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Authority of the Hon. James A. MacKinnon, M.P.,
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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, May 13, 1947, 3 p.m. - The first of a series of 11 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 16 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 has been backward with spring work not yet started in many areas. The season in Quebec is two to three weeks late and practically no spring work has been accomplished. Unseasonable weather in Ontario has delayed seeding of spring grains and it is anticipated that much land may be diverted to later sown crops such as flax, corn and beans. Field work in the Prairies has been delayed from ten days to two weeks beyond normal but moisture conditions are generally good and seeding is now well under way, particularly in southern areas. Prospects in the Prairies are good at this date. The season in British Columbia is in strong contrast with the rest of the country. Seedings are well in advance of 1946. The production outlook for most fruits and crops is very good.

Seeding is greatly delayed in the Maritimes due to the exceedingly later spring and recent heavy precipitation. Winter-killing of hay and clover is considered to have been rather more serious than was the case last year. Pastures in New Brunswick are just beginning to turn green and snow drifts are still to be found in some areas of that province. The Annapolis Valley, however, reports that development of fruit crops is normal with apples well budded. Spraying is general but has been hampered by high winds and rains.

In Quebec practically no work has been accomplished on the land as yet and the season appears to be from two to three weeks later than normal. Snow drifts are still present in eastern districts. Pastures are very backward. Seeding throughout Ontario has been greatly retarded by unfavourable weather. Fall-sown crops wintered well but recent frosts may have caused some injury. Warm weather prevailed over the past week end and should favourable weather prevail seeding of spring grains will progress rapidly.

While the late spring has retarded spring seeding by as much as two weeks in the Prairie Provinces, moisture conditions generally are deemed to be adequate. With the exception of some southern sections of Manitoba little soil drifting has been reported. Seeding is now in full swing with fairly high percentages completed in southern areas. Fall wheat and rye in southern Alberta suffered extensively from winter-killing but wintered very well in central portions of the province. Over-all prospects are good at the present time.

In British Columbia generally, conditions surpass last year, with seeding more advanced than in 1946. Trees and small fruits wintered well and it is anticipated that small fruit production will exceed that of last year. Fall seeded cereals came through with little or no winter-killing. In the Fraser Valley, pastures are good and hay prospects excellent. Boundary Bay expects to have new potatoes on the market within two weeks' time.

Maritime Provinces - Charlottetown reports that backward weather has delayed the beginning of spring work. New meadows are not promising following the poor autumn stand and considerable winter-killing. Growth of pastures has scarcely begun but orchards wintered well. The season in Nova Scotia is rather late but the development of fruit crops appears to be normal and with current satisfactory weather conditions crop prospects for all tree fruits are considered average. Kentville reports the reserve soil moisture in April to be much less than normal, but heavy rains late in April and early in May have relieved the situation. New seeded clover wintered well. The land is now being worked but little seeding has

been accomplished to date. Apples are well budded and spraying is general though hampered by high winds and rain. Fredericton in New Brunswick reports that the outlook for farm crop production is less favourable than a year ago. Spring is later and commercial fertilizers less plentiful. The hay crop outlook on the Tantramar marshes is unfavourable. A few early potatoes have been planted around Grand Lake. Other reports from New Brunswick emphasize the cold weather in April and the late frosts and late melting of snow. Hay meadows and pastures are just now turning green.

Quebec - The spring seeding season in Quebec appears to be from two to three weeks late and as far as can be determined no work on the land has been started yet. In some eastern areas much snow still covers the land and many minor roads are not open to wheeled traffic. If the warm weather of the past week-end continues it is expected that preparation of the land will get under way in some sections this week. Due to the shortage of feed grains which developed last winter many farmers are planning to seed larger acreages of oats, barley and mixed grains during the coming season. While pastures appear to have come through the winter in fairly good condition, slow growth has forced the continued stabling of live stock.

Ontario - Cool, windy and wet weather following a prolonged winter has delayed the seeding of spring grain in Ontario this season and it is expected that much land will be diverted to later sown crops such as flax, corn and beans. With three successive nights of frosts in most areas, little seeding was done last week and only in a few scattered areas has it been completed. If the warm weather of the past week-end continues, it is thought that much spring grain will find its way into the ground this week. While fall wheat and hay crops sustained very little winter-killing it is expected that some injury may have occurred to these crops as a result of the recent frosts. The late spring and retarded pasture growth has caused feed shortages. This, coupled with present unfavourable crop prospects and inadequate supplies of concentrates, is limiting swine and poultry production plans.

