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AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, August 17, 1937, 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. 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

Steady progress is being made with the harvesting of the prairie grain crops. During the past week, cutting and threshing have gone ahead rapidly in Manitoba where already more than half the crop has been cut. Midweek showers halted threshing operations for a few days but the work is in full swing again, with no scarcity of labour. Yields are fair to good with some crops turning out as much as 35 bushels. Hot dry weather in Saskatchewan has facilitated the harvesting of such crops as promise any return of threshed grain. The best districts will probably average 15 bushels although odd fields have yielded up to 25 bushels. In the less favoured areas, from three to ten bushels are being returned. Heavy weed growth in many fields is adding to the difficulties of garnering the short strawed crops. Feed supplies are still short and much more rain is needed to revive the pastures. In Alberta, cool wet weather has held up harvesting and retarded the maturing of late crops. Warm dry weather is now needed to hasten ripening of the grain in most of the area north of Calgary. In southern parts of the province, cutting and threshing are well advanced with yields reported as fair to good and grades high.

Manitoba

Harvesting is going ahead rapidly in all sections of the province. Hot weather with showers in some localities has interfered with the work to some extent but cutting of wheat is now more than half done and good progress is being made with coarse grains. Threshing is well under way with a plentiful supply of labour available. Rust resistant wheats are reported as yielding up to 35 bushels in some districts and in general, yields will be good except where the grain is badly rusted. Hail storms visited scattered parts of the province during the week but most of the grain was cut before the hail came and damage was light. Pastures are in good condition and live stock thriving. Fodder crops and roots are doing well and there should be plenty of feed for winter.

Saskatchewan

With the past week one of the driest in an exceptionally dry summer, rapid progress has been made with the harvest wherever there is any crop worth cutting. Yields are variable, ranging from three to ten or twelve bushels in the best parts of southeastern Saskatchewan to as high as 25 bushels from the best fields in the north-east. Much of the short grain has been cut for fodder or used as pasture. Feed supplies are still very scanty. While considerable new growth resulted from the rains of late July, there will not be enough to supply the need. Pastures are fairly good in some sections but elsewhere they are practically bare and much more rain is needed to revive growth for fall feeding. Grasshoppers are still active and are doing severe damage to green oats and late sown feed crops.

Alberta

Cool wet weather has prevailed over much of the province during the past week. Rain which would have been most welcome some weeks ago is now holding up harvesting operations and delaying maturity of the late crops. In the southern districts, harvesting is well advanced and some good yields of high grade wheat are being reported. Hail losses of varying severity occurred at several points during the week. North of Calgary to Athabasca, all correspondents report the need for warm dry weather to ripen the crops. The Peace River district received the best rains of the season and while the weather has been comparatively cool, no further frost damage has been reported. While some stem rust on wheat has appeared in central Alberta, no serious damage is anticipated.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

The following record shows the precipitation in inches as reported by the Dominion Meteorological Service, Toronto, for the week ending August 16 at 8 a.m.

<u>Manitoba</u>		<u>Saskatchewan</u>		<u>Alberta</u>	
Emerson	-.1	Swift Current	-.1	Lethbridge	-.1
Russell	-.1	Melfort	-.1	Medicine Hat	-.1
Cypress River	.2	Battleford	-.1	Cardston	-.1
Virden	.2	Estevan	-.1	Empress	.1
Birtle	.2	Regina	-.1	Naco	.1
Morris	.2	Shaunavon	-.1	Calgary	.1
Pinawa	.2	Midale	-.1	Drumheller	.4
Winnipeg	.3	Strasbourg	-.1	Coronation	.6
Swan River	.4	Val Mario	-.1	Edmonton	.7
Boissevain	.5	Kindersley	-.1	Hughenden	.7
Minnedosa	.6	Rabbit Lake	-.1	Olds	.7
Ninette	.8	Assiniboia	-.1	Wetaskiwin	.7
Brandon	1.0	Indian Head	.1	Vegreville	1.0
Dauphin	1.0	Moose Jaw	.1	Viking	1.4
Pierson	1.0	Qu'Appelle	.1	Stettler	1.6
Le Pas	1.1	Scott	.1	Edson	1.7
Portage la Pr.	1.1	Lintlaw	.1	Glendon	1.7
Sprague	4.2	Moosomin	.2	Fairview	1.8
		Carlyle	.2	Red Deer	2.3
		Meadow Lake	.2	Beaverlodge	2.4
		Naicam	.2	High Prairie	2.6
		Kamsack	.4	Kinuso	4.1
		Lloydminster	.4		
		Yorkton	.4		
		Macklin	1.1		

Minus signs denote less than the amount of rain indicated.

