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AGRICULTURAL BRANCHDominion Statistician:
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, May 26, 1937, 4 p.m. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today the first of a series of 15 weekly telegraphic reports covering crop conditions in the three Prairie Provinces. Fifty-four correspondents distributed over the agricultural area supply the information in which the reports are based. Most of these correspondents are agriculturists of the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture but a number of selected private observers and grain men also cooperate in this service. The Meteorological Service of Canada, Toronto, supplies official weather data.

SUMMARY

The season of 1937 is well ahead of last year. Seeding of wheat is practically completed throughout the Prairie Provinces and coarse grains are going into the ground rapidly. Some delays have been caused on heavy lands in eastern Manitoba while in southwestern Saskatchewan operations have been held up by lack of moisture. In Manitoba and the central and northern areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta, conditions are generally favourable with crops making good growth under the influence of good weather and ample moisture. In the southern sections of the latter two provinces however, the lack of moisture is causing concern and crop deterioration will soon set in should rains be long delayed. In these areas, soil drifting has been widespread but in few cases is the damage beyond repair by prompt precipitation. Little change in acreage is reported although shortage of seed oats and barley has resulted in some increase in wheat acreage. Throughout the southern part of the wheat belt, much will depend on the coming of widespread and generous rainfall now needed to keep crops growing in a satisfactory manner. Grasshoppers are fairly numerous but little damage has been done as yet.

Manitoba

Seeding is well ahead but has been retarded somewhat on the heavy lands in the eastern part of the province. Good rains almost everywhere have helped to build up reserve moisture in the subsoil and conditions are generally good. Some frost damage has occurred but in no case has it been serious. Soil drifting has done only slight damage. Due to the shortage of seed oats and barley, there has been some increase in the acreage sown to wheat. The early sown wheat is now covering the land nicely. Pastures are good and live stock which wintered on scanty rations should soon show improved condition. The prevalence of wild oats is causing some concern but insect pests have not been a serious factor so far this season.

Saskatchewan

Practically all the wheat has been seeded except in areas where operations were held up by lack of moisture. About 75 per cent of coarse grain seeding is complete. Growth has been slow on account of cool weather while lack of moisture in southern and west-central districts has resulted in uneven germination. The weather has been very dry over a large section of the province but some relief came in the form of rains on the 23rd. Those areas in greatest need however got little rain and the southwestern section needs more moisture immediately. Soil drifting has been fairly widespread in the south and west but crops should recover if rain comes soon. In this section pastures are poor and soil moisture reserves negligible. Grasshoppers are emerging and will be numerous in some areas. In the east-central and northern districts, conditions are promising.

Alberta

The season is ten days ahead of normal and seeding is practically complete in the central districts. Germination has been good and crops show a fair stand but rain is needed. Considerable acreage has been damaged by soil drifting and frost. Good rains on the 22nd and 23rd improved conditions from Lethbridge west and north to Calgary but eastward the precipitation was scanty. In the extreme southeast, dry conditions prevail and the outlook is poor. Conditions north and east of Edmonton are generally favourable with crops making good progress and moisture supplies sufficient for present needs. In the Peace River district, wheat is all seeded and most of it showing above ground. Subsoil moisture reserves are ample but in some cases the surface is dry and seed beds are lumpy. General conditions are good throughout the area.

REPORTS OF DOMINION ENTOMOLOGICAL LABORATORIES

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Saskatoon.

Insect development and activity are unusually advanced relative to crop growth, especially in the prairie area and its margins. Hatching of roadside grasshopper infestations is already in full swing in northwestern districts and also proceeding in stubble generally though more irregularly. Present conditions tend towards heavy rates of damage by cutworm and wireworm. With grasshoppers, however, the net result may be favourable because stimulating general vigorous campaigning during the early period when it is most effective.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Lethbridge.

Army cutworm has caused some losses Glenwood and Chin. Grasshoppers causing losses to new grain in Hanna-Consort district, Barons, Nobleford, Barnwell. Pale western cutworm losses in southern Alberta becoming very severe.

Hail Damage

The Hail Insurance Board of Alberta reports as follows: "No damage from hail in Alberta to date."

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT, PRAIRIE PROVINCES

The following precipitation in inches was reported by the Dominion Meteorological Service, Toronto, for the week ending May 24 at 7 a.m.

