

22-002
no. 10
1943
July 13
c. 1

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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, July 13, 1943, 3 p.m.- The fourth 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 eighth 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

Hot weather fairly well across the Dominion induced rapid growth of crops during the past week but in the Prairie Provinces it led also to crop deterioration where the moisture supply was deficient, the areas chiefly affected being western Saskatchewan and south-eastern Alberta. The situation in the Maritimes was improved by recent rains but Nova Scotia appears to have missed most of the heat wave and is now calling for warmer weather. The general situation in Ontario appears to indicate improvement but the crops are still very late. Quebec reports beneficial effects from warm weather of the past two weeks but correspondents fear it will not be possible to overcome the handicap of delayed seeding and that the yields of all crops will be reduced.

Except in Manitoba and in some sections of Alberta, chiefly the central and northern areas, crop prospects in the Prairie Provinces were lowered during the past week. The mercury bounded up to 100 degrees in the shade at several points and hovered in the ninety's at most points in western Canada during the first part of last week but in the absence of rainfall in the drought area of south-eastern Alberta and western areas of Saskatchewan, crop conditions deteriorated. Manitoba received good general rains and except in the flooded areas of the Red River Valley these were welcome and enhanced crop prospects. The other two provinces experienced showers but these were generally light and good soaking rains are now needed over a substantial part of both Saskatchewan and Alberta. Wheat is heading out on short straw in the dry areas but elsewhere the stand of crops is good and growth was rapid during the week. Coarse grain crops show a variable condition, particularly in Saskatchewan and Alberta, while flax appears to be thin and weedy at a number of points and is being attacked by rust, chiefly in Saskatchewan areas.

Spring grains are showing excellent growth in British Columbia and winter wheat is now changing colour. Weather conditions have been favourable during the past fortnight, temperatures being moderately high and some showers falling in most areas. Haying is general but the yields are below average.

Maritime Provinces

Beneficial rains and much needed heat have improved the general condition of the early-sown cereals in Prince Edward Island. Late-sown cereals are also growing rapidly. Hay and pastures are above average in condition, and while root and corn crops are late, their condition also is above average. Dry, warm weather is badly needed in the Nappan area of Nova Scotia. Recent rains have seriously delayed late root crops and potatoes. Excessive moisture has delayed the early plantings of these crops. Cultivation has been impossible to date and much grain is yellowing. Hay has improved and fertilized pastures are good but in the unfertilized areas the pastures are poor. In the Annapolis Valley heavy rains during the past week have caused further deterioration of the fruit crop prospects. Well-sprayed orchards are fairly free of scab and insects, but where spraying

Maritime Provinces (concluded)

was not well done scab is heavy. Strawberries are very soft and much fruit is decaying in the fields. In New Brunswick wet weather during the past two weeks has been ideal for the growth of all crops, especially hay and pastures. Much of the grain is very late, but of good colour. Hay-making will not be general until July 20, ten days later than last year.

Quebec

Although crops generally have benefited from the warmer weather of the past two weeks, it will not be possible to overcome the handicap of delayed seeding and yields of all crops will be materially reduced, particularly in the Montreal district. Haying is well under way in many areas and yields are justifying early expectations. There is some damage from stem blight due to excessive moisture in the thick clover fields. Luxuriant pastures have kept the milk flow at a very high level. Backward hoed crops have grown rapidly during the past few days but the real problem of the market gardeners is the shortage of labour. Potato and flea beetles are active and onion and cabbage maggots are damaging truck crops. Cutworms and striped cucumber beetles are also numerous. Apple blight is reported in all fruit areas and scab is prevalent in poorly sprayed orchards. Wild mustard and Canada thistles are spoiling many cereal crops but heavy rains and floods have been the cause of the most severe damage.

Clover and alfalfa are badly lodged in the L'Assomption district with 20 to 30 per cent of the crop being left on the ground. Flue-cured tobacco in this area is growing well on an acreage reduced by 25 per cent. There is a similar reduction in the acreage of cigar leaf tobacco, planting of which is not yet quite finished. Haying is just started in the district around Lennoxville. Timothy is in full bloom and early-sown oats is just starting to head. The condition of sown crops is rather poor in southern Quebec and the corn crop is also making slow progress. Canning peas and beans are considered almost a failure in the Richelieu and Chateauguay Valleys.

Ontario

Haying is general and good progress is being made in spite of the handicap of heavy rains in many areas and the acute shortage of labour. The late season has resulted in a keen demand for buckwheat which has been substituted for other crops and there has been some expansion in the area sown. The outlook for spring wheat is much less favourable than a year ago and fall-sown wheat, which makes up the bulk of the Ontario crop, is not very promising.

Recent heavy rains have caused further damage to tobacco, corn, sugar beets and other late crops in south-western Ontario. Pastures are in good condition but haying is late and carried out with difficulty. Cutting of wheat is beginning. Early potatoes are doing nicely but there is an appreciable amount of late blight. Corn and beans have suffered from excess moisture in some sections but tomatoes are doing well. Growth of most crops is slow, particularly corn for which there has been too much rain and too little hot weather. The tobacco acreage is much smaller than previously anticipated in Essex and Kent counties.

