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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, August 9, 1939, 3 p.m. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today the eleventh of a series of 15 weekly telegraphic reports covering crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces. Sixty-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 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 prolonged heat wave in the Prairie Provinces extended through last week and continued to take a heavy toll of prospective crop yields. Cooler weather and showers during the week-end brought relief and some benefit to late sown grain. Much of the crop, however, is too far advanced, and beyond stepping further depreciation the cooler weather and moisture will not repair the damage which has already occurred. Harvesting continued in Manitoba with some threshing under way. Binders commenced work in eastern Saskatchewan but cutting will not be general over the province for another week or ten days. A few fields have been cut in Alberta. Light frosts occurred in the south-west and central parts of Alberta. The best crop prospects on the Prairies are in north-central and north-western Manitoba, south-western, central, west-central and north-western Saskatchewan and in the central and Peace River areas of Alberta. Pastures are badly burned and need rain. Live stock are reported to be in fairly good condition, however, as a result of favourable pasture conditions earlier in the season.

Manitoba

Good progress was made with the harvest in the early part of the week when hot and dry weather prevailed. Showers over the week-end stopped cutting and combining operations. About half the grain is out and upwards of five per cent is threshed. Wheat yields in the southern part of the province are poor to fair with grades averaging two to three and lower. Feed crops are poor and pastures badly burned by the heat. The central districts report fair yields of wheat but below average yields of feed grains. Grain fields in the north-central and north-western parts of the province are average or better. Grasshoppers are doing considerable damage to standing crops.

Saskatchewan

Further severe declines in crop prospects as a result of hot dry weather early in the week were reported. In the south-eastern corner of the province, crops on the lighter soils are practically a failure and the prolonged dry spell has very greatly reduced yields on the heavier soils in the Regina-Weyburn area. Fair to good crop prospects still prevail in the western portion of the south-central district, in the northern part of the central district and in the north-eastern section of the province. Crops in the Goose Lake country are quite promising. Cutting is under way in the eastern part of the province but the crop is later in the western and northern portions and harvesting will begin about the middle of August. Grasshoppers have been active, especially in the southern districts where the damage to wheat by head-clipping has been estimated at ten per cent. Live stock are in fairly good condition but pastures in many districts are in need of rain.

Alberta

The long hot spell was broken by cooler weather and rains over the week-end, but July weather was disastrous to very fine crop prospects in the province. Hot weather in the early part of last week continued to take a heavy toll of both prospective yields and grades. The crops in the southern part of the province will give a poor to fair out-turn. Crop prospects in the central part are better, but heat damage has been severe. Week-end rains will benefit late crops but the earlier sown grain will not recover. Light frosts were reported from points in the south-west and central parts of the province, but the extent of the damage is difficult to estimate. Hay crops have yielded well but pastures are in poor condition. Crops in the Peace River district promise to yield well.

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Precipitation and Temperatures in the Prairie Provinces

Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperature	
		Week ending	Total since	Normal since	Week ending Aug. 7	
		3 a.m. August 7	April 1	April 1	Actual	Normal
Manitoba						
1	Pierson	.08	11.79	8.47	70	64
	Waskada	.22	9.67	9.37	71	64
2	Boissevain	.11	9.68	8.43	71	65
	Ninette	.16	8.75 +	8.97	74	65
	Pilot Mound	.06	7.77	9.76	72	65
3	Emerson	.04	8.49	8.53	73	65
	Morden	nil	7.02	9.14	75	65
	Graysville	.22	8.78 +	9.35	72	65
	Morris	nil	8.77	8.93	74	65
	Portage la Prairie	.06	10.48	8.89	73	64
4	Winnipeg	.04	6.40	10.15	72	65
6	Sprague	.02	6.88 +	9.69	66	64
	Pinawa	.04	3.27	7.47	70	63
7	Virden	.04	6.58	7.70	73	62
	Hamiota	.26	6.72	8.40	72	63
8	Rivers	.01	6.59	8.93	70	63
	Brandon	.06	9.16	9.04	70	64
	Cypress River	.06	9.72	8.94	71	65
9	Minnedosa	.01	7.33	8.84	69	63
10	Dropmore	trace	7.26	8.87	68	62
	Russell	nil	5.13	8.46	70	61
	Birtle	.24	5.37	9.03	70	61
11	Dauphin	trace	7.10	7.84	73	62
13	Swan River	1.05	12.24	8.99	69	60
	The Pas	.09	9.29	7.03	67	63
Manitoba Average		.12	8.05	8.77	71	64
Saskatchewan						
1A	Carlyle	.02	4.57	9.03	70	62
	Estevan	.20	5.93	8.33	71	64
1B	Broadview	.08	5.36	8.26	70	62
	Moosomin	.06	4.76	7.69	72	60
2A	Yellow Grass	.46	8.36	8.02	68	64
	Midale	.58	4.66	8.95	70	64
2B	Moose Jaw	trace	7.68	8.25	69	65
	Regina	.46	7.52	8.36	68	62
	Qu'Appelle	.32	8.64	9.85	68	63
	Indian Head	.28	6.85	9.45	70	62
	Francis	.20	5.52	6.93	66	64
3AN	Chaplin	.04	7.14 +	8.63	66	63
3AS	Assiniboia	.20	11.64	6.87	65	63
	Ceylon	.18	7.70 +	10.11	N.R.	N.R.
	Gravelbourg	N.R.	9.17 +	6.76	N.R.	64
	Rockglen	.02	8.63 +	8.36	N.R.	N.R.
3BN	Swift Current	.29	11.88	8.44	65	65
	Hughton	nil	11.32	7.46	66	63
	Pennant	.04	11.42	8.23	66	64
3BS	Amoroid	trace	10.96	8.24	67	62
	Cadillac	.12	12.39	9.09	64	62
	Val Marie	nil	9.93	7.70	66	64
	Shaunavon	.28	14.22	7.10	65	63
4A	Maple Creek	.24	13.13	7.94	70	64
	Consul	.24	7.26	6.58	64	61
4B	Roadene	.12	12.73	7.48	66	63
5A	Yorkton	.22	6.57	8.50	70	61
	Hubbard	.10	7.10	8.32	66	61
5B	Kamsack	.46	9.70	7.88	66	61
	Foam Lake	.16	8.93	8.27	66	61
	Lintlaw	.10	10.89	8.40	63	59
6A	Davidson	.34	10.26	6.81	68	62
	Nekomis	.06	7.69 +	6.15	66	61
	Semans	.20	7.71	5.44	66	61
	Strasbourg	.13	6.83	7.65	67	61
	Dilke	N.R.	7.60 +	7.11	N.R.	N.R.
6B	Rosthern	nil	8.96	7.83	68	61
	Saskatoon	trace	9.67	7.72	67	62
	Dundurn	trace	9.14	8.09	68	62
	Tugaske	.20	11.34	6.80	68	63
	Elbow	.05	9.73	6.79	66	63
	Outlook	nil	9.32	5.80	68	62
	Harris	nil	9.66	7.48	66	63
+ Incomplete		N.R. No Report.				

Precipitation and Temperatures in the Prairie Provinces* (Concluded)

Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperature	
		Week ending	Total since	Normal since	Week ending August 7	
		8 a.m. August 7	April 1	April 1	Actual	Normal
Saskatchewan (Concluded)						
7A	Alsask	Trace	8.46*	7.30	N.R.	61
	Kindersley	Trace	8.26	6.96	67	61
7B	Macklin	.22	7.38	8.09	69	62
	Scott	.12	7.36	7.41	66	60
	Biggar	.18	9.60	8.16	67	62
8A	Nipawin	Nil	9.94	7.90	68	61
	Naicam	.08	9.34	8.88	65	61
8B	Melfort	.03	8.56	8.15	66	62
	Dana	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
	Humboldt	.04	8.88	6.88	65	61
9A	Rabbit Lake	.08	7.58*	8.13	61	60
	Prince Albert	Trace	7.79	7.83	69	62
9B	Battleford	.14	6.76	7.71	69	63
Saskatchewan Average		.14	8.73	7.83	67	62
Alberta						
1	Medicine Hat	.03	7.04	6.93	68	69
	Foremost	.08	8.18	9.20	66	62
	Manyberries	.02	4.42*	6.97	66	68
2	Macleod	.26	13.13	7.74	66	64
	Cowley	.38	6.61*	8.51	N.R.	N.R.
	Lethbridge	.58	8.00*	7.79	67	64
	Cardston	.52	7.36	11.31	65	61
3	Brooks	.02	6.57	6.71	65	62
	Empress	.02	6.41	7.26	68	62
	Vauxhall	.04	6.27	6.62	64	63
	Vulcan	.30	9.24	8.06	N.R.	N.R.
4	High River	.80	10.46*	9.39	61	59
5	Drumheller	.10	11.34	8.40	66	60
	Hanna	.12	11.36	9.26	61	59
	Naco	Nil	8.94	8.07	64	58
6	Olds	.04	14.42	8.89	60	58
	Three Hills	.34	10.21	7.86	57	59
	Strathmore	.06	9.49	8.20	64	60
	Gleichen	.28	9.17	7.68	64	61
	Calgary	.41	11.19	9.38	61	61
	Banff	N.R.	.30*	8.60	N.R.	N.R.
7	Coronation	.06	7.44	6.84	64	58
	Hughenden	.36	7.94*	7.72	63	58
	Hardisty	.14	7.66	8.31	N.R.	N.R.
	Sedgewick	.14	7.66	8.05	64	60
	Viking	.18	7.80	7.37	62	58
	Camrose	.04	7.99*	8.43	62	60
8	Wetaskiwin	.04	8.46	8.80	63	59
	Lacombe	.12	8.92	9.30	63	58
	Alix	.14	9.86	8.60	62	60
	Springdale	N.R.	11.11*	10.98	N.R.	58
	Red Deer	.12	8.03	10.84	58	57
	Stettler	.10	8.82	9.60	61	59
10	Wegreville	.06	7.42	9.96	62	59
	Vermilion	.34	9.10	9.79	64	59
	Lloydminster	.38	6.03	7.32	66	59
11	Edmonton	.02	8.44	9.55	61	60
	Calmar	.06	8.28	9.97	60	59
12	Edson	.28	10.38	9.17	58	57
	Jasper	Trace	6.46	4.57	58	55
13	Glendon	.08	10.34	7.94	62	59
14	Athabaska	.12	9.51	8.55	57	58
	Campsie	.16	7.02	9.55	59	59
15	High Prairie	.68	6.26	8.18	59	58
	Kinuso	.52	4.83	7.84	58	58
16	Fairview	.25	8.45*	5.82	59	56
	Beaverlodge	.28	7.99	6.70	59	57
17	Keg River	Trace	9.64*	7.70	60	60
	Fort Vermilion	.14	8.57	6.00	60	59
	Fort McMurray	.14	5.73	7.62	62	60
	Fort Smith	.42	4.62	4.98	60	58
Alberta Average		.20	8.41	8.21	62	60

*Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

*Incomplete.

N.R. - No Report.

REPORTS OF DOMINION ENTOMOLOGICAL LABORATORIES

Brandon, Manitoba

Grasshopper flights have continued to increase the infestations and damage in south-central and to some extent west-central Manitoba. Previously unin-fested areas between the Assiniboine and Pembina valley now have moderate to severe populations.

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Grasshopper flights largely finished. Dropping of wheat heads by grasshoppers possibly averages ten per cent in four southern crop districts, being much less than last year. Probably little further loss now except to late oats and barley. Gophers have cut considerable ripe crop in some districts.

Lethbridge, Alberta

Wheat-stem sawfly cutting prematurely ripening wheat in Nobleford-Barons area, infestation ten per cent of crop. Grasshopper migrations confined to south-east corner but general crop losses slight.

HAIL DAMAGE

MANITOBA (North West Adjustment and Inspection Company, Limited, Regina)

Bowsman and Bowsman river sixty to one hundred per cent. Cypress river thirty to fifty per cent.