<u>Manitoba</u>		<u>Saskatchewan</u>		<u>Alberta</u>	
Le Pas	.5	Rabbit Lake	-.1	Glendon	-.1
Cypress River	.6	Yellow Grass	-.1	High Prairie	-.1
Finawa	.6	Assiniboia	-.1	Brooks	.1
Russell	.7	Estevan	-.1	Manyberries	.1
Birtle	.8	Midale	-.1	Beaverlodge	.1
Sprague	.8	Lloydminster	.1	Empress	.1
Ninette	1.1	Rosthern	.1	Foremost	.2
Sierson	1.2	Battleford	.1	Medicine Hat	.3
Sauphin	1.3	Melfort	.1	Vegreville	.3
Emerson	1.3	Maple Creek	.1	Edson	.3
Morden	1.3	Prince Albert	.2	Elbow	.3
Swan River	1.3	Consul	.2	Fort Vermilion	.3
Virden	1.3	Saskatoon	.2	McMurray	.5
Graysville	1.4	Broadview	.3	Naco	.5
Morris	1.4	Indian Head	.3	Sedgewick	.5
Winnipeg	1.5	Shaunavon	.3	Viking	.5
Boissevain	1.6	Aneroid	.3	Fairview	.6
Portage la Prairie	1.7	Carlyle	.3	Jasper	.6
Minnedosa	2.0	Swift Current	.4	Edmonton	.6
Brandon	2.6	Qu'Appelle	.4	Brumheller	.6
		Outlook	.4	Hughenden	.6
		Strasbourg	.4	Kinuso	.6
		Val Marie	.4	Wetaskiwin	.6
		Moosomin	.5	Calgary	1.0
		Macklin	.5	Coronation	1.1
		Humboldt	.6	Keg River	1.2
		Regina	.6	Cardston	1.2
		Biggar	.6	High River	1.4
		Davidson	.6	Stettler	1.5
		Kindersley	.7	Lethbridge	1.6
		Yorkton	.7	McLeod	1.6
		Moose Jaw	.9	Olds	1.7
		Kamsack	.9	Red Deer	2.1
		Naicam	.9		
		Rosetown	1.0		
		Lintlaw	1.3		

Meadow Lake reported no rain during the week.

(Minus signs denote less than the amount of rain indicated)

Departures from mean normal temperatures were as follows: In Manitoba the following districts were two degrees below normal-4, 5, 6, 12; one degree below normal-1, 2, 3, 7, 10, 14; normal-8, 9, 11; two degrees above normal-13; Saskatchewan one degree above normal-district 2; two degrees above normal-districts 1, 6, 7, 9; three degrees above normal-districts 5, 8; four degrees above normal-district 3; five degrees above normal-district 4; Alberta-three degrees below normal-district 12; two degrees below normal-district 9; normal-districts 4, 6, 16; one degree above normal-districts 8, 10, 13, 14; two degrees above normal-districts 2, 3, 7, 11; three degrees above normal-districts 1, 5, 15; four degrees above normal-district 17.

REPORTS OF CORRESPONDENTS

MANITOBA

Provincial Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

Seeding western Manitoba somewhat ahead of normal but retarded on heavier lands of eastern Manitoba. Generous May rains almost everywhere have been unusually welcome as subsoil was parched. In some places grain frozen slightly but damage not serious. Slight soil drifting. Things look well.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon.

Weather conditions for seeding have been satisfactory. Ninety per cent of crop in. Has been a shortage of good seed oats and barley consequently tendency to increase wheat acreage. Plentiful supply of moisture well distributed. Weather cool. Much early sown grain covering land.

Dominion Experimental Station, Morden.

Seeding nearly completed. Wheat well up; some oats and barley showing. Pastures good. Weather cool, surface moisture plentiful. Five point four inches moisture since April first. Crop prospects good but will require plenty moisture as subsoil moisture scarce. Soil drifting not serious.

Agricultural Representative, Teulon.

General crop conditions are very favourable in this district. Subsoil moisture is fair and surface moisture excellent. A few farmers have not quite finished seeding but will do so this week and about sixty per cent of the crop is up. Rains will be needed shortly; within a week or so.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Minnedosa.

85 per cent of seeding finished. Grain looking good. Plenty of wild oats. Lots of moisture; very little frost damage. Pastures good; stock doing well.

Agricultural Representative, Portage la Prairie.

General rain thirty-six hours duration last week giving two inches of water. Seeding well advanced only late barley to sow. Pasture is very good.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Killarney.