Manitoba - Spring field work is well advanced, although somewhat behind the stage reached at the same time last year. The bulk of the wheat seeding in the southern areas is finished with Morden reporting seedings of wheat 90 per cent completed, barley 40 per cent, oats 20 per cent, flax 5 per cent and sunflowers 10 per cent. Soil drifting has been severe in some southern districts and the grass growth is rather backward. Stock is in fair condition and moisture and warm weather would now be welcome. Further west, at Melita, the spring has been cold and quite dry; sub-soil moisture is reported to be adequate with seedings rather less advanced than in the Morden area. It is anticipated that considerable abandoned land will be sown to flax. In the area north-west of Winnipeg wheat seeding was reported general by May 7. Pasture growth is slow, hay is reported to be scarce and cattle are in poor condition. At Brandon the weather has been favourable for seeding over the past ten days and recent showers will ensure prompt germination. The bulk of the wheat has been sown in this area. At Shoal Lake in the west-central portion of the province 80 per cent of the wheat is reported seeded. Pasture here is also reported to be late and stock are in only fair condition. Moisture reserves are considered ample.

Generally speaking, the proportion of all grains seeded decreases toward the more northerly areas of the province. Considerable damage by sweet clover weevil has been reported from Graysville and Portage la Prairie. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 37 per cent below normal, with mean temperature for the week ending May 12 being 4 degrees below normal.

Saskatchewan - Seeding operations in the province have been delayed approximately two weeks beyond normal due to the above average winter snowfall and the continued cool weather. Southern areas report wheat seeding from 60 to 65 per cent completed, while operations are just being started in Northern and North-Eastern crop districts. The Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture reports that for the province as a whole 20 per cent of the wheat and 11 per cent of the coarse grains have now been sown as compared with 69 and 43 per cent respectively at this time a year ago.

Reports from the south-eastern section indicate that drying winds have improved conditions and seeding is now general with conditions for growth excellent. Swift Current reports moisture conditions fair to good except in the extreme south. No soil drifting is reported and seeding is well on the way to completion. West-central areas report that conditions for weed destruction are good and that 30 per cent of wheat and 16 per cent of coarse grains are seeded.

Live stock have come through the long, severe winter better than expected in most districts and are generally in fair condition. While pasture growth has been retarded, overall conditions in this respect are now most favourable. Moisture conditions generally are much better than a year ago and with warmer weather, rapid germination and growth may be expected. Average precipitation for the province

since April 1 has been 33 per cent below normal, while the mean temperature for the week ending May 12 has been one degree above normal.

Alberta - Seeding of the spring crops in Alberta is later than usual with wheat seeding well under way in most districts and coarse grain sowings only just beginning in many parts of the province. Showers over the week-end delayed spring operations in some areas but generally the spring work is developing favourably. Moisture conditions, both topsoil and subsoil, are reported to be excellent in nearly all districts and prospects are uniformly good.

In the south-east seeding is about two weeks later than normal with fifty to eighty per cent completed, while only about ten per cent has been completed in the south-western districts. Seeding conditions for sugar beets are reported excellent with seeding about seventy per cent completed. Winter-killing of fall wheat and alfalfa was severe over most of the southern sections but in the central districts fall crops wintered well.

In central Alberta wheat seeding ranges from ten to fifty per cent completed while oats and barley sowings vary from five to thirty per cent. In the Calgary area seeding is progressing rapidly and with favourable weather may be completed this week. Some shortage of good barley seed is reported. Spring seeding is expected to be under way in the north-central districts within the week.

In the Peace River District spring operations are well advanced and seeding was general by the end of last week. Moisture conditions are satisfactory and some early wheat has emerged. Range conditions throughout the province are good. Early infestation of the pale western cutworm has been found and some damage is anticipated in the south-east districts.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 3 per cent above normal with mean temperature for the week ending May 12, 3 degrees above normal.

British Columbia - Light to heavy showers occurred in nearly all parts of the province during the past week. Weather conditions so far have been very favourable and the season is somewhat advanced over last year. Moisture conditions for the most part are satisfactory although spring seeded crops in the Okanagan Valley are in need of a good rain. No frost injury has been reported so far to fruit crops and indications are that small fruit production will greatly exceed that of last year. It is anticipated that strawberry picking in the coastal regions will be under way by May 22. New potatoes in the Boundary Bay areas in the Fraser Valley should be on the market in about two weeks' time.

