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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, August 20, 1935, 4 p.m. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today the thirteenth 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, supplies official weather data.

SUMMARY

Spotty but heavy frost damage is reported in the Peace River district of Alberta and over a 250-mile stretch of country running from west of Edmonton, Alberta, to Scott, Saskatchewan. In this territory, the crops were green, late and very susceptible to frost damage. Light damage is indicated at scattered points between Edmonton and Calgary. While freezing temperatures were also recorded in south-eastern Saskatchewan, the damage there would be very limited as cutting was well advanced.

Rains were fairly general over the Prairie Provinces and delayed harvesting operations. Heavy snows and rain caused lodging of crops in the Peace River country.

Reports from Manitoba and south-eastern Saskatchewan, where the rust attack was most severe, continue extremely pessimistic. Very little bread wheat will be worth threshing in Manitoba, since the yields are low and the grades poor. Durum wheat is also seriously affected. The heavy straw is lodged and tangled so that harvest is a laborious and expensive operation. Similar reports come from south-eastern Saskatchewan and rust is now causing damage to late crops north-west of Moose Jaw. The central area of Saskatchewan, containing about half the wheat acreage continues promising, while coarse grains are generally good and feed supplies ample. The wet, cold weather in Alberta during the past week was very unfavourable. Harvest was hindered in the south and ripening in the north.

Manitoba. -

Cutting is well under way in most districts and a good start has been made with threshing operations. Very little bread wheat will be worth threshing and Durum yields are greatly reduced by rust. The heavy straw is generally lodged and weakened by rust, making harvest laborious and expensive. Rain and cold weather hindered field work. Some early-seeded coarse grains will give satisfactory yields but late fields are badly rusted and lodged. Late crops, such as corn, potatoes and roots, are very promising and it has been a fine season for gardens. Earlier prospects of a heavy grain crop have disappeared entirely; yields per acre will be among the lowest on [illegible] record.

Saskatchewan. -

Heavy rains over the week-end seriously interfered with the harvest while in north-western Saskatchewan, freezing temperatures were recorded. The Superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Station at Scott describes this as "the most serious summer frost ever experienced while grain was standing". Little cutting was done before the frost and most standing grain has been affected.

Rust has seriously damaged bread wheats in the south-east and in parts of the Regina-Weyburn territory and is now causing damage to late crops as far west as the Tugaske and Riverhurst districts. Only light crops will be harvested in the south-west and along the western boundary, but good crop prospects persist over a central region comprising roughly one-half of the wheat acreage. Coarse grains generally promise good yields, excepting in south-eastern and western Saskatchewan.

Alberta. -

The harvest in Alberta has also been delayed by fairly general rains and some snow in the district south of the Peace River. Early reports indicate fairly

severe frost damage to the good crops between Edmonton and Vermilion, while the Superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Sub-station at Beaverlodge in the Peace River country wires that "the effect (of frost) on cereals is not yet conspicuous but the general yield and grade of wheat is likely to be heavily affected, being mostly in milk or early dough stages and many oats in shot blade or blossom". Light frosts were recorded along the Edmonton-Calgary line, but damage will be less severe in this territory.

The harvest is well advanced in the south, but the cold, wet weather of the past week was not favourable for the heavier, late crops in the centre and north of the province.

Reports of Dominion Entomological Laboratories, Prairie Provinces.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Brandon, Manitoba.

Heavy grasshopper egg deposits expected in some areas in Red River Valley. Central Manitoba comparatively free from grasshoppers. Some in southwest.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Lethbridge, Alberta.

Grasshoppers causing losses in local areas to late wheat, oats and barley. Plant bug causing losses to wheat at Chin and local southern areas.

Hail Damage

Saskatchewan. -

No storms reported during past week.

Alberta. -

Very few claims received in past week. Light storms at Holden, Camrose and Standard.

Meteorological Report, Prairie Provinces.

