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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, May 14, 1946, 3 p.m. - The first 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 first of a series of 15 telegraphic reports on crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces. 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. The weather data included in this release are furnished by the Meteorological Service of Canada.

SUMMARY

Weather in the Maritimes and Quebec has been generally backward, with work on the land just getting under way in most areas. Conditions in western and central Ontario have favoured early spring work and seeding is practically complete. Cold, wet weather has delayed progress in eastern Ontario. Spring work in the Prairie Provinces is well advanced with wheat seeding practically completed in Manitoba and nearing completion in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Sowing of coarse grains is coming along well. Weather conditions in Manitoba were generally ideal for early seeding as were conditions in Saskatchewan and Alberta until late April. Recently, however, cold weather with heavy, dry winds in some areas of the latter two provinces has deterred progress to some extent.

Very little seeding has been done in the Maritimes to date due to generally cool weather and heavy precipitation. There is evidence of considerable winter-killing of clover and grasses particularly in New Brunswick. Cool weather in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia has retarded the budding of fruit trees and enhanced their chances of escaping frost damage this year.

In Quebec little work has been accomplished on the land as yet. Winter-killing appears to have been relatively slight in most districts. Western and central Ontario are relatively dry while spring work in eastern Ontario has been hampered by cold, wet weather. Fruit blossoms have been damaged by frost in parts of the peninsula and Georgian Bay regions but damage in the Niagara and Burlington areas is deemed negligible.

Conditions in the Prairie Provinces may be considered generally favourable to date but precipitation since April first has been well below normal in all three provinces. Mean temperatures were above normal in April but in the last week have been below normal. General rains are now needed in many areas to promote germination and growth and to eliminate the danger of serious soil drifting in southern Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Seeding is well advanced throughout British Columbia. Crop and pasture conditions are reported to be favourable in nearly all areas. Tree and small fruits wintered well and prospects at present appear to be excellent.

Maritime Provinces - Cool weather and heavy precipitation have, for the most part, retarded field operations and slowed pasture growth in the Maritime Provinces. Generally speaking, spring seeding has been attempted only in the drier districts of Nova Scotia and in southern and western New Brunswick where some potatoes have been planted. Preparation of land in the southern counties of New Brunswick is progressing favourably for the seeding of spring grains, but, as yet, little has been done in the northern and eastern districts. Clovers in Prince Edward Island wintered fairly well, while considerable winter-killing was evident in some areas in New Brunswick. The outlook for grass in Nova Scotia was reported as being only fair.

Some spray has been applied to the apple orchards along the St. John River in New Brunswick and carrots were sown. Cool weather in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia has retarded the budding of fruit trees and enhanced their chances of escaping frost damage this year.



Quebec - Growth in general has been slow this spring in Quebec. The weather has been cold and wet and vegetation in meadows and pastures is later than normal. Areas along the Lower St. Lawrence and in the northern parts of the province were covered with snow as late as last week. Winter-killing appears to have been relatively slight in most districts. Seeding in the Montreal area is just now getting under way.

Reports from Lennoxville in the southern townships indicate that due to wet, cold weather the trees are just in bud. No work has been done on the land and there is said to be considerable winter-killing of clovers in this area. Similar cold and wet conditions prevail in the districts around Victoriaville, Levis, Beauce and Dorchester. The maple sugar season terminated about April 24 in these districts with good yields reported.

Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere reports no winter-killing of meadows and pastures, but legumes, especially alfalfa, were damaged to some extent. First seeding of grain was on the 9th of May. Fruit trees wintered well in this area and the buds are showing silvery.

Ontario - While conditions in western and central Ontario have been favourable for early soil preparation and completion of spring grain seeding, operations in eastern Ontario have progressed slowly due to cold, wet weather. Some areas in Kent and Essex counties have recently received some rainfall, but for the most part, western and central Ontario need more moisture and higher temperatures to encourage germination and promote growth. Pastures are backward and considerable frost damage has been experienced by the wheat and hay crops. Fruit blossoms in the southern extremities of the peninsula and Georgian Bay suffered from frosts, but damage in the Niagara and Burlington area was negligible. Preparation of land for corn, turnips and potatoes is progressing favourably and large acreages of soy beans and sugar beets are being planted in some sections.

Manitoba - Spring field work is well advanced, moisture and soil conditions having been generally ideal for seeding. Wheat seeding is practically completed except in the northern crop districts. Dauphin, in Crop District 11, reports forty per cent of the wheat drilled in. A large proportion of the oats and barley acreages is seeded with the proportion decreasing toward the more northerly areas. Nearly all of the sugar beets and potatoes are in the ground. These conditions are in strong contrast to last year when at the same date, wheat seeding was only 15 to 50 per cent complete, with work in the Red River Valley being held up by exceedingly wet soil conditions.

