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Dominion Statistician: S. A. Cudmore, M.A. (Oxon.), LL.D. (Tor.), F.S.S., F.R.S.C.
Acting Chief, Agricultural Branch: Ian McArthur, M.Sc.
Grain Statistician: G. L. Burton.

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, July 4, 1945, 3 p.m. - The fifth of a series of fourteen telegraphic reports dealing with crop conditions in the three Prairie Provinces is issued today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. A selected list of crop correspondents chosen from Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, private crop observers and grain men, supply the information on which these reports are based. All weather data are furnished by the Dominion Meteorological Service of Canada.

SUMMARY

Prospects for the grain crops in the Prairie Provinces were greatly improved during the past week by widely scattered rains which ranged up to three inches at several points. Temperatures were below average and the impending damage from drought was checked in south-central and west-central Saskatchewan and in central Alberta. Although the Edmonton area received scattered showers it still requires further rains.

The early planted wheat is now heading out in some districts and coarse grains are making fair progress. Most of the late sown grain is still in the shot-blade stage and warm weather is required to hasten maturity. Crops are, nevertheless, still from ten days to two weeks late and are competing with a vigorous growth of weeds.

Moisture conditions may be generally described as satisfactory in Manitoba with the average height of wheat about 8 inches and coarse grains about 6 inches. Conditions here are satisfactory despite the heavy weed growth. The dry area in south-central and south-western Saskatchewan has received from fair to good rainfall and it is possible that wheat may average 15 bushels to the acre in the Rosetown area. In the extreme south-west further rains in a week or ten days will be necessary as reserve moisture supplies are low. Wheat has stooled out fairly well in the province and also averages about 8 inches in height.

Widespread rains improved conditions in central and south-eastern Alberta which had been suffering from dry weather. Although some rain was received in south-western Alberta crops in this area were already making excellent progress. A large section of central Alberta received from good to heavy rains but these tapered off further north and the Edmonton area still needs heavy rain. Early sown wheat is in the shot-blade stage in the Peace River district and some of it is beginning to head out. Although insect damage has so far not been too severe, sawflies are now in flight. Hail damage is reported over a wide area between Calgary and Medicine Hat.

Manitoba

Rain was received at nearly all points in the province during the week, averaging 1.7 inches for the 25 points reporting. These recent rains have served to bring total precipitation since the first of April to within one-fifth of an inch of normal. Temperatures, however, were about 6 degrees below average for the week as a whole. Crops throughout the province benefitted greatly from the added moisture and are now showing good promise. Warm weather would do much to overcome backward growth conditions. Pastures in the southern end of the Red River Valley are reported to be in above-average condition, while clover, grass, flax and rape are satisfactory. Late sown cereal crops in the Brandon area are now recovering from the recent cool, dry weather, but warmer weather is needed for corn, potato and garden crops. In the Woodnorth section farmers are reported to be making progress with their summerfallowing, while the heavy rain in this district has greatly improved pasture and hay crops.

Live stock are doing well. Weeds continue to constitute a menace to flax around Teulon, although apart from this, crop prospects are good.

In spite of the greatly improved conditions around Minnedosa, the germination of late sown coarse grains is very patchy and crops are still about two weeks behind schedule. Very little wheat is as yet in the shot-blade stage in this area and warm dry weather is needed to hasten maturity. Prospects for the crops are also good around Swan River with all grains making rapid growth since the recent rains. Gardens suffered a slight setback as a result of light frost but are now recovering rapidly.

Wireworm damage is about over for the season and no other insect damage of importance has been reported. However, a severe hail storm occurred in the south-western section of the province covering a block of about 25 miles square between Ranges 21 and 27 and Townships 2 to 5. Damage in this area is estimated at from 50 to 100 per cent.

Saskatchewan

Heavy rains have fallen during the past week over most areas of the province. The average for those points reporting was 1.6 inches, bringing the average precipitation since April 1 to 5.1 inches, as compared with the normal of 5.4 inches. Many points received more than 2 inches of rain during the week. Temperatures were about 5 degrees below normal. This precipitation could not have come at a more opportune moment, as a widespread area in the south-central and west-central parts of the province was threatened with very low yields. As a result of these recent rains crops generally have been greatly benefitted and good recovery is anticipated in the drier districts. Moisture conditions are now reported as good to excellent in all areas, although further rains will soon be required in the west-central district, as moisture reserves there are very low.