Seeding completed last week. Surface soil in ideal condition for seeding and germination has been speedy and uniform. Subsoil very dry at beginning season though moisture is very gradually going deeper reaching now an average depth of seventeen inches. Rainfall April one and eight-tenths inches and May one and six-tenths. Rainfall has to a considerable extent been local and rain gauge situated in most favoured locality. Some high winds have caused a little damage from soil drifting but nothing irreparable. Acreage sown to wheat approximately same as last year. More grass and fodder crops sown. Pastures never better at this season for the last few years and we therefore look for stock to recover flesh and bloom lost during a winter of short rations. Early sown wheat now six inches high. Clover came through winter in only fair shape due to light covering of snow.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Kelwood.

Seeding practically finished. Normal amount of all grain seeded. All grain sprouted and came up quickly; splendid growth. Very little soil drifting; less than usual. Splendid rains on nineteenth, twentieth, twenty-third and twenty-fourth. As is always the case this time of year, crops look quite promising. Fruit trees loaded with blossoms, no frost damage.

Agricultural Representative, Carman.

Excellent growth in all grain crops. Moisture plentiful. Seeding completed. Hay and pasture crops good. Live stock in fair condition. Garden crops late. Prospects generally very good.

Agricultural Representative, Dauphin.

Crop all sown with normal acreage of wheat, oats and barley. Plenty of surface moisture at present and crop has started well. Some frost two weeks ago but no harm. Forage crops wintered well. No soil drifting and no insect pests reported. Wild oats very serious.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Swan River.

Seeding almost completed; some coarse grains to sow yet. Plenty of moisture and growth ahead of average. About average acreage of wheat, oats, barley. Pastures well advanced and stock in good shape. No crop decreases or setbacks of any kind.

SASKATCHEWAN

Provincial Department of Agriculture, Regina.

Wheat seeding is practically completed except in some areas where correspondents state that seeding has been delayed on account of unfavourable moisture conditions. Coarse grains are about 75 per cent completed. Growth has been generally slow due to cool weather and germination in many parts of southern and west-central Saskatchewan has been somewhat uneven due to lack of moisture. About 75 per cent of the wheat seeded is now showing green and about 40 per cent of the coarse grains. The weather during the last few weeks has been exceptionally dry but over quite a large section the situation was temporarily relieved by rains on the 23rd. On that date fair rains were received in most places along the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway from about Regina to a point west of Swift Current but beyond those points in both directions the rainfall was less. In the Maplecreek area where they were badly needed, rains were too light to be of material benefit. The rain also extended into the extreme south west, about one third of an inch being recorded at Shaunavon which will help the situation for the present but more rain is needed in this territory very soon. All the south-central and south-eastern part of the province including the Estevan, Weyburn, and Assiniboia districts, was either missed or received very little showers. With the exception of the extreme south east, rains are badly needed over this whole territory. In west-central and central Saskatchewan the moisture situation is somewhat patchy but generally improves towards the east. Rains over the week-end improved conditions at several points. In the northern part of this territory the records show rainfall varying from half an inch to nearly an inch but unfortunately it was not uniformly distributed. Toward the south-western part of the territory the rain was lighter and in some places there was not sufficient to alter the situation materially. Over the most of the west-central portion, further good rains will be needed soon. In the east-central and northern districts, moisture conditions are generally satisfactory and growth has been favourable. Here prospects at the present time are promising. Soil drifting has occurred in the southern and western portions of the province but in most cases it is thought that if sufficient moisture is received the crops will recover and reseeding will not be necessary. Grasshoppers have also made their appearance in some parts but so far no damage has been done. Pastures in the southern and western part of the province are generally short although improved in those districts where rain was received over the week-end.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Indian Head.

Weather conditions to date unusually dry. Early sown wheat set back by frost and dust storms. Estimated damage to wind blown crops approximately twenty to thirty per cent. Very little reseeding necessary. Hay and pasture fields in poor condition. Scattered showers throughout May total decimal seven five. Good rains urgently required.

Dominion Experimental Station, Melfort.

Wheat seeding complete and coarse grains seventy per cent in. Due to warm weather and fair moisture supply, crops are coming on rapidly. During past week considerable damage resulted from soil drifting. Some early sown coarse grains were killed by frost on May seven.

Dominion Experimental Station, Rosthern.

