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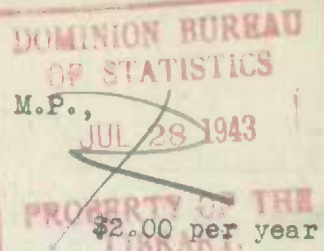
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by Authority of the Hon. James A. MacKinnon, M.P.,

Minister of Trade and Commerce

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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, July 27, 1943, 3 p.m.- The fifth of a series of 8 telegraphic reports covering crop conditions throughout Canada is issued today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Included in this report is the tenth of a series of 18 weekly telegraphic reports on crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces. One hundred and four correspondents, most of them agriculturists of the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, but including selected private observers and grain men, supply the information on which these reports are based. The Meteorological Service of Canada, Toronto supplies official weather data.

SUMMARY

Except in Saskatchewan and Alberta where high temperatures without effective rainfall caused further deterioration of crop prospects, weather conditions during the past week favoured crop development across Canada. Early cereal crops are above average in the Maritime Provinces but the late grain crops are less promising, while the hay crop, the harvesting of which is now general, is yielding better than expected. Harvesting of fall wheat is in full swing in Ontario but losses from winter-killing and rust are expected to be severe. Haying is making slow progress in Ontario due largely to the lack of labour. Cereal crops are heading out in Quebec but in the Montreal area the progress of crops is still very backward. Haying is under way and about 50 per cent of the crop is in the barn.

In the Prairie Provinces, crop prospects were well maintained in Manitoba despite light rainfall during the past week, but in Saskatchewan and Alberta further deterioration took place. The drought area of south-eastern Alberta which takes in most of Crop Districts 1, 3 and 5 took more punishment, while other areas which had shown good promise hitherto are now reporting a setback to crops on stubble and the need of immediate rain to maintain prospects on fallow. In Saskatchewan, the best conditions continue to show in eastern sections of the province, but in the absence of rain during a week of high temperatures further deterioration over an extensive area was reported. Heavy downpours are now needed to revive wilting crops and assist in filling. Hail damage was severe in spots in all three provinces while insect damage, principally from grasshoppers and awfly was noted in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The harvest is expected to be general in Manitoba from August 10 onward but in Saskatchewan cutting is not expected to commence before August 20. No harvest date for Alberta is indicated by crop correspondents.

Weather conditions in British Columbia were favourable during the past two weeks and the harvesting of fall wheat has commenced. The first hay crop is in and most of it stored in good condition, while the second cut of alfalfa is now in progress in the irrigated sections of the province.

Maritime Provinces

Hay making is now general in Prince Edward Island and the crop is heavier than earlier estimates indicated. Good crops of clover and alfalfa are being harvested in some districts while pastures generally are excellent. Early cereals are above average but late cereal crops are only fair. Root crops are above average while potatoes are only average.

Hot weather beginning July 12 has greatly improved the hay crop throughout Nova Scotia and yields are now considered to be average. Fertilized pastures, however, are not as good as they were a year ago. Haying has started but a very small percentage

Maritime Provinces (concluded)

is as yet in the barns. Grain yields are expected to be below average but have improved as a result of the more favourable weather. Adverse weather earlier in the season has prevented proper thinning of the turnip fields and has been responsible for rotting of potato seed in some sections.

Hay in new seedings in New Brunswick is below average but is average on old meadows. Pastures are generally good. Foggy mornings and unsettled weather is delaying hay making and less than one-quarter of the crop has as yet been stored. Growing conditions are now excellent and early grain is in head. The straw is heavy and some lodging has occurred. Late grains, vegetable and potato crops are now growing rapidly.

Quebec

Haying has been under way during the past two weeks and although the work has been retarded somewhat by intermittent rains, about 50 per cent of the crop is in the barn. Haying was practically completed at this date last year. Cereal crops have made considerable progress in the eastern districts but there has been no change in the Montreal area where these crops are making a poor showing. Pastures are abundant and a good milk production is being maintained. Everywhere there are complaints of the seriousness of the lack of farm help and particularly in the Joliette district where appreciable quantities of standing hay have been sold at low prices. Agricultural pests are well under control, with the exception of the flat-headed apple tree borer which is causing much damage. Apple scab and blight are prevalent in orchards that have not been well sprayed.

Haying is just starting in the area around St. Anne de la Pocatiere where frequent although not heavy rains have interfered with normal operations. Potatoes, roots and corn crops are promising in this district and cereal crops are heading out. The flax crop is very promising throughout the district.

Ontario

Fall wheat cutting is in full swing with much rust in evidence and considerable winter-killing. Haying is making slow progress due to lack of help. Corn and root crops are suffering from lack of cultivation on most farms as the labour shortage is still acute. Early sown spring grains look well and promise average yields.