The following report from the Dominion Meteorological Service, Toronto, gives rainfall (in inches) during the week ending at 7 a.m., Monday, August 19, 1935:

Manitoba		Saskatchewan		Alberta	
Russell	0.5	Empress	- 0.1	Cardston	- 0.1
Swan River	0.6	Macklin	- 0.1	Medicine Hat	- 0.1
Dauphin	0.6	Regina	- 0.1	Macleod	0.1
Cypress River	0.6	Kamsack	0.2	Foremost	0.1
Pierson	0.7	Consul	0.2	Brooks	0.3
Winnipeg	0.8	Shaunavon	0.2	Stettler	0.6
Emerson	0.9	Kindersley	0.2	Drumheller	0.6
Brandon	0.9	Swift Current	0.2	Vegreville	0.7
Portage la Prairie	1.0	Battleford	0.2	Red Deer	0.9
Le Pas	1.0	Outlook	0.3	Calgary	0.9
Morden	1.1	Moosomin	0.3	Edmonton	1.2
Minnedosa	1.1	Yorkton	0.3	Beaverlodge	1.4
Virden	1.2	Estevan	0.4		
		Lloydminster	0.5		
		Assiniboia	0.5		
		Saskatoon	0.6		
		Melfort	0.8		
		Indian Head	0.8		
		Yellow Grass	0.8		
		Qu'Appelle	0.8		
		Elbow	0.9		
		Moose Jaw	0.9		
		Prince Albert	0.9		
		Humboldt	1.0		
		Broadview	1.0		

Note: The minus sign denotes less than one-tenth of an inch of rainfall.

Temperatures. - Alberta and south-western Saskatchewan were 3 to 5 degrees cooler than normal, except the foothills (7 below normal). Coronation to Battleford - 2 to 4 below normal. Park belt normal. Qu'Appelle - 3 below normal, but remainder south-eastern Saskatchewan normal or higher. Eastern Manitoba 1 above normal.

August 16 - 2 degrees frost Beaverlodge, Coronation, Battleford, Qu'Appelle. Touched freezing at Edmonton.

August 17 - Light frost Qu'Appelle.

REPORTS OF CORRESPONDENTS

MANITOBA

Provincial Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

Threshing under way in early districts but considerable crop to cut in later parts. Very little bread wheat worth threshing. Durum much reduced because of rust, heat, root-rots and lodging. Oats and barley very light in kernel but generous in straw. Corn and potatoes doing very well. Fodder abundant.

Dominion Experimental Station, Morden.

Cutting completed. Threshing begun but held up by rain. Yields of grain 12 to 15 bushels to date. Sample grade 2 to 6, badly bleached and thin. Rain benefits pastures, corn, potatoes and roots.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Melita.

Seventy-five per cent of cutting done. A few fields of wheat threshed yielding five to ten bushels, grading feed to four. Threshing will be general this week. Some fields of wheat burnt and will be more. Fodder corn good. Gardens excellent.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon.

Harvesting the most promising fields both expensive and laborious due to lodging and breaking down of rusted straw. Threshing has started; yields low and grain grades very poor. Burning badly-rusted crops held up because of sap still in straw. Fodder corn and vegetable gardens excellent.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Minnedosa.

Weather is cold and wet. Twenty-five per cent of crop to cut yet. Very little threshing done. Ninety-five per cent of wheat and twenty per cent of oats will not be threshed. Early barley good; late poor. Very expensive crop to handle. Stock doing well now. No frost damage yet.

Agricultural Representative, Dauphin.

Harvest held up due to rain. Cutting well underway with wheat yields disappointing. Early barley and oats are good but late crops are suffering badly from rust. Corn is a fair stand and alfalfa and sweet clover for seed appear to be setting good crops. Pastures holding well.

SASKATCHEWAN

Provincial Department of Agriculture, Regina.