Weather favourable. A few heavy showers and two days of high winds in the past two weeks. Considerable soil drifting in some areas, damage slight. Seeding completed and early seedings making strong vigorous growth. Moisture conditions fair. Grasshoppers expected numerous in district. Pastures good.

Dominion Experimental Station, Scott.

Recurring winds with dust storms have menaced grain crops in west-central Saskatchewan but from this point north, wheat has good stands and is holding well with improved conditions north of the North Saskatchewan River. An effective rain May twenty-third temporarily improved immediate crop prospects in suffering areas.

Dominion Experimental Station, Swift Current

Seeding wheat and coarse grains ninety per cent completed. Decimal four one inches rain May twenty second, total to date decimal five eight inches. Subsoil moisture little to none, surface moisture fair to poor. Germination uneven, stands patchy with little growth. Wind damage extensive, not severe except in small areas. Grasshoppers emerging but no damage. Pastures poor.

Supervisor of Illustration Stations, Swift Current.

Limerick district weather dry, rain badly needed, germination of grain uneven. Some damage to crops from soil drifting chiefly in spots. Much of this will recover if rain comes soon. Seeding of wheat completed and nearly all coarse grain. Further seeding of coarse grain being delayed for more moisture. Pastures very poor.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Val Marie.

Season about same as last year. About sixty per cent of wheat and forty per cent oats are seeded. Soil moisture is poor and only four-tenths of an inch precipitation this spring. Crop coming slowly some twenty per cent damage by wind. Stand of crop light.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Rosetown.

Wheat acreage one per cent over last year. Crop coming up patchy but recent rains of over inch will give everything good start. Condition average.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Senlac.

Wheat seeding completed, oats fifty per cent. Twenty-five per cent decrease in sown acreage. Slight damage from high winds late in April and first May. Slight hopper outbreaks in patches but no damage yet. Rainfall for May one and quarter inches. General conditions fair to good.

ALBERTA

Dominion Experimental Station, Lacombe.

Season ten days early, seeding practically completed. Soil very dry as first good rain in nine months came May 23rd with .8 inches. Germination good. Crops fair stand but all need rain. Considerable acreage damaged by soil drifting and frost. Pastures very short and hay prospects poor.

Dominion Experimental Station, Lethbridge.

From one to two inches rain on twenty-second and twenty-third has relieved very critical situation from Lethbridge west to Foothills and from boundary to Calgary except immediate vicinity of Pincher Creek. Rain tapered off rapidly east of Lethbridge. Foremost only eighteen hundredths, Vauxhall nothing. Moisture reserves being very light, heavy rains are needed immediately where not already received. Soil drifting more serious this spring than usual where proper control measures have not been practised.

Dominion Range Experiment Station, Manyberries.

Outlook very poor. Several small showers totalling four-tenths of one inch rainfall received since April first. Seeding practically completed. Reseeding necessary in some cases on account of seed being blown out. Moisture is needed before late sown crops will germinate. Range pastures very poor; grass has made very little growth as yet; frequent drying winds have taken all reserve moisture. Early sown wheat is up three to four inches.

Dominion Experimental Sub-station, Beaverlodge.

Wheat all seeded and in some districts nearly all up. Coarse grains largely seeded save at a few points. Acreage appreciably greater than last year. Good moisture beneath but seed beds rather dry and lumpy in some districts with emergence rather irregular in those cases. General situation good.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Vermilion.

Seeding practically completed. The small showers have started the crop well and very little damage is reported. If we get no bad winds the surface moisture will last a week or two but there is very little sub-moisture. Hay land and pastures need rain.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Athabasca.

Seeding completed except for green feed. Season earlier and wheat acreage increased twenty per cent over last year. Rainfall since April first three decimal ten inches. Wheat up, shows even germination and good growth. Moisture condition satisfactory for the present.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Edmonton.

Crop conditions are very favourable. Moisture conditions good, crop making excellent progress and no damage reported. Fair amount of subsoil moisture. Weather fairly clear and cool.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Calgary.

This area received light to good rains during past week with heavy rain over last week-end. Seeding practically completed with moisture sufficient for ten days or two weeks. Slight damage from high winds. Germination satisfactory.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Stettler.

Seeding completed. Three inches rain since April first. Some frost damage. Heavy winds made it necessary to reseed some fields. Acreage same as last year. Weather cool. Pastures fair.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Sedgewick.

Seeding completed. Fair prospects. Plenty moisture. Five per cent damage from soil drifting.



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