Crop prospects in the London area are generally the worst in several years. Although some early seeded fields look promising, spring grains are very uneven and thin. Wheat is turning colour and some rust is reported. Fall wheat is ripening quickly and a good crop is in prospect in Waterloo county. Early oats and barley are also heading out. Haying is general and a heavy crop is being harvested in this area but on the heavy lands in surrounding areas crop prospects are poor. Northumberland county presents a promising picture with a heavy hay crop half harvested, rye being cut, wheat ripening, oats in head and canning crops growing rapidly. Canneries are kept busy with an average pea crop.

Manitoba

Several days of very hot weather in Manitoba were followed by heavy general rains during the past week and except in the already flooded portions of the Red River Valley where damage to crops appears to have been material, the extra moisture was welcome. Growth of crops made good progress with the combination of heat and rainfall and much wheat as well as some oats and barley are well headed, while flax is in bloom. Stands of all crops are heavy except where drowned out.

Storms in some districts of the province have caused the early grain crops to lodge and a little hail damage is reported from the Basswood area. No important insect damage is reported but weed growth is very heavy. The cultivation of row crops has been made difficult by the wet weather but the corn crop shows improvement since a week ago.

Live stock are doing very well on excellent pastures while the harvesting of a good hay crop was started last week but was halted by the heavy rains. The progress of summer fallowing appears to be satisfactory. A heavy yellow clover and alfalfa crop is being cut in the Dauphin area.

Saskatchewan

With the mercury soaring to 100 degrees in the shade at several points and in the ninety's at most points in Saskatchewan the past week, the generally light rainfall was insufficient to meet the needs of growing crops and further deterioration took place. Soil moisture conditions are now reported to be generally poor except in the south-eastern and east-central districts of the province.

The stand of crops is mostly good except in the western portion of Saskatchewan running from Maple Creek to North Battleford along the Alberta boundary. Conditions are not so good in the Kelvington area and are only fair to good in west-central districts. Almost 80 per cent of the wheat crop is in shot blade while in the Manor and Indian Head districts wheat is heading out. Stubble crops are burning badly in the Swift Current district and all crops in that area are badly in need of rain.

Barley and early oats are heading out at a number of points and flax is in bloom, but rust, seedling blight and weeds are threats to the flax crop especially in the Swift Current and Val Marie districts and around Rosetown and Scott. Wheat is mostly headed out in the Melfort area where growth has been remarkably rapid the past week, but rains will be needed soon.

Some hail damage is reported from a number of points but on the whole losses from this source are not heavy. Insect damage is not serious taking the province as a whole. Live stock are in good shape but pastures are reported now to be in only fair condition.

Alberta

No appreciable relief came to the dry areas of south-eastern Alberta during the past week and a combination of high winds and hot sun led to further serious deterioration of crop prospects. Crops are reported to be burned beyond help in the Manyberries area where they are headed out only six inches in height. Local showers helped the situation west of Lethbridge while in the Vulcan area despite the need of rain, crops on good summerfallow are holding up well.

Conditions in central and northern areas are still generally favourable although in the Hanna district the warm, dry weather of the past week has caused wheat to head out on short straw. Wheat is 5 to 40 per cent headed in the Calgary area where coarse grains are just starting to head out while flax in this area is in fair condition. A good rain now would maintain present prospects in this part of the province.



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Alberta (concluded)

In the west-central area around Olds, conditions appear to be ideal with moisture supply ample, but Lacombe reports unfavourable effects from hot, drying winds and rains are now needed. Edmonton reports some dry top soil but crops not yet suffering, while in the Athabasca section everything looks promising. The crops in the B.C. Peace River Block and around Grande Prairie are good although late, but the situation in the north-east section of the Peace is unfavourable.

British Columbia

The weather in British Columbia during the past two weeks has been generally favourable for the growth of all crops. Temperatures have been moderately high and there have been some good showers. Haying is general and on the whole yields are below average. Winter wheat is now changing colour and the harvest of this crop is not far distant. Spring sown grains are now making excellent growth.

Soil moisture conditions on Vancouver Island are at present satisfactory. Spring sown grains are making better growth than was indicated earlier in the season. Haying is well under way but considerable amounts of hay are still in the fields. Recent rains caused some splitting of cherries and raspberries are ripening slowly. In the lower mainland dry, bright weather is badly needed for haying, weed control and raspberry picking. Much hay is now cut and 20 per cent has been stored, but the yields are below average. Oats and potatoes are good, but corn is late. Pastures are excellent and live stock are in good condition. In the Kamloops district field crops are late and their condition is below average. Grasshoppers are very bad throughout the uncontrolled area in the southern interior of the province and are commencing to do damage. In the Okanagan Valley the weather has been favourable to crop growth. The hay stands, however, are below normal. Winter wheat is now changing colour. The shipment of vegetables is on the increase and celery and early potatoes are now moving. The strawberry harvest is over and the shipping of raspberries has commenced. The "drop" of apples is heavier than anticipated. In the Creston district temperatures have improved slightly, but rain and dull weather continue. The hay crop is heavy but great difficulty is being experienced in cutting it. Oats, barley and wheat are now heading out but rain and wind have caused considerable lodging. In the Prince George area, the hay crop is ready to harvest, but unsettled weather has prevented the start of haying operations. Yields will be very light throughout the district. The grain crops are late, but have stooled out well and produced good, thick stands in most districts. Some early sown fields of wheat are beginning to head out.