Wheat has stooled out fairly well and the grain averages 8 inches in height. Coarse grains average from 6 to 7 inches high and are now showing green in all districts except in the north-east, where 15 per cent has not yet appeared above ground. Early sown wheat is heading out at Indian Head with the straw about 23 inches in length. Work on summerfallow is going ahead rapidly and pastures are making good growth. The rains during the past week have greatly changed crop prospects around Rosetown. It is now possible that this area may harvest a 15 bushel crop, although both wheat and coarse grains will have short straw. Some fields are weedy, but in spite of this, flax promises to return an average yield. Our correspondent at Scott reports that flax and Argentine rape are somewhat backward but should now come along rapidly. Late sown grains in this area will have late growth scattered through them. Melfort, in the north-east, received 2.8 inches of rain during the week and cloudy cool weather prevailed. Some low-lying areas were flooded and growth has been retarded. The hay crop will be heavy although about two weeks late.

Slight wireworm damage is reported at many points in southern, central and west-central areas and is quite extensive in the south-central districts. No hail damage of any importance has been reported.

Alberta

Almost all Alberta points received rain during the past week but total precipitation of 1.1 inches was less than that received in either Manitoba or Saskatchewan. Temperatures were relatively higher averaging only one degree below the normal. Crop prospects have improved with the recent rain which was fairly good in south-central and southern Alberta but only light showers were received in the south-east. Light rains occurred in the north-central section of the province which has been extremely dry. The Peace River area received very light to heavy rains with Grande Prairie getting 1.5 inches.

The average height of the wheat plant is now about 8 inches with coarse grains about 6 inches high. Pastures, however, are still poor and there will be a short hay crop with the exception of the south-western foothills area, where conditions are very favourable. More rain and warm weather is required.

Manyberries reports that only scattered showers were received during the past week and that these have been inadequate to assure a hay crop. The rye crop is fair and cutting will start in about a week. About 80 per cent of the wheat is now in the shot-blade stage and some burning has occurred. Live stock are doing well in spite of the fact that grass conditions are only fair. A limited movement of cattle out of south-eastern Alberta has taken place in the past week, as a result of lack of grass.

Hail damage is reported over a wide area south of Calgary. The area from Taber to Burdett was hailed on June 26. On July 2 hail storms originating west of Olds, Crossfield, High River and Nanton travelled for long distances in a south-eastern direction. Preliminary reports on hail damage have also been received from the Youngstown-Rockyford area, from Vulcan-Lomond and from Foremost. The rains which accompanied these storms were particularly welcome in the eastern districts where crops were already beginning to fade for lack of rain. Hanna reports that grain is now making a good recovery but that early wheat is heading out on short straw. Many fields are weedy but the late-sown grains should make a fair crop if further rains are received. Pastures are only fair in this area and there have been some reports of cutworm damage.

These rains have done a great deal of good around Stettler but pastures are still poor and more rain is needed. Showers and cool weather in the Edmonton area continue to carry crops along but heavy rains are needed. The crops in the Peace River area are showing good colour and growing rapidly with wheat in the shot-blade stage everywhere except in the B.C. block where some of it has headed out.

The grasshopper hatch has now been completed in southern Alberta and some bait is now being put out. The flight of the wheat stem sawfly is now approaching its peak. Some damage has been reported to sugar beets by flea beetles. The feeding period of the pale western cutworm is now about over and damage has been only spotty.

