forty per cent of this will make a crop of feed.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Camrose.

It has been cloudy and cool during the past week with local showers. Wheat sixty per cent headed, making slow growth on account of low temperatures. Look for harvest to be later than year ago. We have had no hail damage.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Edmonton.

Crop conditions during past week ideal. Weather much warmer. Good rapid growth. Good rains. Wheat well headed. Coarse grains well advanced. Good growth of hay and grass. Some hail damage at Spruce Grove. Only slight hail at Morinville twenty-five to one hundred per cent six by twelve miles area.

Dominion Experimental Sub-station, Beaverlodge.

Crops progressing favourably with moisture still sufficient. No hail damage. Light frosts Saturday morning Battle River and Grande Prairie districts but fog seems to have warded injury except touches on vegetables. Wheat mostly headed.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Vermilion.

All crops in this district are excellent. No damage reported.



1010525104