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no. 10

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Aug. 26

C. R. No. 21  
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Authority of the Hon. James A. MacKinnon, M.P.,  
Minister of Trade and Commerce

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA  
AGRICULTURAL DIVISION

\$2.00 per year.

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#### TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, August 26, 1947, 3 p.m. - The fourteenth of a series of sixteen 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.

#### SUMMARY

Except for districts in southern Manitoba frequent showers during the week and heavy rains in west-central Saskatchewan and over most districts of Alberta delayed harvesting operations generally throughout the Prairie Provinces.

Favourable harvest weather prevailed in Manitoba during the past week except for the north-west portion of the province. It was the middle of the week or later, however, before wetter parts of the Red River Valley could be swathed. Cutting and swathing is nearly completed in the south-west and combining has started. The same is true of the south part of the Red River Valley. Swathing is well advanced in most other areas. The yields and grades are very considerably lower than first anticipated. Prospects for beets, corn, sunflowers, potatoes and gardens are promising and pastures are excellent. Wet weather has caused some hay loss.

Harvesting operations were delayed in most districts of Saskatchewan during last week by frequent showers and cool, damp weather. Cutting has now commenced in all districts with most progress having been made in the extreme south-east and from Moose Jaw south and west to the boundaries of the province. In these areas wheat is about 50 per cent harvested. In other parts of the province the harvest is from 10 to 30 per cent completed. Crops have ripened fast and in general are all ready for harvest, given suitable weather. Harvesting of fall rye is now completed in most districts. Crop prospects have not materially altered and good to fair yields are being harvested over most of the eastern and south-central districts. The grade, however, is quite variable and in general considerably below average. Heavy soils in west-central areas are also returning fair yields but in large areas of the south-west, north-centre and north-west yields are very low. Recent rains have improved pastures and also late crops to some extent with the result that the feed shortage will not be as serious as expected earlier in the season. Live stock are doing well in most districts.

Heavy rains in Alberta during the past week have further delayed harvesting operations. In some areas driving rains have increased the wheat stem sawfly damage. With dry warm weather cutting should be general towards the end of this week. Some frost has occurred in the Peace River area but it is too early to estimate the damage.

Manitoba - The weather in Manitoba has been favourable for harvesting during the past week, although it was mid-week or later before swathers were able to operate in the wetter parts of the Red River Valley. In the Dauphin-Roblin area showery weather continued to delay harvest operations. Swathing and cutting are pretty well completed in the south-west part of the province and combining has commenced. The same is true for the southern part of the Red River Valley and swathing is well advanced in most other areas. The yields and grades of grain are reported to be considerably lower than first anticipated. Prospects are good, however, for sugar beets, corn, sunflowers, potatoes and gardens and pastures are in excellent condition. Wet weather has caused some hay loss. Light to heavy hail damage occurred in the following areas: Roblin, Birtle, Minnedosa, Neepawa, Cordova, Portage, Crystal City, Manitou, Morden, Altona, Gretna and Morris. The Dominion Entomological Station reports that grasshoppers seem to be on the increase but no significant fall damage has occurred.



Our correspondent at Morden reports that harvesting operations progressed favourably during the week. The yields of cereals are lower than normal. Wheat will average about 20 and barley 25. Considerable sprouting has occurred in barley. The corn and sunflower crops are making good progress and pasture conditions are good. At Melita good harvesting weather during the past week has resulted in the near completion of cutting and swathing. Some grain has been combined and the estimated yield of wheat will be about 15 bushels per acre grading from 2 to 4. Estimated yields of other grains are barley 15, oats 20, rye 20, and the flax prospects are reported to be good.

Reports from the Woodnorth area indicate that threshing and combining are now progressing favourably. About 10 per cent of the combining and threshing has been completed. Wheat is grading from 2 to 3 Northern and yields are averaging 18 bushels to the acre. There will not be a heavy crop of coarse grains but a fair flax crop is expected. The flax crop has benefited by late rains.