Precipitation and Temperatures in the Prairie Provinces 1/

Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperatures	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m. July 2	
		8 a.m. July 2, 1945	since April 1	since April 1	Mean	Normal
Manitoba						
1	Pierson	1.16	4.40	5.55	58	64
	Waskada	N.R.	3.72 2/	6.56	N.R.	65
2	Boissevain	1.36	6.02	5.95	56	64
	Minette	1.64	5.95 2/	6.54	56	64
	Pilot Mound	1.08	5.74	6.85	59	65
3	Portage la Prairie	.84	5.93	6.03	58	64
	Graysville	.74	4.87	6.66	56	65
	Morden	1.02	5.06	6.43	60	65
	Morris	.92	4.29	6.05	58	65
	Emerson	.84	4.84	5.58	60	65
4	Winnipeg	1.68	5.26	6.71	60	65
6	Sprague	.76	6.18	6.65	58	64
	Pinawa	.72	3.46	4.75	60	63
7	Virden	1.60	5.05	5.40	54	63
	Souris	5.69	9.60	6.11	57	65
	Rivers	2.89	8.65	6.08	57	64
8	Brandon	2.06	6.64	6.11	57	64
	Cypress River	1.33	6.05	5.96	56	64
9	Minnedosa	2.73	6.78	6.01	55	63
10	Russell	2.71	6.99	5.76	54	62
	Birtle	N.R.	4.16 2/	5.79	N.R.	62
11	Paulson	3.12	8.06	4.94	56	62
12	Gimli	1.27	4.85	6.67	58	64
13	Swan River	1.74	5.55	5.82	54	61
	The Pas	1.53	6.14	4.36	53	63
Manitoba Average		1.71	5.77	5.97	57	63
Saskatchewan						
1A	Estevan	2.08	5.38	6.07	59	63
	Carlyle	2.52	7.28	6.24	55	61
1B	Broadview	2.97	8.56	5.28	53	62
	Moosomin	2.33	7.82	4.82	N.R.	62
2A	Yellow Grass	1.30	4.04	5.82	57	63
	Midale	1.54	5.76 2/	6.26	56	63
2B	Moose Jaw	2.26	5.05	5.87	58	65
	Regina	3.62	7.84	5.74	56	62
	Francis	2.34	6.86	4.95	54	62
	Qu'Appelle	1.08	5.70	6.84	53	62
	Indian Head	1.40	5.60	6.66	55	62
3AN	Chaplin	.88	3.45	6.21	52	64
	Gravelbourg	.08	1.71	5.45	55	64
3AS	Assiniboia	1.52	3.40	5.06	55	64
	Ceylon	1.26	2.94	7.25	60	63
3EN	Pennant	1.02	4.32	6.45	58	63
	Swift Current	.64	3.83	5.78	57	63
	Hughton	1.78	3.58	5.42	58	61
3BS	Instow	.74	5.83	5.15	58	63
	Shaunavon	.94	3.92	4.87	58	62
	Cadillac	.36	4.90 2/	7.35	56	63
	Val Marie	.44	4.77	5.46	56	64
	Aneroid	.78	4.44	6.15	57	62
4A	Maple Creek	N.R.	2.39	5.50	N.R.	63
	Consul	.54	2.50	4.94	54	60
4B	Roadene	2.04	4.94	5.43	58	61
5A	Leross	1.24	6.09 2/	5.90	54	60
	Hubbard	1.38	6.23 2/	5.31	52	60
	Yorkton	1.71	6.82	5.44	55	61
	Dafoe	3.15	6.93	5.21	55	60
5B	Foam Lake	3.86	8.79	5.46	55	60
	Lintlaw	1.88	6.32	5.46	52	59
	Kamsack	3.74	8.83	4.69	54	61
6A	Davidson	1.38	6.20	4.81	56	62
	Dilke	N.R.	1.60 2/	5.24	N.R.	N.R.
	Nokomis	1.88	5.34	4.25	56	60
	Semans	1.64	6.72	3.74	55	61
	Strasbourg	4.58	9.10	5.50	52	61
6B	Harris	.98	3.88	5.10	56	61
	Outlook	1.90	4.56	3.69	N.R.	63
	Saskatoon	1.37	4.74	4.77	57	61
	Elbow	1.56	4.18	4.89	57	62
	Dundurn	1.14	4.06	4.86	57	62
	Tugaske	.46	3.57	4.78	56	63

Precipitation and Temperatures in the Prairie Provinces (concluded)

Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperatures	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m. July 2	
		8 a.m. July 2, 1945	since April 1	since April 1	Mean	Normal
Saskatchewan (concluded)						
7A	Kindersley	1.88	3.54	4.34	57	60
7B	Macklin	.80	2.78	5.48	58	59
	Scott	.86	3.31	4.69	56	61
	Ruthilda	N.R.	1.55 2/	5.29	N.R.	N.R.
	Biggar	1.13	4.23	5.23	56	62
8A	Nipawin	1.08	7.14	5.82	56	60
8B	Humboldt	2.55	6.77	4.51	N.R.	61
	Melfort	2.79	9.51	4.84	52	61
9A	North Battleford	1.26	3.70	5.20	58	64
	Rabbit Lake	N.R.	3.30 2/	5.06	N.R.	61
	Prince Albert	.99	6.98	5.21	56	62
9B	Waseca	N.R.	1.38 2/	5.18	N.R.	60
	Loon Lake	.16	5.05	5.98	56	59
Saskatchewan Average		1.61	5.09	5.38	56	61
Alberta						
1	Foremost	.52	4.08	6.94	N.R.	64
	Medicine Hat	1.01	3.85	4.90	61	65
	Manyberries	.52	2.50	5.12	60	65
2	Cowley	1.63	9.92	6.70	55	58
	Macleod	1.76	10.81	3.52	60	63
	Cardston	1.96	12.78	8.79	56	62
	Lethbridge	1.63	8.53	5.84	59	63
3	Vauxhall	.74	4.21	4.52	59	62
	Brooks	2.10	5.85	4.64	61	62
	Empress	.38	1.63	5.25	61	64
4	High River	1.80	9.95	7.25	55	60
	Vulcan	.96	5.61 2/	5.97	N.R.	61
5	Drumheller	1.04	3.32	5.94	60	64
	Hanna	N.R.	2.93 2/	6.34	N.R.	60
6	Olds	.12	2.94	6.12	56	58
	Calgary	1.64	7.34	6.41	57	60
	Three Hills	1.94	5.50	5.60	56	58
	Strathmore	2.68	7.64	5.93	52	58
	Gleichen	1.84	7.30	5.14	56	60
7	Viking	1.30	4.16 2/	5.05	61	59
	Sedgewick	1.26	4.56 2/	5.11	60	59
	Hardisty	1.20	3.96	5.00	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	1.93	4.80	4.72	59	58
	Hughenden	N.R.	2.58 2/	5.06	N.R.	58
8	Red Deer	1.47	5.37	7.47	54	58
	Lacombe	1.46	5.60 2/	6.36	56	58
	Wetaskiwin	.80	4.44	5.80	56	60
	Camrose	N.R.	1.92 2/	5.63	N.R.	60
	Stettler	.86	2.62	6.52	58	58
9	Jasper	.81	2.62	3.03	54	58
	Rocky Mountain House	.59	5.67	6.78	54	57
	Springdale	N.R.	2.33 2/	7.18	N.R.	57
10	Vegreville	1.01	3.67	6.35	59	59
	Lloydminster	N.R.	3.00 2/	4.65	N.R.	59
11	Calmar	N.R.	2.06 2/	6.41	N.R.	60
	Edmonton	N.R.	2.11 2/	5.82	N.R.	60
12	Edson	1.04	3.18 2/	5.48	52	57
13	Glendon	.42	3.62	5.15	53	59
14	Campsie	.50	3.44	5.82	57	59
	Athabaska	N.R.	2.92 2/	5.17	N.R.	59
	Lac la Biche	.52	3.19	5.17	56	59
15	High Prairie	.20	4.07	5.06	58	59
	Kinuso	trace	1.98 2/	5.12	57	59
16	Beaverlodge	1.45	4.21	4.35	54	58
	Grande Prairie	1.52	3.97 2/	5.15	56	58
	Fairview	.40	3.77	3.99	57	59
17	Keg River	.20	3.70	4.89	58	59
	Fort Vermilion	N.R.	2.14 2/	3.68	N.R.	60
	Fort McMurray	.29	3.05	4.21	53	60
	Fort Smith	.05	2.78	3.04	59	59
	Fort St. John	.62	2.44	5.18	56	60
Alberta Average		1.05	4.44	5.51	57	58

N.R. No Report. 1/ Source: Meteorological Service of Canada. 2/ Incomplete.