SASKATCHEWAN (The Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association, Regina)

No hail losses reported in last week

ALBERTA (The Alberta Hail Insurance Board, Calgary)

Light hail July 28 from Red Deer west to Rocky Mountain House. Thirtieth, Vegreville, Ryley and Andrew districts. Thirty-first in the Gem and Cessford districts.

REPORTS OF CORRESPONDENTS

MANITOBA

Winnipeg, Provincial Department of Agriculture

Monday's moderate but widespread rains brought first real delay in Manitoba harvesting operations. Heat and drought have prematurely ripened all grains and have seriously reduced yield and stunted potatoes, corn and many vegetable crops. Pastures exceedingly bare. Though advancement is very varied locally, about half Manitoba's grain is cut and upwards of five per cent threshed.

SOUTH-CENTRE

Morden, Dominion Experimental Station

Weather dry and hot. Crop burned. Wheat yielding seven to twenty-five, average twelve. Sample thin. Grades averaging Two to Three and lower. Coarse grain crop very poor. Barley and oat sample thin, near failure. Stock suffering. No pasture. Grasshoppers flying in millions, devouring anything that is still green.

SOUTH-WEST

Melita - Telegraphic Correspondent

Hot dry weather during past week. Seventy-five per cent of cutting done. A few will commence threshing this week. Wheat yield expected to be twelve to fourteen bushels. Early sown oats good, barley and rye light, tall. Late sown grain poor. Pastures and gardens drying up.

MANITOBA (Concluded)WEST-CENTREBrandon, Dominion Experimental Farm

Weather changeable, extreme heat, very little precipitation. Generally rapid progress with harvesting. Some reports from combining indicate yields twenty bushels and up with grade better than anticipated. Oat crop badly injured by heat and drought. Pastures badly dried up. Corn very short crop.

Woodnorth, Telegraphic Correspondent

Cutting practically completed. Extreme heat and lack of rainfall together with grasshoppers have taken a heavy toll. Wheat in most cases will not exceed Three Northern. Oats and barley poor. Hay and clover crops also below average.

NORTH-CENTRETeulon, Agricultural Representative

Considerable grain now in stocks. Cutting advanced rapidly until delayed by rain August 7. This is the first rain other than light showers since June 24. Pastures bare. Grasshoppers numerous in certain sections.

NORTH-WESTKelwood, Telegraphic Correspondent

No change in the situation. Continues hot and dry. Harvest well advanced. Some threshing done. Everything, gardens, potatoes, pastures badly affected by heat and continued drought. Water supply with many becoming serious. Summer-fallow wheat standing up pretty well.

Dauphin, Agricultural Representative

Harvest held up by heavy showers over week-end. Cutting early, half done. Some threshing done. Wheat grade and yield satisfactory. Average around 20 bushels. Barley light in both grade and yield. Pastures needed the rain, also gardens and potatoes.

Swan River, Telegraphic Correspondent

Harvest just started. Wheat and rye good average crop. Barley and oats slightly below average. Grain heads well filled but short. Plenty of moisture till after harvest. Hay crop above average and good quality. Gardens splendid. Stock looking well. Slight hail damage confined to small areas.

SASKATCHEWANRegina, Provincial Department of Agriculture

The past two weeks have been extremely hot and dry and further declines are recorded in crop prospects in many parts of the province. Wide variations now exist in different districts. As previously reported the crops in south-eastern and on the lighter land in the Regina-Weyburn districts are for the most part extremely poor and in much of this area no commercial crop will be harvested. A very serious decline from early prospects is noted even on the heavy land in the Regina-Plains area with prospects now reported fair. The decline has continued in the eastern portion of south-central Saskatchewan and prospects in this area have been seriously reduced. In the western portion of the south-central district crops are still reported fair to good. A considerable variation exists in the south-western district with declines noted in the southern portion, the Maple Creek area, and the extreme north-western corner of the district. In other portions of the district crops have stood up fairly well and good returns are still in prospect. The decline noted in the southern portion of the east-central district has continued although a good rain is reported in the Yorkton area over the week-end which will be beneficial to late crops. Prospects in the northern portion of the district are still reported fair to good. Crops in central Saskatchewan are extremely varied. Prospects are very poor in the southern portion