In the north-central part of the province about 75 per cent of the grain has been cut and some threshing has been done. Yields of barley are variable, ranging from 10 to 30 bushels per acre. The quality is low. Early threshed oats are averaging about 30 bushels to the acre and the sample is good. Wheat is grading No. 3 and a considerable number of shrunken kernels are showing up. Our Neepawa correspondent reports 60 per cent of the cutting completed and that threshing will be general this week-end. The crops look excellent but some disappointment in yield is expected. Wheat will average 18 bushels to the acre, grading 2 to 3, barley possibly 30, oats 40, rye 20, and flax 13.

In the Shoal Lake area dry weather is needed for harvesting operations. About 40 per cent of the grain has been cut and harvesting has been delayed by wet weather during the past week. A normal yield of wheat and oats is expected. The barley outturn will be fair and the flax crop should exceed that of last year. A report from the agricultural representative at Dauphin states that harvesting throughout the north-west was generally held up during the past week due to showery weather. Weed growth in early swathed fields is presenting a difficult problem. An excellent harvest of wild fruits and garden produce is reported. The average precipitation for the province since April 1 shows no change from last week at 20 per cent above normal. Mean temperature for the week ending August 25 was 9 degrees above normal.

Saskatchewan - Progress in harvesting operations has been slow during the past week due to frequent showers. Some districts received heavy rains. However, cutting has commenced in all districts and the wheat harvest is from 10 to 50 per cent completed. Most progress has been made in the extreme south-east and over the large area extending from Moose Jaw south and west to the borders of the province. All crops ripened rapidly this season and in general are ready for harvest, given suitable weather. Crop prospects have not materially altered and good to fair yields are being harvested over most of the eastern and south-central districts and on the heavy soils in west-central districts. The grade, however, is quite variable and in general considerably below average from the effects of extreme heat during filling time. Yields over the south-west, north-centre and north-west are low except in small local areas. Recent rains have greatly improved pastures and also late crops to some extent and the feed shortage is not expected to be as serious as indicated earlier in the season.

In east-central sections, around Indian Head, wheat swathing is fairly general due to sawfly damage. Wheat is expected to yield about 16 on lighter soils and 22 on heavier land. Pasture conditions here are excellent and live stock are in good shape. Our Fillmore correspondent reports 70 per cent wheat and barley cut with wheat yields ranging from 10 to 20 bushels per acre and grading from Two to Five Northern. Best grade is expected from stubble crops in this area.

Around Swift Current, oats are mostly in stock and wheat and barley are about 60 per cent harvested. Wheat yields are 8 to 15 on fallow. Fallow barley fields are yielding 15 to 22 bushels per acre. Grasshopper damage here is not as severe as expected earlier. Fall rye and winter wheat seeding has started. Farther south, at Val Marie, wheat is yielding about 10 bushels per acre and grading Four Special. Barley fields are yielding about 15 with 80 per cent harvested. Flax is a poor stand here and rye was badly wind damaged, yielding only about 12 bushels per acre. Pastures are good.

Rains have retarded harvesting in west-central areas. Wheat is averaging around 10 bushels per acre, flax 3, around Rosetown. The Dominion Experimental Station at Scott reports yields of wheat varying from 3 to 25 in west-central Saskatchewan with best yields on heavy soils in the southern part of the area.



Recent rains have improved the pasture situation and have provided suitable conditions for seeding fall grains.

In the north-west, around Prince, combining has commenced and yields of 8 bushels for wheat, 10 for oats, 6 for barley and 6 for rye are reported. The flax crop in this district still looks fair having benefited by rains which came too late to be of much benefit to other crops. Recent rains stopped harvesting which had just commenced in the Melfort area where pastures are now in fair condition. Hail losses are reported from storms August 20 at Big Beaver, Buffalo Gap, Coronach, Assiniboia, Estlin and Regina, August 21 at Admiral, Shaunavon, Chamberlain, Cupar and Milden.