Saanichton reports no winter-killing in fall and winter cereals. Crop prospects appear to be quite good. Spring seedings were somewhat delayed by showery weather, but are now almost completed. Strawberries promise a good average crop from an increased acreage. Tree fruits escaped spring frost but blossoms appear to be light.

At Agassiz grain seeding is nearly complete. In the Fraser Valley peas and corn for canning and freezing are now being planted, as is fibre flax. Pastures are good with hay crops promising. Summerland reports the weather to have been very dry this spring, but the irrigation water supply is considered adequate with a bumper crop of all fruits anticipated. Cut worms are reported to be damaging tomatoes, onions and carrots in the southern interior, where range lands are reported dry with very poor grass.

PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURES IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES, WEEKLY, 1947 1/

| Crop District | Station | Precipitation | | | Temperatures | |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | Week ended | Total | Normal | Week ended | 8 a.m. May 12 |
| | | 8 a.m. May 12 | Since April 1 | Since April 1 | Mean | Normal |
| MANITOBA | | | | | | |
| 1 | Pierson | .68 | .97 | 1.98 | 47 | 49 |
| | Melita | .80 | 1.94 | 1.91 | 46 | 49 |
| | Waskada | .08 | .87 | 1.48 | 47 | 49 |
| 2 | Boissevain | .16 | .68 | 2.13 | 44 | 48 |
| | Ninette | .26 | 1.22 | 2.30 | 47 | 48 |
| | Pilot Mound | .04 | .62 | 2.03 | 43 | 48 |
| 3 | Portage la Prairie | .42 | 1.14 | 1.87 | 46 | 49 |
| | Graysville | .04 | .78 | 1.47 | 45 | 48 |
| | Morden | .01 | .66 | 1.90 | 44 | 49 |
| | Morris | .10 | .58 | 1.68 | 42 | 49 |
| | Emerson | .14 | .72 | 1.06 | 44 | 49 |
| 4 | Winnipeg | .30 | 1.69 | 1.99 | 44 | 50 |
| 6 | Sprague | .28 | 2.24 | 1.91 | 42 | 47 |
| | Pinawa | .12 | 1.14 | 1.24 | 46 | 47 |
| 7 | Virden | nil | .30 | 1.18 | 45 | 47 |
| | Rivers | .09 | 1.05 | 1.70 | 45 | 48 |
| 8 | Brandon | .36 | 1.38 | 1.70 | 45 | 49 |
| | Cypress River | .12 | .90 | 1.61 | 45 | 48 |
| 9 | Minnedosa | .05 | 1.04 | 1.70 | 44 | 48 |
| | Neepawa | trace | .41 | 1.70 | 43 | 48 |
| 10 | Russell | nil | .05 | 1.42 | 44 | 46 |
| | Birtle | nil | .80 | 1.49 | 45 | 46 |
| 11 | Dauphin | trace | 1.43 | 1.06 | 44 | 47 |
| 12 | Gimli | .71 | 2.24 | 1.76 | 39 | 46 |