Heavy frosts in the last few days have set back cereals but little permanent damage is likely to result in most areas. The Morden Experimental Station reports, however, that very heavy frosts in that area may necessitate reseeding of early oats and barley. Flax has also been damaged in some areas. Wild oats are reported to be showing a heavy infestation in early seeded crops. No insect activity of any importance has been reported.

Warm weather and heavy rains would now be beneficial but generally crops have not yet suffered from drought. Conditions are driest in Crop District 2. Pastures and hay crops are backward in many areas and are in need of moisture. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 38 per cent below normal, with mean temperatures for the week ending May 13 being 11 degrees below normal.

Saskatchewan - As in Manitoba, spring work is well advanced in comparison with the 1945 season. Southern areas report wheat seeding from 70 to 80 per cent complete, although some local areas indicate that all wheat is now drilled in. Northern crop districts report from 45 to 55 per cent of wheat seeded. The Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture reports that for the province as a whole, 69 per cent of the wheat, 43 per cent of the coarse grains and 10 per cent of flax acreages have now been sown. Seeding of wheat is being withheld in many areas in south-central and central districts until rain is received. Recent backward weather has deterred germination and growth has been slow.

Reports from Swift Current indicate conditions have deteriorated, due to dry, windy weather. Soil drifting has reduced the stand on isolated fields throughout the area. Many areas report that recent heavy frosts have damaged early-sown grain, particularly barley. The full extent of the damage cannot as yet be determined. Due to the early spring, pastures showed good growth but are now turning brown in some districts.

Scott reports that what little grain had emerged has been retarded by frost damage. Soil drifting in this area is reported to be greater than for several years but damage has not been severe except in isolated cases. Flaxseed acreages are reported down with some increase in rape seedings.



Reports from the Melfort area in the north-east state that early-sown grain is frozen and weedy. Prolonged cold, wet weather may increase coarse grain acreages at the expense of wheat. Prince, in the north, reports moisture and general conditions good.

Sub-soil moisture throughout the province is deemed to be generally fair to good but surface soil moisture is fair to poor in south-central, south-western, central and west-central districts. In general, recent weather has been cold and backward with high winds and heavy frosts in some areas. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 41 per cent below normal, while the mean temperature for the week ending May 13 has been 8 degrees below normal.

Alberta - In common with the other Prairie Provinces Alberta reports seeding conditions far advanced in comparison with last year. The Provincial Department of Agriculture reports wheat 70 per cent seeded with 40 per cent of the coarse grains in the ground. There has been considerable soil drifting in the south with slight frost damage being reported from some areas.

The Dominion Range Experimental Station at Manyberries in the south-east reports a local drought assuming serious proportions. There is no moisture reserve and grass has ceased growth. Seeding is practically completed but heavy soil drifting will necessitate some reseedling. Some cattle have already been moved in this area, due to lack of grass. Rain is urgently needed.

South of Calgary early sown fields are showing good germination but severe windstorms have caused soil drifting on many fields. Subsoil moisture reserves west of the Nobleford-Champion highway are good in fallow and fair in stubble. East of this highway reserves are only fair in fallow and poor in stubble. Sugar beet seeding is about completed but frost and wind damage will necessitate a limited amount of reseedling. Reports from the south-west indicate that early gardens and small fruits and grains have been somewhat set back by frost. Pasture and hay crops in the vicinity of Cardston are reported as good. Recent rain has further improved prospects in this area.

Warm weather and rain are required in the vicinity of Hanna in the east-central area to promote growth. Sub-soil moisture is only fair and pasture conditions are poor. Stettler reports that while wheat is 60 per cent seeded, oats is only 20 per cent drilled in with barley seeding just getting under way. Cold, dry, windy weather has taken a heavy toll of surface moisture and rain is needed immediately. The Lacombe Experimental Station reports that conditions are dry with grass and grain making very slow growth. The Edmonton area, too, is dry and in need of moisture. Vermilion in the north-east reports only 10 per cent of the wheat seeded with ground very dry and heavy night frosts keeping grass and weeds back. Moisture is considered adequate for germination.

Conditions in the vicinity of Athabasca in the north, are considered normal with soil moisture reserves good. In the Peace River country seeding commenced about April 25, and was general by May 11. Surface moisture is reported good to fair with sub-soil moisture only fair. Weather is dry, with warm winds. Soil drifting has been slight and no frost damage is indicated. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 60 per cent below normal with mean temperatures for the week ending May 13, 3 degrees below normal.

British Columbia - During the month of April, the southern part of the province experienced cool, wet weather which did much to hold back work on the land. Late frosts at the end of the month caused some damage to asparagus and early plantings of tomatoes. Warm, sunny weather in May, together with satisfactory moisture conditions, has promoted rapid growth and advanced spring sowing. For the most part, seeding in the south is nearing completion, while operations are in full swing in the Peace River and northern districts.