SASKATCHEWAN (Continued)

particularly in the area east and west of Last Mountain Lake. In the northern and western portions of the district prospects range from fair to good. Crops on the heavy land in the southern portion of west-central Saskatchewan have stood up well. In this district the crop is later and rains would still be beneficial. Many points in the northern portion and in a strip along the Alberta boundary range from extremely poor to fair. With the exception of the Prud'homme and Humboldt areas where further declines are recorded crop prospects have been well maintained in the north-eastern district. Due to the patchy moisture conditions that have existed in north-western Saskatchewan the crop shows wide variations at different points. Prospects are reported fair to fairly good in the eastern part of the district but poor to only fair in the western portion. The decline in crop prospects is mainly attributable to the prolonged dry spell coupled with extremely high temperatures. Moisture reserves proved insufficient in many areas to support the heavy growth that was promoted by the favourable conditions in the early part of the season. Many fields failed to fill properly and both yield and grade will be seriously affected. A considerable amount of cutting has been done in the drier districts but the crop is later in western and northern districts and cutting is not expected to commence in some areas before the middle of the month. Grasshopper damage has been patchy and in some places considerable injury has occurred to oats. A considerable portion of the coarse grains is being cut for feed to prevent destruction. Live stock on the whole are in fairly good condition but pastures are badly in need of rain in many districts.

SOUTH-EAST

Service, Telegraphic Correspondent

Wheat 70 per cent cut. Oats and barley mostly dried up. Quality and yield of wheat will be low. Pastures burned up. Point five seven inch moisture fell today. Temporarily very cool after extreme heat. Rainfall from April first five point three seven inches.

Yellow Grass, Telegraphic Correspondent

Wheat 35 per cent cut. Wheat is not filling well here. Barley and oats are light. Pastures drying up. Need rain. Live stock doing well. Moisture to date eight point zero two inches.

Indian Head, Dominion Experimental Farm

Harvest fairly general in eastern Saskatchewan. Crop returns very disappointing. Threshing reports indicate low yields and poor quality grain. Grasshoppers destroying coarse grains. Rainfall August seventh point five eight inch.

SOUTH-WEST

Swift Current, Dominion Experimental Station

Hot dry weather during past week forced all crops closer to harvest. Some early barley, rye and oats being cut. Wheat harvest may commence in one week to ten days. Expect extremely variable yields from fifteen to thirty bushels per acre, average about twenty-two bushels. Moisture supply sufficient to mature most crops satisfactorily, if extremely hot dry conditions of past week not repeated. Pastures turning brown but ample grazing assured. Satisfactory live stock conditions.

EAST-CENTRE

Willowbrook, Telegraphic Correspondent

Cutting well under way interrupted by heavy rain Monday. Rain will help later grains. Crops now down. Coarse grains sixty per cent, wheat forty.

WEST-CENTRE

Rosetown, Telegraphic Correspondent

Heat wave of past week damaged some late grain on lighter soils but hastened filling of early crops. Crops are looking well over this district. Harvesting will not be general for ten days. No serious damage from grasshoppers or hail to date.

SASKATCHEWAN (Concluded)

WEST-CENTRE (Concluded)

Scott, Supervisor of Illustration Stations

Heavy soils on Goose Lake line where July rains received have good wheat crop. Remainder of north-western Saskatchewan has spotty crop having several large areas with below average yields. Shallow rooted grain unable to withstand July drought. Set of alfalfa seed generally poor in north.

Senlac, Telegraphic Correspondent

Little moisture has fallen since last report, resulting in further depreciation of gardens and field crops. Spring ploughing has suffered most from lack of moisture but it is estimated that crops are not more than fifty per cent injured.

NORTH-EAST

Melfort, Dominion Experimental Station

Point zero seven inch of rain during week. Extremely hot wind fourth and fifth ripened grain too rapidly for proper filling. Yield will be considerably lowered due to this. Some early barley already cut. Wheat cutting will start about August fourteenth.