| 13 | Swan River | .02 | .90 | 1.20 | 45 | 43 |
| | The Pas | .12 | .83 | 1.08 | 42 | 46 |
| Manitoba Average | | .19 | 1.02 | 1.64 | 44 | 48 |
| SASKATCHEWAN | | | | | | |
| 1A | Estevan | .09 | .95 | 1.50 | 50 | 48 |
| | Carlyle | .64 | 1.42 | 1.98 | 46 | 47 |
| 1B | Broadview | .31 | 1.11 | 1.50 | 44 | 47 |
| | Moosomin | .08 | .58 | 1.20 | 46 | 48 |
| 2A | Yellow Grass | .30 | .73 | 1.51 | 47 | 47 |
| | Midale | .12 | .77 | 1.83 | 49 | 47 |
| 2B | Moose Jaw | .17 | .89 | 1.28 | 50 | 50 |
| | Regina | .20 | .87 | 1.30 | 48 | 48 |
| | Francis | .44 | 1.02 | .92 | 44 | 47 |
| | Qu'Appelle | .42 | 1.13 | 1.77 | 46 | 48 |
| | Indian Head | .54 | .95 | 1.44 | 47 | 48 |
| 3AS | Assiniboia | trace | .72 | 1.16 | 49 | 49 |
| | Ceylon | .12 | .52 | 2.26 | 54 | 48 |
| 3AN | Chaplin | .04 | .86 | 1.60 | 50 | 49 |
| | Gravelbourg | nil | .50 | 1.16 | 49 | 48 |
| 3AS | Instow | N.R. | 1.32 2/ | 1.19 | N.R. | 48 |
| | Shaunavon | nil | .96 | 1.28 | 51 | 45 |
| | Cadillac | N.R. | 1.34 1/ | 1.83 | N.R. | 46 |
| | Val Marie | nil | 1.34 | 1.28 | 49 | 46 |
| | Aneroid | nil | 1.30 | 1.35 | 51 | 46 |
| 3BN | Pennant | .01 | 1.03 | 1.72 | 52 | 50 |
| | Swift Current | .02 | 1.17 | 1.35 | 48 | 50 |
| | Hughton | .08 | .32 | 1.80 | 50 | 47 |
| 4A | Maple Creek | .04 | 1.50 | 1.36 | 49 | 49 |
| | Consul | .02 | .55 | 1.48 | 50 | 47 |
| 4B | Roadene | .08 | 1.10 2/ | 1.81 | 52 | 47 |
| 5A | Leross | nil | 1.14 | 1.44 | 50 | 46 |
| | Yorkton | nil | .55 | 1.23 | 45 | 46 |
| 5B | Dafoe | .51 | .94 | 1.03 | 46 | 45 |
| | Foam Lake | .06 | .57 | 1.24 | 47 | 43 |
| | Lintlaw | nil | .56 | 1.43 | 43 | 43 |
| | Kamsack | trace | 1.10 | 1.06 | 46 | 45 |
| 6A | Davidson | .14 | .78 | 1.15 | 48 | 47 |
| | Dilke | .24 | .66 | 1.24 | N.R. | N.R. |
| | Semans | nil | .44 | .96 | 48 | 46 |
| | Strasbourg | nil | .66 | 1.22 | 46 | 47 |
| 6B | Harris | nil | .05 2/ | 1.03 | 44 | 47 |
| | Outlook | .06 | .96 | .95 | 51 | 48 |
| | Saskatoon | .25 | 1.57 | 1.08 | 49 | 48 |
| | Elbow | .08 | 1.38 | .97 | N.R. | 48 |
| | Dundurn | .22 | 1.52 | 1.25 | 49 | 47 |
| | Tugaske | .08 | .74 | .94 | 50 | 48 |
| 7A | Kindersley | trace | .40 | 1.14 | 50 | 46 |
| | Rosetown | .02 | .31 | 1.47 | 49 | 46 |
| 7B | Macklin | .06 | .70 | 2.12 | 50 | 45 |
| | Scott | .16 | .96 | 1.40 | 46 | 47 |
| | Ruthilda | N.R. | .16 2/ | 1.18 | N.R. | N.R. |

PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURES IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES, WEEKLY, 1947 (Continued)

| Crop District | Station | Precipitation | | | Temperature | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| | | Week Ended | Total | Normal | Week ended 8 a.m. May 12 | |
| | | 8 a.m. May 12 | Since April 1 | Since April 1 | Mean | Normal |
| SASKATCHEWAN (continued) | | | | | | |
| 7B | Biggar | .04 | .55 | 1.00 | 49 | 47 |
| 8A | Nipawin | .04 | .64 | 1.44 | 48 | 43 |
| | Hudson Bay Junction | trace | .96 | 1.31 | 44 | 46 |
| 8B | Humboldt | .54 | .98 | 1.06 | 45 | 47 |
| | Melfort | .13 | 1.02 | 1.26 | 46 | 47 |
| 9A | North Battleford | .23 | .61 | 1.03 | 50 | 50 |
| | Rabbit Lake | .02 | .91 | 1.14 | 47 | 47 |
| | Prince Albert | .10 | .72 | 1.33 | 47 | 48 |
| 9B | Waseca | N.R. | 1.27 2/ | 1.33 | N.R. | 47 |
| | Island Falls | .71 | 2.17 | 1.28 | 39 | 42 |
| Saskatchewan Average | | .14 | .90 | 1.34 | 48 | 47 |
| ALBERTA | | | | | | |
| 1 | Foremost | .18 | 1.16 | 2.61 | 54 | 53 |
| | Winnifred | .06 | 1.68 | 1.92 | N.R. | N.R. |
| | Medicine Hat | .11 | 1.68 | 1.21 | 54 | 52 |
| | Manyberries | .02 | .93 | 1.70 | 52 | 51 |
| 2 | Cowley | .85 | 1.88 | 2.17 | 51 | 48 |
| | Macleod | .44 | 1.40 | 1.26 | 54 | 50 |
| | Cardston | .16 | .88 | 2.46 | 52 | 49 |
| | Lethbridge | .13 | 1.68 | 1.64 | 54 | 50 |
| 3 | Vauxhall | .30 | .98 2/ | 1.37 | 54 | 50 |
| | Brooks | .06 | .98 | 1.52 | 55 | 51 |
| | Empress | trace | .04 | 1.44 | 54 | 51 |
| 4 | High River | 2.14 | 3.74 | 2.28 | 50 | 47 |
| | Vulcan | N.R. | .67 2/ | 1.70 | N.R. | N.R. |
| 5 | Drumheller | .06 | 1.27 | 1.41 | 54 | 48 |
| | Hanna | .08 | 1.10 | 1.77 | 51 | 50 |
| 6 | Olds | 1.10 | 1.92 | 1.96 | 50 | 47 |
| | Calgary | .95 | 1.75 | 1.55 | 51 | 48 |
| | Three Hills | .46 | 1.08 | 1.07 | 48 | 47 |
| | Strathmore | .28 | .28 2/ | 1.43 | 50 | 46 |
| | Gleichen | .22 | .76 | 1.44 | 52 | 48 |
| 7 | Viking | N.R. | .60 2/ | 1.66 | N.R. | 46 |
| | Sedgewick | .24 | 1.50 | 1.42 | 52 | 46 |
| | Hardisty | N.R. | .89 2/ | 1.04 | N.R. | N.R. |
| | Coronation | .20 | 1.45 | 1.61 | 50 | 48 |
| | Hughenden | .06 | .94 | 1.58 | 50 | 48 |
| 8 | Red Deer | .82 | 2.10 | 1.83 | 51 | 46 |
| | Lacombe | .94 | 1.93 | 1.44 | 51 | 48 |
| | Wetaskiwin | .58 | 2.82 | 1.22 | 51 | 47 |
| | Camrose | .46 | 1.60 | 1.80 | 50 | 46 |
| | Stettler | .24 | 1.28 | 2.29 | 49 | 47 |
| 9 | Jasper | .55 | 1.15 | 1.04 | 51 | 43 |
| | Rocky Mountain House | 1.37 | 3.32 | 2.21 | 50 | 43 |
| | Springdale | 1.38 | 2.53 2/ | 1.96 | 49 | 45 |
| | Vegreville | .74 | 1.10 | 1.64 | 53 | 47 |
| 10 | Vermilion | .08 | .91 | 1.31 | 48 | 46 |
| | Lloydminster | .02 | .19 | 1.04 | 49 | 45 |
| 11 | Edmonton | .88 | 2.58 | 1.39 | 52 | 50 |
| 12 | Whitecourt | .32 | 1.93 | 1.70 | 52 | 46 |
| | Edson | .68 | 2.55 | 1.28 | 49 | 47 |
| 13 | Elk Point | .30 | .70 | 1.21 | 48 | 45 |
| 14 | Campsie | .50 | 2.88 | 1.17 | 49 | 47 |
| | Athabaska | .22 | .90 | 1.23 | 50 | 47 |
| | Lac La Biche | .80 | 1.92 | 1.49 | 47 | 47 |
| 15 | High Prairie | .64 | 2.46 | 1.02 | 48 | 48 |
| | Kinuso | .16 | 1.51 2/ | 1.18 | 50 | 47 |
| | Wagner | .14 | 1.64 | 1.36 | 48 | 46 |
| 16 | Beaverlodge | .30 | 1.74 | 1.02 | 54 | 47 |
| | Grand Prairie | .03 | .97 | 1.26 | 54 | 47 |
| | Fairview | .28 | 1.33 | .77 | 52 | 47 |
| 17 | Fort St. John | .27 | 1.42 | 1.12 | 53 | 48 |
| Alberta Average | | .44 | 1.56 | 1.52 | 51 | 48 |

N.R. No Report

1/ Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

2/ Incomplete: not included in average.



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