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AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

Dominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S. (Hon.)  
Chief, Agricultural Branch: T. W. Grindley, Ph.D.

### TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT.

Ottawa, August 4, 1937, 4 p.m. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today the eleventh 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 on 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

With crops maturing rapidly over the prairies and harvesting already well started, the 1937 season bids fair to equal the record for earliness established a year ago. No material change is apparent in the general situation since a week ago. Heavy rains caused considerable lodging of grain in southern Manitoba. Except for late fields, rust will not seriously affect the wheat crop in that province since the infection developed too late to cause much damage. The outturn for the province is expected to be above average. Some further deterioration has occurred to crops in northeastern Saskatchewan as a result of continued dry weather while in the northwestern corner, recent rains have stimulated late crops and improved feed prospects. At best, wheat yields in the province will be low with a great part of the acreage yielding nothing but feed. Crops are maturing rapidly in Alberta where July rains replenished failing moisture reserves and gave new life to crops which showed little promise beforehand. While yields will be below average, fairly good commercial crops are in prospect over much of the province. Hail has caused losses at a number of points in the three provinces and while serious in localized areas, the damage on the whole has not been unduly heavy. Grasshoppers, army worms and wheat stem sawflies have all taken toll of crops with a possibility of the latter doing considerable damage in southern and east-central Alberta.

#### Manitoba

With harvesting now fairly general throughout the province, Manitoba crops will soon be beyond danger of further menace from rust, insect pests or inclement weather conditions. Heavy rains last Saturday caused considerable lodging of crops in the southern areas and harvesting of these fields will be difficult. While rust infection is widely distributed it was late in developing and early fields escaped damage entirely. Late crops will likely suffer rather heavily but for the province as a whole, the actual damage should be comparatively slight. Army worms have been very active over much of the province and have caused damage from 10 to 50 per cent. All crops have suffered but oats were most severely attacked. Except for the dry areas along the Saskatchewan border, general prospects are good with the outturn of the crop expected to be above average. Feed supplies are adequate and such crops as potatoes and fodder corn are particularly good. Fall pasture is now assured as a result of the recent generous rainfall.

#### Saskatchewan

Little change of importance has occurred in the general crop situation in Saskatchewan during the past week. The persistent need for more moisture in the north-east has resulted in some further reduction in crop prospects there while in the extreme northwest, coarse grains have registered worthwhile improvement. Hail damage has occurred at a number of widely scattered points but the total loss is not great. Harvest operations are now fairly well advanced and as has been freely predicted, yields at best will be much below average while over a large area only feed can be realized. Rains from mid-July onward have done much to alleviate the critical feed shortage which threatened the province. Russian thistle and other weeds are now growing rapidly, providing some green feed but in wheat fields making harvesting extremely difficult. Many grain fields have been cut for feed or pastured off. In southern districts there is no surplus feed for winter and much live stock is being moved out. Dwindling feed resources have been further reduced by the activities of grasshoppers and beet webworms.

#### Alberta

Harvesting is now under way in the southern part of Alberta and with the exception of the extreme southwest, wheat is ripening rapidly. In central and northern sections growth has been rapid and crops are approaching maturity with plenty of moisture to assure satisfactory filling of the heads. While the extreme drought some weeks ago undoubtedly gave crops a setback which they cannot now overcome, subsequent rainfall has resulted in considerable recovery and reasonably good yields are now looked for in the eastern and northeastern sections. Coarse grains have shared in the general improvement while pastures and second growth alfalfa are making good growth. In the Peace River district, dry weather continues and the crop is beginning to turn with a little cutting of early fields already done. Temperatures have been dangerously low but no noticeable damage has occurred except to tender garden crops and potatoes. Grains appear to be filling well despite the dry season.



METEOROLOGICAL REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

The following precipitation in inches, was reported by the Dominion Meteorological Service, Toronto, for the week ending August 2 at 8 a.m.

<u>Manitoba</u>		<u>Saskatchewan</u>		<u>Alberta</u>	
Portage la Prairie	-.1	Rosetown	.1	Beaverlodge	-.1
Russell	-.1	Qu'Appelle	.1	Fairview	.1
The Pas	.1	Scott	.1	Keg River	.3
Birtle	.3	Battleford	.2	Manyberries	.3
Winnipeg	.4	Swift Current	.2	Empress	.4
Pinawa	.4	Humboldt	.2	Foremost	.4
Brandon	.6	Indian Head	.2	Vegreville	.4
Dauphin	.8	Kindersley	.2	Kinuso	.4
Swan River	.8	Macklin	.2	Lethbridge	.6
Virden	.9	Chaplin	.2	Stettler	.6
Cypress River	1.1	Prince Albert	.3	Edson	.7
Minnedosa	1.2	Consul	.3	High River	.7
Graysville	1.2	Elbow	.3	Medicine Hat	.8
Emerson	1.5	Yellow Grass	.3	Cardston	.8
Ninette	1.5	Biggar	.3	Coronation	.9
Morris	1.9	Rosthern	.3	Wetaskiwin	.9
Pierson	2.3	Val Marie	.3	Hughenden	.9
Morden	2.5	Kamsack	.4	Lloydminster	1.1
Sprague	3.1	Regina	.4	Edmonton	1.2
Boissevain	3.5	Yorkton	.4	Olds	1.2
Saskatchewan (Cont'd.)		Lintlaw	.5	Sedgewick	1.2
Broadview	.7	Meadow Lake	.5	Vauxhall	1.3
Moosomin	.7	Moose Jaw	.6	Viking	1.3
Aneroid	.7	Outlook	.6	Drumheller	1.4
Rabbit Lake	.7	Shaunavon	.6	Brooks	1.5
Saskatoon	.8	Davidson	.6	Macleod	1.5
Carlyle	.8	Maple Creek	.6	Calgary	1.7
Strasbourg	1.0	Midale	.6	Red Deer	2.0
Estevan	2.0	Assiniboia	.7	High River	2.1