Prince George, in the northern part of the province, reports warm, dry weather and an earlier spring than usual. Good progress has been made with the seeding of oats and barley, and, while the land is in excellent condition, moisture is needed, especially on the lighter soils.

Pasture conditions are reported to be excellent in most areas and milk production in the Agassiz district is high. Winter wheat appears to be in satisfactory condition with little or no winter-killing being reported. Tree fruits as well as raspberries and strawberries have wintered well and prospects, at present, appear to be excellent.



## Precipitation and Temperatures in the Prairie Provinces 1/

Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperatures	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending	8 a.m. May 13
		8 a.m. May 13, 1946	since April 1	since April 1	Mean	Normal
Manitoba						
1	Pierson	trace	.15	2.04	40	49
	Waskada	trace	.20	1.53	37	49
2	Boissevain	.14	.90	2.18	37	48
	Ninette	.34	.96	2.23	39	48
	Pilot Mound	.36	1.16	2.00	34	48
3	Portage la Prairie	.06	.51	1.93	39	49
	Graysville	.10	1.08	1.54	38	48
	Morden	.08	.53	1.96	38	49
	Morris	.22	.86	1.73	37	49
	Emerson	.08	1.06	1.13	39	49
4	Winnipeg	.05	.84	2.05	37	50
6	Sprague	.06	2.44	1.98	36	47
	Pinawa	.06	.54	1.28	35	47
7	Virden	.08	.38	1.22	38	47
	Rivers	.09	1.07	1.76	37	48
8	Brandon	.04	1.08	1.75	39	49
	Cypress River	.24	.59	1.69	37	48
9	Minnedosa	.04	1.43	1.75	37	48
	Neepawa	.07	.89	1.75	38	48
10	Russell	.06	1.19	1.47	36	46
	Birtle	.14	1.68	1.54	36	46
11	Dauphin	.48	2.46	1.12	38	47
12	Gimli	trace	.56	1.85	35	46
13	Swan River	.24	1.93	1.24	36	45
	The Pas	.12	1.44	1.11	36	46
Manitoba Average		.13	1.04	1.67	37	48
Saskatchewan						
1A	Estevan	.03	.60	1.56	40	48
	Carlyle	nil	.70	2.03	38	47
1B	Broadview	.06	1.39	1.56	38	47
	Moosomin	.14	1.18	1.25	37	48
2A	Yellow Grass	trace	.37	1.56	N.R.	47
	Midale	trace	.46	1.89	39	47
2B	Moose Jaw	.01	.69	1.33	41	50
	Regina	.02	.62	1.35	39	48
	Francis	nil	.44	.95	36	47
	Qu'Appelle	.06	.74	1.83	36	48
	Indian Head	trace	.60	1.50	39	48
3AN	Chaplin	nil	.25	1.65	40	49
	Gravelbourg	trace	.04	1.20	42	48
3AS	Assiniboia	trace	.16	1.20	41	49
	Ceylon	.01	.31	2.33	40	48
3BN	Pennant	nil	.28	1.76	42	50
	Swift Current	.01	.42	1.40	41	50
	Hughton	nil	.64 <sup>2/</sup>	1.86	41	47
3BS	Instow	N.R.	.05 <sup>2/</sup>	1.24	N.R.	48
	Shaunavon	nil	.90	1.32	42	45
	Cadillac	nil	.44	1.91	41	46
	Val Marie	N.R.	.40 <sup>2/</sup>	1.34	N.R.	46
	Aneroid	nil	.20	1.40	42	46
4A	Maple Creek	.04	.90	1.41	46	49
	Consul	.08	.11	1.54	40	47
4B	Roadene	nil	.52	1.87	43	47
5A	Leross	.28	2.28	1.48	38	46
	Hubbard	.14	1.14	1.28	36	47
	Yorkton	.14	1.09	1.29	39	46
5B	Dafoe	.21	1.02	1.08	39	45
	Foam Lake	N.R.	1.57 <sup>2/</sup>	1.28	N.R.	43
	Lintlaw	.14	1.26	1.50	35	43
	Kamsack	.11	1.58	1.09	37	45
6A	Davidson	trace	.44	1.20	39	47
	Dilke	nil	.96 <sup>2/</sup>	1.30	N.R.	N.R.
	Nokomis	nil	nil <sup>2/</sup>	1.07	40	47
	Semans	.02	1.08	.99	39	46
	Strasbourg	trace	1.52	1.28	37	47
6B	Harris	nil	.32	1.07	42	47
	Outlook	trace	.55	1.00	42	48
	Saskatoon	.10	.65	1.13	40	48
	Elbow	nil	.35	1.02	41	48
	Dundurn	trace	.02	1.29	38	47
	Tugaske	trace	.46	.99	38	48
7A	Kindersley	nil	.73	1.18	41	46
7B	Macklin	trace	.54	2.17	39	45
	Scott	nil	.72	1.44	38	47
	Ruthilda	trace	.56 <sup>2/</sup>	1.23	N.R.	N.R.
	Biggar	nil	.66	1.04	40	47