The following points reported no rain during the week: Keg River, Brooks, Foremost, Macleod, Elbow, Outlook, Yellow Grass, Morden, Vauxhall, Biggar, Rosetown, Rosthern, Graysville. Traces of rain fell at Prince Albert, Broadview, Consul, Humboldt, Saskatoon, High River, Manyberries, Aneroid, Davidson, Maple Creek.

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

Manitoba: Four degrees above normal- district 13; five degrees above- district 14; six degrees above- districts 9, 12; seven degrees above- districts 5, 6, 8, 11; eight degrees above- districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 10.

Saskatchewan: Four degrees above normal- district 9; five degrees above- districts 5, 7, 8; six degrees above- districts 3, 6; seven degrees above- districts 2, 5; eight degrees above- district 1.

Alberta: Three degrees below normal- districts 13, 14, 17; two degrees below normal- districts 11, 16; one degree below normal- district 9; normal- districts 4, 12, 15; one degree above normal- districts 6, 10; two degrees above- districts 2, 7, 8; three degrees above- district 5; four degrees above- district 3; five degrees above- district 1.

HAIL DAMAGE

Manitoba.

Light hail damage reported storm August 9, St. Rose du Lac, Brandon, Carberry, also light hail damage reported storm August 14 Somerset district. Large percentage of crops cut before both storms.

INSECT DAMAGE

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Brandon.

Heavy flights of grasshoppers into southwestern Manitoba have built up populations to very severe. Damage up to ten per cent done to late crops.

Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Lethbridge.

Grasshoppers still abundant and causing some loss to late crops. Sawfly damage on the increase.

RUST AND DISEASE DAMAGE

Dominion Plant Pathology Laboratory, Edmonton.

Damage from root rot of wheat has been intensified and complicated by early season drought. Some wheat stem rust appearing in unripe fields in central parts of Alberta but no damage expected. Average amount of cereal smuts.

REPORTS OF CORRESPONDENTS

MANITOBA

Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon.

Influx of Saskatchewan farmers has provided a plentiful supply of farm labour. Good harvest weather has hastened ripening and much grain has been stooked during week, threshing now commencing on a few farms. Further hail damage locally and in nearby districts. Pastures continue abundant.

Agricultural Representative, Dauphin.

Rust resistant wheat yielding fifteen to thirty-five bushels, good sample. Ceres and Durum rusted and poor to fair. Oats and barley good, sixty-five per cent cut. Threshing well started, labour plentiful. Pastures and live stock good.

Agricultural Representative, Carman.

Threshing progressing well. Wheat should be eighty per cent completed this week if weather stays satisfactory. Animals doing well and should go into winter in good shape after pasturing threshed fields. Potatoes give evidence of nearly average yield. Gardens doing well. Corn good stand.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Melita.

Point eight eight inches of rainfall last week. Cutting practically finished. Threshing general by Wednesday. Early wheat average 15 bushels per acre. Oats and barley crop below average. Hopper damage heavy to late crops. Epidemic of encephalomyelitis among horses.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Killarney.

Cutting nearing completion. Threshing under way and Durum wheat our main cash crop yielding from fifteen to twenty bushels and grading well. Work being carried on under some difficulty due to intense heat of past week coupled with more than the usual number of mosquitoes and a serious outbreak of encephalomyelitis among horses. Already a number have died and many are afflicted. Cooler weather today appreciated by man and beast.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Kelwood.

The past week was hot catchy weather, heavy rains of short duration ninth and eleventh slowing up harvest and threshing. Fifty per cent farmers finished cutting. Only late sown coarse grains left. Rain prevented all threshing machines going by twelfth. All are operating today. Where not rusted, grain turning out well.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Swan River.

Harvest operations well advanced, some threshing done, yield is small but sample good. Recent rains have helped late grains, pastures and gardens. Stock is looking fine. Second cutting of alfalfa and clover better than first. Plenty of feed for home use but not much for export.

SASKATCHEWAN

Provincial Department of Agriculture, Regina.

Good harvesting weather has prevailed for the most part during the past two weeks and a large percentage of the wheat has been cut in those districts where the crop is returning threshed grain. In the northern portion of east-central Saskatchewan and in the northeastern districts where the crop outlook is most favourable, about 75 per cent of the wheat is cut and in northwestern Saskatchewan possibly 60 per cent has been completed. In other parts of the province the crop ranges from complete failure to very small returns and much of the wheat and coarse grains are being cut for fodder

SASKATCHEWAN (Cont'd.)

