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1946-47Dominion Statistician:
Chief, Agricultural Branch:
Grain Statistician:Herbert Marshall, B.A., F.S.S.
J. B. Rutherford.
W. D. Porter.TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, May 28, 1946, 3 p.m. - The second of a series of fifteen telegraphic reports covering 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. The weather data included in this release are furnished by the Meteorological Service of Canada.

S U M M A R Y

Continued dry weather prevails over the greater part of the Prairie Provinces and while damage to grain crops is not yet considered to be serious, general rains are needed almost immediately to prevent deterioration. Average precipitation since April 1 has been far below normal in all provinces. Scattered showers occurred during the week ending May 20 but during the last week rainfall has been nil or negligible except in some portions of the Peace River District where up to one half-inch has been registered. Temperatures have averaged 3 degrees above normal during the past week. Some frost damage occurred during the first two weeks in May but recovery has been generally good. No serious insect infestations are reported as yet.

All seeding is nearing completion in Manitoba but the weather has been too hot and dry, particularly in some southern and eastern portions, to allow of adequate germination. Growth is reported to be somewhat behind normal in spite of the early April start. Pastures and hay in many areas are sparse owing to drought and cold while gardens are below normal having suffered first from frost and more lately from drought. Early rains, however, would completely change the picture.

Some coarse grain and approximately half the flax acreage remain to be seeded in Saskatchewan. Immediate rainfall is required in many areas to promote germination and growth. This applies particularly to southern, central and west-central districts. Pastures are fairly good except in the drier areas where lack of moisture has retarded growth. Recovery from frost damage appears to be fairly good. No serious soil drifting or insect infestations have been reported in the last few days.

While seeding is almost completed in Alberta with the exception of 20 per cent of the coarse grains acreage, rain is now required in most districts to ensure even germination and growth. Average growing season precipitation in Alberta has been the lowest of the three Prairie Provinces. Rangelands in the south are reported to be in poor condition and crop conditions in central Alberta are considered to be only fair. Light rainfalls have been reported in some parts of the Peace River District and conditions there may be deemed generally satisfactory.

Manitoba

With the exception of late feed crops and flax, seeding of the 1946 crop in Manitoba is practically completed. The outlook in the southern portions of Crop Districts 1, 2 and 3 has deteriorated since the last report. While crops are recovering from recent heavy frosts, growth is reported to be slow with all crops, especially grass, urgently in need of rain. Portage la Prairie reports very little loss from frost but rain is needed for late seeding, pastures and gardens. Subsoil moisture here is still good with sugar beets in good shape. Recent warm weather has aided rapid growth west of Winnipeg.

Germination has been uniform and growth rapid in the Brandon area but prospects are only fairly good due to limited soil moisture reserves. At Dauphin in the north-west, 10 per cent of the wheat remains to be seeded. Field peas in this area are all in the ground but much of the coarse grains and flax acreage remains to be seeded. Weather and moisture conditions are excellent in this area. Early-sown wheat is showing two inches above the ground and weed growth is above normal. Swan River in Crop District 13 reports all seeding well along with plentiful moisture supplies. Clover and alfalfa are in good shape as is winter rye. Stock on pastures are in good condition and roots and vegetables are showing above ground.

Insect infestation so far is apparently limited to sweet clover crops; the entomological laboratory at Brandon reporting considerable damage to seedling sweet clover by the sweet clover weevil. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 46 per cent below normal as compared with 38 degrees below normal two weeks ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 27, was 3 degrees above normal.

Saskatchewan

Wheat seeding in Saskatchewan is practically completed, while 81 per cent of the coarse grains and 50 per cent of the flax acreage are reported sown. About 50 per cent of the wheat crop is showing green as is 30 per cent of the coarse grain acreage. Germination has been fair to good but growth has been retarded through lack of moisture and backward weather. Crops have somewhat recovered from frost damage but immediate rains are required in many districts to promote growth.

Indian Head reports early-sown grain to be well established and making good growth although hay and pasture fields require rain to ensure feed. Fallow work is well under way. Fruit crops in the Indian Head area suffered frost damage ranging from 10 to 50 per cent.

Advices from Swift Current in the south-west indicate no effective rainfall during the past two weeks except in the Cypress Hills area. Growth has been retarded by nightly frosts until the past week. Most fields recovered from the heavy frost of May 9 but some permanent damage to fall rye is evident. Seeding of some land and reseeded of blown out areas is still delayed awaiting improvement in soil moisture. Medium early fields are making satisfactory growth now but weed growth will compete unduly owing to set-back of grain by frost.

Seeding is completed in the Fox Valley area but the crop is making slow growth due to dry weather. Soil drifting has reduced the stand of grain in some fields causing severe damage in spots. Pastures are getting dry. Willowbrook in the east-central portion of the province reports early seedings well above ground but rain needed. Rosetown in the west-central area states some flax seeding is being withheld while awaiting rain. Considerable wheat is above ground. Rain would be welcome but no damage has occurred as yet in this area from drouth. Reports from Scott in Crop District 7B indicate that conditions are abnormally dry in open prairie regions. Pastures are suffering from lack of moisture but grain is still standing up well. Uneven germination has been noted however, in late seedings and land held for flax is not being seeded due to continued dry weather. Melfort in Crop District 8B reports wheat all seeded with coarse grains 60 per cent in the ground. Indications are that wheat acreage in this area is up 10 per cent from last year with coarse grains down 5 per cent. Forage crops need rain now.