Crop conditions have not materially changed since last report. Frosts were recorded at scattered points mostly in the north-western portion of the province. Garden stuff suffered in some places and some serious damage to late green crops is feared. Wheat cutting became fairly general the latter part of the past week but was delayed by heavy rains at many points over the week-end. Crops over the greater portion of south-central, central and north-eastern Saskatchewan continue very fair to good while in the south-western district and in the area along the western boundary they range from poor to prospects of feed. Crops are generally patchy to only fair in north-western Saskatchewan. As previously reported, rust has seriously damaged bread wheats in the south-eastern district and the central portion of the Regina-Weyburn district and much will not produce a threshed crop. In other parts of Regina-Weyburn district and in the east-central area there is serious rust infection and very heavy losses are expected. With the exception of points in the south-eastern district and in the drier portions of western Saskatchewan coarse grains generally promise a good crop.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Indian Head.

Heavy rains over week-end seriously interfered with harvest operations in many sections of southern Saskatchewan. Scattered reports on threshing indicate light yields and low grades. Coarse grains fairly good. Some grasshopper damage especially on late-seeded crops. Rainfall 0.76 inches.

Dominion Experimental Station, Swift Current.

All grains ripening. Early oats and wheat being cut. Latest wheat ready within a week for binder. Rust not causing damage. No grasshopper damage. Sawfly damage heavy in some districts. Live stock conditions good. Pastures very good.

Supervisor of Illustration Stations, Swift Current.

Tugaske District - harvest started last week. Most grain good stand but yields materially reduced by heat of July. Wheat also affected by rust; chief damage to late crop. Grasshopper damage slight. Rainfall one inch past two weeks. Pastures fair. Riverhurst District - harvest started first of last week. Crops fair. Yields reduced by heat. Rust also cause of considerable loss in late-ripening wheat. Some damage from sawfly. Not much hopper damage. August rainfall three inches.

Dominion Experimental Station, Rosthern.

Weather quite cool, dry and windy. Cutting is fairly general with possibly twenty per cent crop cut. Average yield estimated at fifteen bushels. Late seedings have improved with the rain last week and will be the better sample if frost holds off. Slight frost August 16 practically confined to gardens. Damage to crops not known, but slight if any.

Dominion Experimental Station, Scott.

Over four degrees frost recorded Scott on morning August sixteenth and might be regarded as the most serious summer frost ever experienced while grain was standing. Early-sown wheat with phosphate fertilizer has practically escaped but most standing grain has been affected as little cutting done before frost.

ALBERTA

Dominion Range Experiment Station, Manyberries.

Much cooler weather has prevailed during past week. Light scattered rains. Harvesting and combining general throughout the district. Grasshoppers are numerous in some areas. Yields are only fair. Range pastures practically cured.

Dominion Experimental Station and Supervisor of Illustration Stations, Lethbridge.

One inch rain received during past week at Lethbridge and harvesting has been delayed a few days in consequence. No frost recorded in the immediate vicinity of Lethbridge.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Calgary.

Some frost damage reported but will be light as grain well matured. Weather cloudy and cool with considerable rain. Cutting will be general as soon as weather clears up.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Stettler.

Weather for the past week cool with some frost and showers. Grain has not ripened as fast as it should. Harvest will not be general until August twenty-sixth. Crop about seventy per cent normal. Pastures good.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Edmonton.

General frost on night of August fifteenth. Official low thirty-two. Looks worse as potato tops well blackened. Outlying districts report around an average of three degrees of frost. Expect fairly severe damage will show up especially on barley and the late wheat. This frost will reduce both yield and grade maybe forty to fifty per cent but very hard to estimate definite damage.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Vermilion.

Past week has been bad for grain. Lots of rain to prevent ripening and a frost ranging from three to fourteen degrees looks like less than half a crop of mostly frozen grain.

Dominion Experimental Sub-station, Beaverlodge.

All day snow storm Wednesday lodged crops south of Peace and was followed by frosts Thursday and Friday nights. The temperatures ranged here from 32 Fahrenheit on hill-top to 25 at slough and harder some other places. North of Peace seems to have escaped the snow and the worst of the frost but crops lodged there by heavy rain. Frost conditions spotty. Some potatoes nearly killed; other untouched. Effect on cereals not conspicuous yet but general yield and grade of wheat likely to be heavily affected being mostly in milk or early dough, many oats in shot blade or in blossom. Week's precipitation 1.37 inches and weather again showery.

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