NORTH-CENTRE

Rosthern, Dominion Experimental Station

With three ninety-degree days during week and no moisture, cereal and garden crops suffered heavily. Possible grain yield reduced twenty per cent and grain maturing ten days early. Early sown barley and oats should yield fifty bushels. Corn also promising. Grasshoppers plentiful but little damage reported.

ALBERTA

SOUTH-EAST

Manyberries, Dominion Range Experiment Station

Long hot spell broken by light showers and cooler weather on Sunday. Wheat harvest will be general this week. Grasshoppers continue to do severe damage and are now laying eggs. Many immature crops have been cut to avoid total loss from hoppers. Range grasses have cured and live stock doing well. Hay crop very good generally although second cut of alfalfa and grain hays damaged by hoppers. Yield and grade of wheat will be disappointing.

SOUTH-WEST

Lethbridge, Dominion Experimental Station and Illustration Stations

Hot dry weather continued during the past week until Saturday when the weather turned cool. No improvement in crop conditions generally but with cool weather late crops may fill better. South of Calgary most promising crops in narrow strip along foothills but east of this area crops are fair to poor.

Cardston, Telegraphic Correspondent

Half-inch rainfall since last report. Most crops too far advanced to benefit but late summer fallow will gain some if cool weather continues.

Vulcan, Telegraphic Correspondent

Hot dry weather last week. Cooler Sunday with point two three inch rain. This will help the late crops fill but a lot of fields are past redemption. Frost west side of district night of July thirty-first. Binders and swathers going this week.

Claresholm, Telegraphic Correspondent

Some rain and cooler weather has helped crop especially late seeding. Yield cut to about fifteen bushels with poorer grades than usual in this district. Cutting general next week.

ALBERTA (Concluded)

EAST-CENTRE

Hanna, Telegraphic Correspondent

Scattered showers past week. Weather turned cool. Early wheat well filled. Late wheat shows effect of dry weather. Oat crop will be light. Wheat cutting will start in about ten days. Good crop of hay.

CENTRE

Stettler, Telegraphic Correspondent

Weather somewhat cooler but no rain since last report. Twenty-five per cent damage by drought. Some places report frost Sunday night. Cannot estimate damage yet. Need rain for late grain. Cutting will start in ten days. Hay crop good. Pastures poor.

WEST CENTRE

Calgary, Telegraphic Correspondent

Weather last few days cooler with scattered showers. Crops filling well but afraid yields materially reduced by hot spell of last few weeks. Look for somewhat lower yields than last year.

Lacombe, Dominion Experimental Station

Hot dry winds August 3 and 4 caused serious burning to fifty per cent of crops but advanced maturity about a week. Cooler days since have allowed crops to fill but large percentage all crops on stubble will be light in yield and weight per bushel. With only one point five inches rain in July all crops suffering. Pastures turning brown.

Edmonton, Telegraphic Correspondent

Hot weather continued from last report up until last Saturday and affected the late grains considerably, also forced the premature ripening of wheat. Weather has been cool for the last three days and close to the frost line on the morning of the seventh. Odd field wheat and barley being harvested.

NORTH-EAST

Vermilion, Telegraphic Correspondent

Wheat crops have ripened or dried rapidly during the past week. Oats, green feed and gardens are poor and promise only a poor crop on the average. Harvesting of wheat will begin in a week if present weather continues and crops will be heavy in sections to almost failure in others.

NORTH-WEST

Beaverlodge, Dominion Experimental Sub-station

Crops filling extremely well and maturing rapidly. Some early barley harvested. Rank crops certain localities especially of oats but some crops below par. Scattering touches of hail July 30 ruined a few fields and damaged others, but general situation good.

Fort Vermilion, Dominion Experimental Sub-station

Weather continues warm with scattered showers. Soil moisture good. Precipitation for past week point one three inch. Mean temperature 60 degrees. Cutting of wild hay well under way. Harvesting commenced in some districts.



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