Crops in south-western Ontario have responded to recently improved weather conditions. However, exceptionally good weather must prevail to fully mature the late portions of the corn and tobacco crops for which comparatively low yields are indicated at present. Wheat cutting is pretty well completed in this area and threshing is under way. Only fair yields are reported. The oat crop will also be light. Beans are looking good and beets are growing well but there are many low acreages and poor stands. Pastures are good.

Grain crops around Walkerton are making exceptionally good growth as are also corn and root crops. Haying, although delayed by weather conditions and the shortage of labour, is 85 per cent completed.

In the Galt area the latest haying season on record is nearly over and a very heavy crop has been harvested. Cutting of fall wheat is general. Yields are below average and the quality of the crop is not up to standard. There is some early blight on potatoes.

A heavy crop of good quality hay is ready to be cut in the Kapuskasing district but heavy rains have made it impossible to get on with the work.

Manitoba

Weather conditions in Manitoba were ideal for crops during the past week except that a little rain would have been beneficial in southern and western portions of the province. Practically all of the wheat crop is in head and a large proportion of the coarse grain crop is also fully headed, while early sown barley and fall rye will be ready to cut early in August. Harvesting will not be general anywhere until August 10 or later.

Crop stands are heavy, especially the flax crop. Insect damage on the whole is light but hail caused severe losses in some areas. A particularly bad storm was experienced in the Portage district and crops were damaged over a wide area, losses being estimated at 25 to 100 per cent. Rust on flax varies in severity and crown and leaf rust on other crops is in evidence.

Haying has made satisfactory progress except in flooded areas where operations have been delayed. The crop is excellent and live stock are doing very well in most areas. Potato crops are weedy but give good promise, while rape seed and sunflower crops as well as sugar beets are making satisfactory progress.

Saskatchewan

High temperatures and generally light rainfall contributed to a lowering of crop prospects over an important area of the province of Saskatchewan the past week. The best conditions continue to show in the eastern sections of the province but the Indian Head area is now reporting the need of rain and in the north-east around Melfort a deficiency of moisture is apparent and stubble crops in that area will be light.

Rains brought about some improvement in crops in the north-western portions, but in the south-western and west-central districts the outlook is described as only fair while there was marked deterioration in districts within 100 miles east and south-east of Saskatoon. Crops on heavy soils are standing up fairly well but on the lighter soils the outlook is only fair. There is now a general need of good soaking rains to halt deterioration and assist in the filling of heads. Harvesting is not expected to commence before August 20.

Drought and hail have been the principal causes of crop loss in Saskatchewan but grasshoppers are now taking a toll of the flaxseed crop in some areas. Hail damage was severe in a number of localities as the result of a storm on July 25.

About 90 per cent of summerfallowing has been completed, taking the province as a whole, while haying is well advanced. The condition of pastures is only fair but live stock are doing well.

Alberta

Alberta's south-eastern districts took more punishment from drought and heat during the past week and prospects were lowered still further in Crop Districts 1, 3 and 5 which have suffered from drought most of the season. Conditions fell off a little also in the central and west-central areas, chiefly among the crops on stubble, but rains now would retrieve this loss and help late crops. Crops have suffered also in the south-west, but immediate rain in the Claresholm district would produce a fair crop of all grains. Wheat and flax in that area are headed.

The outlook is still good around Calgary, except that stubble crops have slipped back a little, while the Edmonton district reports good growth of crops but needs more warm weather to overcome the late start. Intense heat the past week gave crops a set-back in the Athabasca region while fresh to strong winds without effective rainfall reduced crop prospects around Beaverlodge. The outlook in the north-west is still promising, however.



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Alberta (concluded)

All crops are generally late in Alberta apart from the drought areas where they are ripening on short straw and no general harvest date is yet available. Insect damage, principally sawfly and grasshoppers is severe in spots. Grasshoppers are abundant in southern Alberta and are attacking late grains and flaxseed, while the sawfly epidemic is reported to be worse than it was in 1941.

British Columbia

The weather in British Columbia during the past two weeks has been generally fine with fairly high temperatures. Harvesting of the first hay crop is nearing completion and the crop generally has been stored in good condition. The second cut of alfalfa is now in progress in the irrigated sections of the province. Harvesting of fall wheat has now commenced. The loganberry harvest on Vancouver Island is now in full swing and the crop is reported to be good. The sweet cherry harvest is now nearly over in this district. In the Okanagan Valley haying is completed and cutting of fall wheat and second cut alfalfa has commenced. A good movement of lettuce, celery, tomatoes and cucumbers is in progress. The raspberry harvest is past the peak and black currants are at present being processed. Yellow Transparent apples are now being picked and Green Duchess are nearly ready.