Minus signs denote less than the amount of rain indicated.

Differences from normal mean temperature for the week by districts were as follows:

Manitoba 1 degree above normal, District 2. 2 degrees above normal, Districts 1, 3, 6. 3 degrees above normal Districts 4, 5. 4 degrees above normal Districts 8, 12, 13. 5 degrees above normal Districts 7, 9, 10, 14. 6 degrees above normal District 11.

Saskatchewan 1 degree below normal District 9. 1 degree above normal District 7. 2 degrees above normal District 6. 3 degrees above normal Districts 2, 3, 8. 5 degrees above normal Districts 1, 4, 5.

Alberta 2 degrees below normal Districts 11, 14, 15, 16, 17. 1 degree below normal Districts 4, 8, 9, 10, 13. Normal Districts 2, 6, 12. 1 degree above normal Districts 3, 7. 2 degrees above normal District 1. 4 degrees above normal District 5.

RUST DAMAGE

Dominion Rust Research Laboratory, Winnipeg.

Stem rust in central, south central and eastern Manitoba very prevalent on bulk of susceptible common wheats but severe infection on these developed relatively late and loss will probably be limited. Rest of province little affected. Throughout province early fields escaped damage entirely. Any late field will suffer rather heavily. Durum wheats in general less affected than susceptible common wheats and on the whole actual loss will probably be slight. Similarly for barley except in late crops. Remarkably little rust on oats, much of crop now ripe or nearly so. A considerable amount cut, particularly in north.

INSECT DAMAGE

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Brandon.

Army worms have injured crops over the greater part of the province. Loss mostly ten to twenty per cent but in occasional fields reaches nearly fifty per cent. Oats are hardest hit but all cereal crops have suffered to some extent. Damage nearly at an end as many army worms have matured.



Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Saskatoon.

Feeding by army worm diminishing during past week, damage now almost ended for season. Destruction of Russian thistle by beet webworms is increasing seriousness of feed situation in some areas in central Saskatchewan.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Lethbridge.

Very little grasshopper migration and damage remaining stationary. Wheat stem sawfly starting to cut early crops with possibility of severe damage in southern and east central Alberta.

REPORTS OF CORRESPONDENTS

MANITOBA

Provincial Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

About one-third barley and some wheat cut. Rust has made considerable progress in past week. Much crop in eastern and southern Manitoba lodged. Heavy hail loss. General outturn for province above ten-year average. Potatoes and fodder corn very good.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon.

Grain cutting rapidly becoming general. Lodging resulting from recent heavy rains making crop difficult to harvest and may increase rust damage in the late wheat. Oat crop developing well except in drier districts. Much hay in stack. Fodder corn and potatoes promising, heavy crops. Gardens good.

Dominion Experimental Station, Morden.

Cutting well advanced in wheat, oats and barley. Durum not ready for cutting, crop ripening fast. Heavy rain of Saturday flattened most crops, cutting is difficult. Sample of wheat now being cut good. Pastures good. Abundance of moisture. Corn and roots excellent.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Melita.

Three point sixty-three inches of rainfall since last report. Heavy fields of Durum in the southern part of the district flattened with Saturday's heavy rain. Estimate that crops have deteriorated 25 per cent last week by rust and hoppers. Wheat cutting general. Rye practically all cut. Good fall pasture assured.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Kelwood.

Grains susceptible to rust are quite rusty. Harvest general. Some threshing being done, in other respects nothing new to report.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Woodnorth.

Rain during past week will help all grain fields, especially late crop, also pastures. Some wheat and barley has been cut. The yield will be low but of fair quality. Oats in many fields disappointing but average crop situation rather improved.

Agricultural Representative, Dauphin.

Wheat cutting ninety per cent completed. Average yield around twenty bushels. Coarse grains will be very light and spotty. Good rain last Saturday will help pastures, gardens and potatoes. Threshing will be general in a week. A good sample of wheat is expected.

SASKATCHEWAN

Provincial Department of Agriculture, Regina.