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

where long enough in the straw. Where the crop is too short, it has been used for pasture. The potato crop is reported for the most part poor although late rains have improved prospects in several areas. Grasshoppers are numerous and damaging green plants, particularly in the drier areas of the province. The army worm caused some injury at scattered points in east-central and northeastern Saskatchewan while the beet webworm is reported at points mostly in southern districts where it has attacked Russian thistle and in some cases seriously impaired its usefulness for fodder. Pasture conditions vary considerably. Rains during the latter half of July improved the situation at many points and considerable new growth resulted, particularly Russian thistle which will be useful for fodder. More rain is badly needed. Stock are in fair condition on the whole as they have been given the run of the fields which were unfit for threshing and in the better crop areas they will shortly have the run of the stubble when cleared of stooks.

Dominion Experimental Station, Melfort.

Weather continues dry. Harvesting three-fourths complete. Threshing general. Wheat yielding seven to twenty-five bushels, averaging fifteen. Coarse grain low. Pastures becoming bare. Gardens need rain.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Indian Head.

Threshing and combining well advanced throughout district. Wheat yields vary from three to ten or twelve bushels per acre. Probable average yield seven or eight bushels per acre. Feed situation serious. Grasshoppers causing considerable damage to late sown feed crops. Rainfall nil.

Dominion Experimental Station, Rosthern.

Weather during week moderate and dry with high winds two days. Approximately forty per cent wheat and ten per cent coarse grains already harvested. A few threshing machines in operation but yields exceptionally low. About one to four bushels being harvested. Pastures good but feed in district scarce.

Dominion Experimental Station, Scott.

Scattered showers occurred during past week without materially changing the crop situation. In west-central Saskatchewan cutting has started to obtain some wheat from the best fields and to preserve as winter feed. Crops harvested will require careful curing because of heavy week growth following late rains.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Rosetown.

Harvesting in full swing, some using boxes on binders, some using swathers and others combination of swather and barge. Taking forty mile radius, this district will produce a little over seed. Grasshoppers damaging green oats.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Senlac.

Harvesting wheat has begun but do not expect seed to be returned. In many fields pigweed has strong growth and wheat very short and thin. Oats are still green but will make good return providing no frost. Point sixty rain over weekend and good growth.

ALBERTA

Dominion Experimental Station, Lethbridge.

Harvesting is well advanced east of Lethbridge-Vulcan highway and north of the highway between Stirling and Foremost. In this area very little grain will be harvested this year as yields of about four bushels very common. West of the Calgary-Vulcan-Lethbridge-Milk River highway, harvesting is getting nicely under way and favourable yields are indicated. The grade generally in all districts is high. Light frosts occurred this morning in some foothills areas but damage to grain crops probably insignificant.

ALBERTA (Cont'd.)

Dominion Experimental Station, Lacombe.

With cool weather and one decimal six inches rain on four days, crops ripening very slowly. Most crops now well filled except some second growth. Sufficient moisture. Dry hot weather needed for ripening. Haying still under way but very difficult owing showers. Some frost and scattered heavy hail damage during week.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Olds.

Grain made slow progress during the week. Weather been too cold and wet, need warm weather. Cutting be general in a week's time and coarse grains need two weeks of good hot weather before ripening. Estimate hail damage about 10 per cent in Olds district.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Calgary.

Weather showery during past week with hail damage from twenty-five to seventy-five per cent over area probably three miles wide by seven long and lesser damage couple smaller areas. Harvesting progressing satisfactorily with average wheat yields. This district looking like twelve to fifteen bushels per acre.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Vermilion.

Heavy rains have delayed harvesting of wheat. There has been no material change in quantity or quality. Oats pastures and gardens show extraordinary growth.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Edmonton.

Crops not ripening up account too much rain. Fairly clear and warm today. Wheat harvest started, should be general next week. Large per cent coarse grains quite green.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Athabasca.

Cutting delayed by wet weather. Total rainfall one decimal fifty-six. Some wheat fields showing second growth in head. Second growth in oats and barley. Good weather necessary from now on.

Dominion Experimental Sub-Station, Beaverlodge.

Cutting well started in Grande Prairie and High Prairie districts and in full swing elsewhere. Mostly barley and oats harvested to date. No further frost damage reported.

LATE REPORT

Telegraphic Correspondent, Minnedosa, Manitoba.

Eighty per cent cutting done. Some threshing done. Threshing general August 24. Wheat pretty rusted. Sample fair. Oat crop very uneven. Rains should help pastures and gardens.

Dominion Range Experiment Station, Manyberries, Alberta.

The last week has been noted for hot days and cold nights. Most of early sown crops all harvested. Some of the later crops not yet matured. Threshing is in progress in some districts. Grass on range maturing rapidly and cattle making very good gain.

Telegraphic Correspondent, Stettler, Alberta.

Heavy rains totalling 1.62 have held up harvesting. Cutting will be general this week. Heavy growth pigweed makes cutting difficult and expensive. Need plenty of clear windy weather to cure crop. Impossible to estimate yield yet. Hay crop fair. Pastures good.



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