Cutworms have been reported active at Mendham and wireworms at Sceptre but no serious insect infestations are reported in any area. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 51 per cent below normal, as compared with 41 per cent below normal two weeks ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 27 was 3 degrees above normal.

Alberta

With wheat seeding practically completed and coarse grains about 80 per cent seeded, rain is now needed in almost all districts of Alberta to ensure good even germination. Rainfall from April 1 to date has been well below normal throughout the province, and though subsoil moisture supplies are generally fair, surface moisture conditions are poor. Fall wheat and fall rye are reported heading out. Early-sown wheat is reported three inches above ground in some areas.

In the southern districts the greatest need is rainfall. Continued dry weather is causing uneven growth of grains and rangeland grasses are in poor condition. Some injury from the pale western cutworm is reported in this part of the province.

Crop conditions in Central Alberta are only fair. The topsoil is becoming very dry and pastures are showing the effects of lack of rainfall. Satisfactory recovery of grain fields from frost damage is reported.

In northern districts and the Peace River area conditions are generally satisfactory. Moisture conditions are only fair. Light rains are reported in parts of the Grande Prairie and Spirit River sections.

For the province as a whole, rainfall from April 1 to date has averaged 64 per cent below normal, as compared with 60 per cent below normal two weeks ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 27 was 3 degrees above normal.

Precipitation and Temperatures in the Prairie Provinces 1/

Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperatures	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m. May 27	
		8 a.m. May 27, 1946	since April 1	since April 1	Mean	Normal
Manitoba						
1	Pierson	.04	.35	2.92	55	53
	Waskada	nil	1.12	2.33	56	54
2	Boissevain	nil	.96	3.02	55	53
	Ninette	nil	1.36	3.20	58	53
	Pilot Mound	.08	1.78	2.97	54	53
3	Portage la Prairie	nil	.63	2.74	59	54
	Graysville	nil	1.28	2.70	58	53
	Morden	.02	.77	2.87	59	54
	Morris	nil	1.20	2.56	58	54
	Emerson	nil	1.46	2.23	57	54
4	Winnipeg	trace	.87	3.08	57	55
6	Sprague	nil	3.06	3.04	56	52
	Pinawa	nil	.62	1.97	56	52
7	Virden	nil	.46	2.03	56	52
	Rivers	.01	1.38	2.59	56	53
8	Brandon	.06	1.38	2.56	57	53
	Cyrpress River	nil	.79	2.67	56	53
9	Minnedosa	.21	2.13	2.59	54	53
	Neepawa	.20	1.83	2.59	56	53
10	Russell	nil	1.31	2.23	55	51
	Birtle	nil	1.98	2.28	55	51
11	Dauphin	.01	2.49	2.01	56	52
12	Gimli	nil	1.60	3.15	56	51
13	Swan River	nil	2.33	1.95	55	50
	The Pas	nil	1.67	1.75	51	51
Manitoba Average		.02	1.39	2.56	56	53
Saskatchewan						
1A	Estevan	nil	1.29	2.53	59	52
	Carlyle	nil	.74	2.84	56	52
1B	Broadview	trace	1.47	2.46	56	52
	Moosomin	nil	1.34	2.13	N.R.	52
2A	Yellow Grass	nil	.69	2.41	56	52
	Midale	nil	.86	2.88	56	52
2B	Moose Jaw	nil	.80	2.30	61	54
	Regina	nil	1.04	2.11	56	52
	Francis	nil	.62	1.59	55	52
	Qu'Appelle	nil	.74 2/	2.83	58	52
	Indian Head	nil	1.06	2.42	58	52
3AN	Chaplin	trace	.45	2.69	60	54
	Gravelbourg	trace	.24	1.86	58	52
3AS	Assiniboia	nil	.33	1.82	59	54
	Ceylon	nil	.55	3.31	N.R.	53
3BN	Pennant	nil	.50	2.53	60	54
	Swift Current	nil	.54	2.32	60	55
	Hughton	N.R.	.84 2/	2.76	N.R.	53
3BS	Instow	nil	.25 2/	2.02	51	53
	Shaunavon	nil	1.14	2.00	58	50
	Cadillac	nil	.52	3.21	60	50
	Val Marie	nil	.50	2.24	56	50
	Aneroid	trace	.22	2.21	59	50
4A	Maple Creek	.02	1.40	2.31	58	53
	Consul	nil	.55	2.35	53	51
4B	Roadene	trace	.82	2.78	60	53
5A	Leross	nil	2.54	2.21	56	50
	Hubbard	nil	1.30	2.07	54	51
	Yorkton	trace	1.29	2.27	57	52
5B	Dafoe	trace	1.17	1.83	57	49
	Foam Lake	nil	2.03	2.19	58	49
	Lintlaw	nil	1.42	2.55	56	49
	Kamsack	nil	1.60	1.67	56	50
6A	Davidson	nil	.44	2.07	60	51
	Dilke	nil	.96 2/	2.26	N.R.	N.R.
	Nokomis	nil	.52 2/	1.67	59	51
	Semans	nil	1.78	1.66	60	50
	Strasbourg	nil	1.72	2.33	58	52
6B	Harris	N.R.	.42 2/	1.59	N.R.	52
	Outlook	nil	.87	1.72	62	52
	Saskatoon	trace	.80	1.86	61	52
	Elbow	nil	.43	1.93	61	53
	Dundurn	nil	.16	2.02	60	52
	Tugaske	nil	.62	1.90	59	52
7A	Kindersley	nil	.79	1.89	61	50
7B	Macklin	nil	.68	2.87	N.R.	49
	Scott	nil	.86	2.07	57	52
	Ruthilda	nil	.66 2/	2.09	N.R.	N.R.
	Biggar	nil	1.18	1.87	60	51