The Dominion Plant Pathologist at Saskatoon reports that surveys throughout most districts of Saskatchewan indicate many fields of wheat in the south infested with smut, some seriously, which will cause degrading. There is also slight stem rust in late barley crops in the south-east. Severe Septoria Leafspot of wheat may have caused some damage to crops in the Kamsack and Wadena areas. Common Root Rot is prevalent throughout most of the dry districts with many fields seriously infested and yields generally lowered on this account. Bacterial Wilt is thinning stands of alfalfa in the irrigated areas in the south-west. There are no reports or observations of disease damage in flax.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 5 per cent above normal as compared with 2 per cent below normal a week ago. Mean temperature for the week ending August 25 was 3 degrees above normal.

Alberta - Heavy rains again occurred in Alberta this past week and harvesting operations have been further delayed. Given warm, dry weather cutting should be general throughout the province towards the end of the week. Losses from wheat stem sawfly increased during the week due to driving rains. Hail damage is reported from the following districts: Ferintosh, Edberg, Kelsey, Strome, Irma, Paradise Valley, Bittern Lake, Daysland, Bowden, Crossfield and Big Valley. Some frost has been reported in the Peace River area but it is too early to assess the damage.

In the south-western districts heavy rains are delaying harvesting operations and some loss in yield is feared where crops have been swathed or are ready for combining. Late crops, however, will benefit from the rain. In the Cardston area 2.3 inches of rain fell since our last report and no harvesting has been done for the past few days. The winter wheat has been cut and spring grain is nearly ready for harvesting. Harvesting will be general this coming week. In the central part of the province very little swathing or cutting has been done. Three inches of rain was received in the Stettler area and warm, dry weather is now needed.

Our correspondent at Calgary also reports heavy rains and states that harvesting will be held up most of this week. About 15 per cent of the wheat has been cut, 20 per cent of the oats and 40 per cent of the barley. Recent rains will benefit the feed situation in that area. In the north-central district heavy rains have occurred and cool weather has prevailed during the last week. Damage from frost is feared when the weather clears up as all late grains are still very green in this area. Clear, warm weather is badly needed to hasten ripening. Our correspondent from Donald reports over 2 inches of rain this past week. Harvesting is at a standstill and it is feared that new growth will interfere with combining. The rain, however, will help pastures and green feed.

In the Peace River area frosts on two successive nights occurred which will probably injure grain in low-lying areas. It is too early yet, however, to estimate what the general loss will be. The weather continues cool and showery and crops are maturing slowly. Some winter wheat and rye have been harvested and early barley has been cut in some areas. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 now stands at 5 per cent above normal as compared with 2 per cent below normal a week ago. Mean temperature for the week ending August 25 was 5 degrees below normal.



WEEKLY PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES, 1947 <sup>1/</sup>