Precipitation and Temperatures in the Prairie Provinces (concluded)

Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperatures	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m. May 13	
		8 a.m. May 13, 1946	since April 1	since April 1	Mean	Normal
Saskatchewan (concluded)						
8A	Nipawin	.90	1.68	1.49	38	45
	Hudson Bay Junction	.26	1.36	1.36	36	46
8B	Humboldt	.02	1.39	1.10	36	47
	Melfort	.26	.91	1.32	35	47
9A	North Battleford	.05	1.51	1.07	40	50
	Rabbit Lake	.10	1.38	1.18	34	47
	Prince Albert	.30	1.57	1.37	38	48
9B	Waseca	N.R.	.88 <sup>2/</sup>	1.37	N.R.	47
	Loon Lake	.10	1.86	1.37	38	45
	Island Falls	.14	1.19	1.33	34	42
Saskatchewan Average		.68	.82	1.38	39	47
Alberta						
1	Foremost	.16	1.07	2.68	46	53
	Medicine Hat	trace	.55	1.25	46	52
	Manyberries	nil	.26	1.75	45	51
2	Cowley	.94	1.64	2.23	44	48
	Macleod	.24	.68	1.32	46	50
	Cardston	.24	1.20	2.58	45	49
	Lethbridge	.23	.76	1.69	46	50
3	Vauxhall	nil	.12 <sup>2/</sup>	1.42	44	50
	Brooks	trace	.32	1.56	48	51
	Empress	nil	.36	1.48	45	51
4	High River	.74	.96	2.34	43	47
	Vulcan	.14	.31	1.74	N.R.	N.R.
5	Drumheller	nil	.38	1.46	47	48
	Hanna	nil	.44	1.81	42	50
6	Olds	nil	.12	2.02	45	47
	Calgary	.27	.36	1.61	45	48
	Three Hills	nil	.40	1.12	43	47
	Strathmore	trace	.34	1.43	43	46
	Gleichen	nil	.12	1.49	46	48
7	Viking	N.R.	.38 <sup>2/</sup>	1.72	N.R.	46
	Sedgewick	nil	.48	1.44	43	46
	Hardisty	nil	.89	1.08	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	nil	.44	1.65	42	48
	Hughenden	trace	.68	1.62	42	48
8	Red Deer	trace	.21	1.90	45	46
	Lacombe	N.R.	.72 <sup>2/</sup>	1.50	N.R.	48
	Wetaskiwin	trace	.66	1.26	44	47
	Camrose	nil	.22	1.86	44	46
	Stettler	nil	.24	2.35	43	47
9	Jasper	.01	.69	1.07	47	45
	Rocky Mountain House	trace	.28	2.27	45	45
	Springdale	nil	.26	2.03	44	45
10	Vegreville	nil	.44	1.69	45	47
	Vermilion	.03	.85	1.36	40	46
	Lloydminster	.02	.80	1.08	38	45
11	Calmar	nil	1.12 <sup>2/</sup>	1.76	42	48
	Edmonton	trace	.74	1.44	46	50
	Whitecourt	nil	.25	1.76	43	46
12	Edson	nil	.18	1.32	42	47
13	Glendon	nil	.64	1.25	38	45
14	Campsie	.04	.38	1.22	44	47
	Athabaska	nil	.34	1.29	42	47
	Lac La Biche	.06	1.35	1.54	42	47
15	High Prairie	nil	.12	.96	46	48
	Kinuso	N.R.	nil <sup>2/</sup>	1.24	N.R.	47
	Wagner	.01	.34	1.42	42	46
16	Beaverlodge	nil	.09 <sup>2/</sup>	1.08	49	47
	Grand Prairie	nil	.01	1.36	40	47
	Fairview	nil	.12	.82	46	47
17	Keg River	nil	.15	1.17	41	46
	Fort Vermilion	nil	.18	1.06	41	45
	Fort McMurray	.25	1.49	1.18	39	47
	Embarras	.37	1.08	.97	40	40
	Fort Smith	.67	1.94	.58	39	40
	Fort St. John	nil	.47	1.17	50	48
Alberta Average		.08	.61	1.52	44	47

N.R. No report. <sup>1/</sup> Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

<sup>2/</sup> Incomplete figures not included in average.



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