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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, September 23, 1947. 3 p.m.- The last of a series of eleven telegraphic reports covering crop conditions throughout Canada is issued today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Included in this report is the last 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

Apple and potato harvesting operations are now under way in the Maritimes. There is no change in prospects for apples and Nova Scotia's crop will be much below average this year. The potato harvest in New Brunswick, however, is somewhat higher than expected. Harvesting of grain is well advanced.

The harvesting of cereal crops in Quebec is well advanced, but the yields are estimated to be below average. While late crops, such as potatoes and sugar beets have benefited from recent rains, it is expected that the outturn of potatoes will vary from fair to good. The use of aftermath has been instrumental in maintaining the milk flow in some areas. In other sections, however, a deterioration of pasture conditions has resulted in a drop in production.

The Ontario grain corn crop is progressing favourably and given another two weeks free from killing frosts, this source should provide a welcome addition to feed grain supplies. The corn for ensilage is much better than expected and silo filling is under way. The white bean harvest is in full swing although recent heavy rains in Huron County are making it difficult for bean growers in that area to continue operations. The continued wet weather has also hampered the harvest of flax-seed in this County. The flue-cured tobacco harvest is nearly completed and there appears to have been little hail and no frost damage. Although recent rains have delayed the harvesting of some late crops they have improved pasture conditions and promoted the germination of a large acreage of fall wheat. In eastern Ontario, blight has caused considerable damage to the tomato crop. The grain harvest in this area is light and the quality is rather poor. It is anticipated that much grain will have to be purchased in order to carry stock through the winter.

Harvesting operations have been practically at a complete standstill in the Prairie Provinces over the past two weeks. Before the wet weather set in harvesting in Manitoba was nearly completed, whereas in Saskatchewan about 60 per cent was finished and in Alberta, apart from the southern areas, little or no threshing has been done.

Threshing of wheat and coarse grains in Manitoba is fairly well completed with the exception of some western and northern areas of the province. Wet weather has held up operations generally and a large share of the flax crop has not yet been cut. Threshers' reports on flax already harvested indicate quite good yields and with a reasonable improvement in harvesting conditions the Manitoba flax crop should come up to expectations. With approximately 20 per cent of wheat still to be cut and with threshing only 60 per cent completed, harvesting operations in Saskatchewan were practically at a standstill during the last week due to daily rains in almost all districts. No widespread damage from wet weather has been reported to date although sprouting in stocks and swaths has occurred in some areas, especially in the west-central and northern districts. The weather in Alberta during the past two weeks has been extremely unfavourable and harvesting operations have been at a standstill in most districts. Recent heavy snowstorms in southern Alberta and continual rains in central and northern Alberta have caused lodging of standing grain and have soaked grains already cut. Some sprouting has been reported. Most of the grains have been cut but apart from



the southern districts, little threshing has been completed. A full week of drying weather is needed.

Good weather has prevailed generally throughout British Columbia during the past three weeks with grain harvesting practically completed in southern areas. Harvesting operations are in full swing in the northern districts with cutting of coarse grains about 80 per cent completed in the Peace River Block. Picking of the late fruit crops is well under way and yields and quality are generally satisfactory.

#### Maritime Provinces

In Nova Scotia, yields of plums and pears have been average to heavy but the apple harvest is turning out as expected--a much below average crop. Apple and potato harvesting are under way in New Brunswick with potato yields somewhat higher than expected and the apple set low. The grain harvest is well advanced and truck crops are nearly all harvested. September rains have relieved the drought situation in Nova Scotia but the soil is still dry in some areas. Recent heavy rains in New Brunswick have renewed pasture growth, especially in the southern and eastern sections of the province.