Crop District and Province	Station	PRECIPITATION			TEMPERATURE	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 9 a.m.	
		8 a.m. August 25	Since April 1	Since April 1	August 25 Mean	Normal
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Pierson	Nil	10.12	9.76	71	61
	Melita	Trace	15.92	12.78	71	61
	Waskada	.16	10.09	2/ 10.24	72	61
2	Boissevain	.01	13.33	9.73	69	62
	Ninette	Nil	10.50	10.23	70	62
	Pilot Mound	Nil	11.25	2/ 10.92	72	61
3	Portage la Prairie	.02	10.14	9.96	73	61
	Graysville	.04	14.26	10.25	73	61
	Morden	Nil	14.19	10.17	72	62
	Morris	.01	13.94	10.16	73	61
	Emerson	Nil	12.44	9.65	72	62
4	Winnipeg	Trace	12.79	11.50	73	62
6	Sprague	Trace	15.08	10.61	70	60
	Pinawa	Nil	5.58	8.68	70	58
7	Virden	.50	15.64	8.76	N.R.	60
	Rivers	Trace	12.20	10.20	69	60
8	Brandon	.02	11.00	10.38	70	60
	Cypress River	Nil	9.80	10.23	N.R.	60
9	Minnedosa	.28	12.00	10.08	67	60
	Neepawa	1.68	11.51	10.08	71	60
10	Russell	.20	9.74	9.61	63	58
	Birtle	2.54	15.08	10.23	66	58
11	Dauphin	1.73	14.06	8.91	67	58
12	Gimli	.01	11.29	10.63	71	60
13	Swan River	.80	10.91	10.31	63	56
	The Pas	3.53	9.04	8.28	58	59
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.44	12.11	10.09	69.4	60.2
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Estevan	.07	11.77	9.52	69	61
	Carlyle	Nil	12.90	10.17	64	58
1B	Broadview	.32	12.16	9.20	64	59
	Moosomin	.08	16.27	9.15	66	58
2A	Yellow Grass	.84	7.93	8.76	65	61
	Midale	.26	9.55	9.67	68	61
2B	Moose Jaw	.66	9.87	9.22	65	61
	Regina	.81	11.10	9.32	65	60
	Francis	.40	9.67	7.85	62	60
	Qu'Appelle	.24	11.31	10.96	64	60
	Indian Head	.14	11.46	10.50	65	59
3AS	Assiniboia	1.60	17.74	7.46	62	61
	Ceylon	.26	14.43	11.14	63	60
3AN	Chaplin	.86	10.44	9.72	62	59
	Gravelbourg	.26	9.02	8.01	60	59
3BS	Instow	1.06	8.24	2/ 8.20	60	61
	Shaunavon	.80	7.92	7.76	63	59
	Cadillac	.66	8.68	2/ 10.14	62	59
	Val Marie	.32	8.50	8.41	63	60
	Aneroid	.48	10.00	9.30	63	59
3BN	Pennant	.30	8.01	9.01	62	61
	Swift Current	.46	7.78	9.52	61	58
	Hughton	.38	5.09	8.36	62	59
4A	Maple Creek	.42	6.94	8.61	64	62
	Consul	.05	4.62	7.25	62	59
4B	Roadene	.56	8.85	8.35	60	59
5A	Leross	2.66	10.06	2/ 9.30	60	58
	Yorkton	1.13	9.67	9.66	64	58
5B	Dafoe	2.31	11.53	8.41	60	56
	Foam Lake	1.86	13.25	9.17	61	57
	Lintlaw	2.18	9.70	9.18	60	56
	Kamsack	1.42	11.60	8.85	64	57
6A	Davidson	.26	8.77	7.60	62	58
	Dilke	2.32	6.69	2/ 6.95	N.R.	N.R.
	Semans	2.78	9.36	5.99	62	57
	Strasbourg	1.62	10.57	8.50	60	58
6B	Harris	1.40	5.73	2/ 8.16	62	58
	Outlook	.52	7.48	7.01	63	58
	Saskatoon	.54	6.47	8.88	62	58
	Elbow	.23	7.35	7.55	59	60
	Dundurn	.80	7.04	9.00	62	58
	Tugaske	.50	8.54	7.56	62	59
7A	Kindersley	3.08	7.17	8.02	N.R.	58
	Rosetown	.52	5.83	8.98	N.R.	57
7B	Macklin	.48	5.66	9.03	57	57
	Scott	1.22	6.98	8.47	57	58
	Ruthilda	2.54	6.82	2/ 9.10	N.R.	N.R.
	Biggar	1.92	7.37	8.16	57	59
8A	Nipawin	2.94	7.50	8.73	56	57
	Hudson Bay Junction	2.14	10.33	9.31	59	58
8B	Humboldt	1.24	7.50	7.64	60	57
	Melfort	3.32	9.69	9.27	57	58