Precipitation and Temperatures in the Prairie Provinces (concluded)

Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperatures	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m. May 27	
		8 a.m. May 27, 1946	since April 1	since April 1	Mean	Normal
Saskatchewan (concluded)						
8A	Nipawin	nil	2.26	2.20	57	50
	Hudson Bay Junction	trace	1.61	2.06	53	52
8B	Humboldt	nil	1.58	1.88	57	52
	Melfort	nil	1.35	2.27	55	52
9A	North Battleford	nil	1.85	1.86	60	55
	Rabbit Lake	nil	2.05	1.78	55	51
	Prince Albert	nil	1.71	2.06	55	53
9B	Waseca	nil	.94 2/	2.05	60	51
	Loon Lake	nil	2.09	2.24	54	49
	Island Falls	nil	1.45	2.05	57	49
Saskatchewan Average		negligible	1.08	2.20	56	53
Alberta						
1	Foremost	trace	1.33	3.68	57	58
	Medicine Hat	.01	1.08	2.03	60	55
	Manyberries	trace	.96	2.57	58	55
2	Cowley	.27	2.11	3.07	53	51
	Macleod	.04	.98	2.25	53	55
	Cardston	.06	1.40	4.27	53	54
	Lethbridge	.02	.95	2.56	56	54
3	Vauxhall	nil	.54 2/	2.15	58	54
	Brooks	trace	.72	2.27	59	55
	Empress	nil	.40	2.22	62	56
4	High River	.12	1.20	3.31	52	51
	Vulcan	.04	.53	2.45	N.R.	N.R.
5	Drumheller	nil	.46	2.31	57	52
	Hanna	nil	.54	2.65	58	54
6	Olds	.01	.39	2.94	54	51
	Calgary	.04	.57	2.67	54	52
	Three Hills	nil	.40 2/	1.95	57	50
	Strathmore	nil	.44	2.40	53	50
	Gleichen	N.R.	.32 2/	2.31	N.R.	52
7	Viking	N.R.	1.02 2/	2.54	N.R.	50
	Sedgewick	nil	.62	1.76	58	51
	Hardisty	nil	1.07	1.77	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	nil	.74	2.22	57	52
	Hughenden	trace	.90	2.28	58	54
8	Red Deer	.01	.50	3.06	54	50
	Lacombe	nil	.94	2.39	55	51
	Wetaskiwin	nil	.90	2.03	55	51
	Camrose	nil	.32	2.71	56	50
	Stettler	nil	.34	3.31	55	51
9	Jasper	.02	.76	1.55	54	50
	Rocky Mountain House	.11	.57	3.10	54	49
	Springdale	N.R.	.26 2/	3.02	N.R.	49
10	Vegreville	nil	1.10	2.65	54	51
	Vermilion	nil	1.04	2.23	55	50
	Lloydminster	nil	1.01	1.82	56	49
11	Calmar	nil	1.50	2.93	54	52
	Edmonton	trace	.99	2.27	56	53
	Whitecourt	.08	.45	2.64	53	51
12	Edson	.16	.38	2.02	51	51
13	Glendon	nil	.64 2/	1.98	54	49
14	Campsie	.10	.49	2.17	52	51
	Athabasca	trace	.34	2.31	54	51
	Lac La Biche	.03	1.46	2.22	54	51
15	High Prairie	nil	.14	1.73	54	53
	Kinuso	.34	.34 2/	2.15	51	51
	Wagner	.34	1.22	2.34	51	51
16	Beaverlodge	.54	.63 2/	1.92	55	51
	Grand Prairie	.51	.52	2.12	57	51
	Fairview	N.R.	.12	1.41	58	52
17	Keg River	.35	1.35	2.32	54	51
	Fort Vermilion	.04	.80	1.53	54	51
	Fort McMurray	trace	1.60	1.84	51	51
	Embarras	.14	1.49	1.34	50	47
	Fort Smith	trace	1.95	1.00	46	47
	Fort St. John	.11	.58	2.02	57	52
Alberta Average		.07	.85	2.34	55	52

N.R. No Report. 1/ Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.
2/ Incomplete figures not included in average.