Except for some deterioration in prospects at points in the northeast and some notable improvement in late coarse grains in the extreme northwest, little material change has taken place in the crop situation in Saskatchewan during the past two weeks. The weather has varied from warm to cool with several good showers. The immediate feed situation improved following the heavy rains of mid July and showers have been of additional help since. Grasshoppers, however, are reported numerous particularly in southern areas and are damaging the new growth. Russian thistle is making good growth in many places but is thick and not gaining much height. In many places little grain crop has been cut for feed on account of the stunted growth. In these cases the crop is being pastured. As previously reported, with the possible exception of some feed on better fields, little grain will be threshed in greater portion of southern, central and west-central Saskatchewan and in the southern portion on the east-central district. The best crops are in the northern part of east-central Saskatchewan and in the north-eastern portion of the province but even here yields will be much below the average.



SASKATCHEWAN (Cont'd.)

Provincial Department of Agriculture, Regina, (Cont'd.)

The variation in prospects in northwestern Saskatchewan is now a little more marked as rains have improved late grain at points in the western side of the district while continued lack of moisture has further reduced prospects in the eastern portion. Generally speaking the yields will be much below the average at best and over much of the district only feed can be expected. Some hail damage is reported at scattered points and while severe in places the total damage taking the province as a whole is not great. Wheat cutting has started at several points and a number expect to start during the coming week. Live stock with some exceptions are in fair conditions.

Dominion Experimental Station, Scott.

Scattered showers during past week promoted growth annual weeds which are dominating late growth of wheat and making harvesting of very short crop extremely difficult. Scattered wheat fields are being plowed, cut or pastured. Oats making fair recovery with pastures good. Grasshoppers active but many dying off.

Dominion Experimental Station, Rosthern.

Weather cool and dry except for rain of point three inches last night. Harvesting fairly general in district but late crops still green. Considerable grain being cut with mowers for feed. Grasshoppers numerous and beet webworm on rampage devastating gardens, orchards and corn.

Dominion Experimental Station, Melfort.

Crops ripening quickly, cutting is general. Some early barley already threshed. Pastures and late crops badly in need of rain.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Val Marie.

Crop total failure this district. Precipitation 2.75 since July 11th. Pastures and green feed improved but will not be sufficient for local requirements. Surplus live stock being disposed of.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Yellow Grass.

Few fields will give back seed. Ninety per cent nil for wheat, other grains nil. Late seeding of oats are being eaten off by grasshoppers. They are bad on pastures getting green from late rains. No winter feed here for stock. Rain to date 3.25.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Senlac.

Improvement in oat crops with continued precipitation. Weed growth in wheat practically making it impossible to harvest same. Expect seed and possibly more. Total precipitation to date is five and one-half inches, June being the month that gave crops the set back.

ALBERTA

Dominion Range Experimental Station, Manyberries.

One-third of one inch of rain has fallen at this station during last week with some heavier showers in adjacent localities. Crops in Comrey district not heavy account of several hot winds causing burning, however some grain will be threshed. Very cold night of August first with slight touches of frost in low spots. No serious damage is reported. Cattle and range making normal gains, beginning to show bloom.

Dominion Experimental Station, Lethbridge.

With exception of extreme south west part, wheat in southern Alberta is ripening rapidly. Harvesting already commenced and will be general in drier sections coming week. Recent rains will improve feed situation and help fill ripening grain. Crop conditions generally are better than last year.

Dominion Experimental Station, Lacombe.

With five decimal three inches rain for July and one decimal four for week, sufficient moisture mature crop. All crops growing rapidly with earliest seeded starting to colour. Wide spread but very patchy hail July 30 caused considerable loss. Second growth should still make feed. Pastures good. Heavy second growth alfalfa.



ALBERTA (Cont'd.)

Dominion Experimental Sub-Station, Beaverlodge.

Dry windy weather turning grain rapidly and a little cutting of barley, winter rye and even wheat has occurred. Temperatures safe on most lands though light frosts on three nights blackened potato tops in low spots doing problematical injury to wheat. Otherwise grain filling well, considering the drought.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Calgary.

One and one-half inches rain general over this district during the past weekend will fill all grains and assure feed. Indications are for fairly good yields in western portion going from fair to light in eastern section. Some hail damage reported.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Edmonton.

Good rains during past week. Rapid growth. Wonderful improvement in all late wheat and coarse grains especially barley which should make fair average crop of thirty bushels to acre. Oats will only make light crop. Wheat yield of say fifteen bushels. Pastures good.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Vermilion.

The showers of the past week have made the wheat heads fill well and in spite of hail and very slight frost in spots, the yield must be improved. An average in the district north and northeast here should be ten to fifteen bushels for wheat and twenty-five for oats provided there are no further frosts. South of this line the yield is about five for wheat. Feed crops and gardens are doing well.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Athabasca.

Crop condition improved from last report. Heads filling out well and a little higher average yield is now possible. Moisture condition satisfactory. Some fields will be cut this week.



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