WEEKLY PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES - 1947 <sup>1/</sup>(CONCLUDED)

Crop District and Province	Station	PRECIPITATION			TEMPERATURE	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ended 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. August 25	Since April 1	Since April 1	August 25 Mean	Normal
<u>SASKATCHEWAN (Con.)</u>						
9A	North Battleford	1.09	5.36	8.82	59	60
	Rabbit Lake	1.88	6.69	9.21	54	57
	Prince Albert	.93	5.23	9.14	59	58
9B	Waseca	2.38	6.84 2/	8.62	55	55
	Island Falls	2.49	11.00	9.63	54	58
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		1.11	9.22	8.76	61.4	58.7
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
1	Foremost	.84	9.64	10.46	61	63
	Winnifred	.82	8.22	6.76	N.R.	N.R.
	Medicine Hat	.96	9.34	7.77	63	63
	Manyberries	N.R.	3.73 2/	7.87	N.R.	63
2	Cowley	2.74	9.65	9.70	54	59
	Macleod	2.92	13.20	8.70	59	61
	Cardston	2.30	9.26	12.55	55	59
	Lethbridge	2.65	12.26	8.60	57	60
3	Vauxhall	N.R.	7.43 2/	7.56	N.R.	60
	Brooks	2.45	11.18	7.49	59	63
	Empress	1.44	4.73	7.86	N.R.	61
4	High River	2.56	14.18	10.81	51	56
	Vulcan	2.94	11.96 2/	8.69	N.R.	N.R.
5	Drumheller	1.84	7.40	9.53	58	63
	Hanna	2.46	7.16	10.15	54	59
6	Olds	3.02	11.70	10.65	50	54
	Calgary	1.65	11.28	10.74	52	58
	Three Hills	2.66	11.14	9.08	56	56
	Strathmore	2.62	8.13 2/	9.46	54	55
7	Gleichen	3.66	9.43 2/	8.79	55	57
	Viking	N.R.	3.49 2/	8.81	N.R.	56
	Sedgewick	1.86	8.23	9.42	53	56
	Hardisty	1.44	7.89 2/	9.18	N.R.	N.R.
8	Coronation	2.64	10.56	7.68	55	59
	Hughenden	1.40	6.18	8.62	55	60
	Red Deer	2.32	13.37	12.57	51	55
	Lacombe	N.R.	8.90 2/	10.72	N.R.	54
9	Wetaskiwin	2.70	11.03	10.21	51	57
	Camrose	2.18	8.32 2/	9.43	53	57
	Stettler	3.20	9.87	10.46	51	55
	Jasper	.62	7.44	5.38	49	52
10	Rocky Mountain House	1.34	13.21	11.35	51	54
	Springdale	1.40	11.88 2/	12.73	49	53
	Vegreville	2.36	10.77	11.43	49	55
11	Vermilion	3.26	9.50	11.19	53	55
	Lloydminster	3.31	9.08	8.20	54	55
	Edmonton	.91	10.22	10.94	52	58
	Whitecourt	.73	11.93	11.68	49	55
12	Edson	.76	13.01	10.90	48	54
	Elk Point	1.58	7.56	9.03	50	53
13	Campsie	.60	12.93 2/	10.98	50	55
	Athabaska	.60	8.38 2/	10.04	48	55
	Lac La Biche	.66	12.26	9.20	51	55
	High Prairie	.16	11.89 2/	9.09	47	56
14	Kinuso	.50	8.33 2/	8.78	46	57
	Wagner	.31	10.21	10.00	48	56
	Beaverlodge	.12	10.42 2/	7.60	47	56
15	Grande Prairie	.24	8.50	9.15	47	56
	Fairview	.13	9.29 2/	6.90	48	56
16	Fort St. John	.52	6.35	8.74	47	58
ALBERTA AVERAGE		1.57	9.99	9.47	52.1	57.1

N.R. No Report.

<sup>1/</sup> Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

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





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