#### Quebec

The harvesting of generally below average cereal crops is drawing to a close in Quebec. Although late crops such as potatoes and sugar beets have benefited from recent rains, it is expected that the outturn of potatoes will vary from fair to good. Pastures are only fair and the milkflow in some areas has been maintained only through the use of aftermath. At Ste Anne de la Pocatiere it is estimated that about 90 per cent of the cereal crop has been harvested. It is anticipated that the wheat crop will be 10 per cent below average. Barley, oats and peas are expected to be 25 per cent and fodder corn 10 per cent below normal. Pastures are average and the milk flow has been kept at a reasonable level due to the aftermath. The picking of plums has been under way for the past week and the yield is reported to be excellent. The outturn of early apples is good and the honey crop is average. Matapedia Valley and the Gaspé Coast experienced severe frost September 12.

At Normandin a six degree frost was registered September 12. About 75 per cent of the cereals have been harvested with some being cut green. Potatoes are expected to yield fair to good. Milk production is down with pastures only fair. In the Lennoxville area, the grain harvest is well advanced with the yield placed at forty per cent below that of a year ago. The corn crop appears to be good and the harvest is 80 per cent complete. Pastures are very short. The tobacco harvest has been completed at L'Assomption. Ensilage corn is yielding below normal. Sugar beets have improved as a result of the fairly abundant September rains. The potato crop is expected to be below normal.

#### Ontario

An additional two weeks of frost-free weather should help to promote a fairly good corn crop and provide a welcome addition to Ontario feed grain supplies. Continued wet weather has hampered the white bean and flaxseed harvest in Huron County although it has generally improved pastures and promoted the germination of the recently sown fall wheat. The flue-cured tobacco harvest is almost complete with little hail and no frost damage. The eastern Ontario tomato crop has suffered from considerable blight damage. Grain crops in this area are light and of rather poor quality with the result that much grain will have to be purchased to carry the stock through the winter. The picking of Elberta peaches is under way and this variety promises to produce a good yield of high quality fruit. The price of grapes for wine or grape juice purposes was set during the past week at \$95 per ton, an increase of \$2.50 over last year's price. Fredonias and Niagaras are being picked for the wineries and offered by the basket on local markets.

In Essex County exceptionally warm weather with ample sunshine during September has hastened maturity and improved the agricultural picture. More than 80 per cent of the tobacco crop has now been harvested. Corn and soybeans are ripening rapidly but more good weather will be required for full maturity. On Pelee Island soybean prospects are fair and a crop of 130,000 bushels is anticipated. The tobacco crop is disappointing due to heavy rains.

In the Chatham district the harvesting of tobacco and beans is progressing favourably, but more warm weather is needed to mature the bulk of the corn crop and some tobacco and other crops. No serious infestation of insects is reported although grasshoppers are plentiful. Harvesting operations are practically completed in Waterloo County. The yield of fall wheat was disappointing. The majority of the oat and barley crop has been threshed with a yield about 75 per cent of normal. An average outturn of roots and corn is expected.

#### Manitoba

While reports have not been received from all districts in Manitoba threshing of wheat and coarse grains appears to be well on the way to completion with the exception of some western and northern areas of the province. Wet weather has delayed flax harvesting and much of this crop remains to be cut.

The Dominion Experimental Station at Morden reports harvesting in that area completed except for a few fields of late flax, with rain during the week delaying flax combining. The yield and grade of cereal crops have been generally low. Root crops are showing fair outturn with corn and sunflowers maturing. Pastures are in fair condition. A heavy frost is reported on the 21st with from 8 to 13 degrees below freezing being recorded on the ground. At Melita in the south-western corner of the province wet weather during the past week has held up harvesting operations. Ninety per cent of the grain crops has been threshed but only 15 per cent of the flax. Flax threshed to date has averaged about 12 bushels per acre.

In the Brandon area, weather conditions have remained favourable for threshing with about 80 per cent completed in the district. Seventy-five per cent of the wheat crop is reported as grading No. 3 Northern with the remainder mostly No. 2 Northern. Pasm disease is widespread in the flax in this area but the damage is variable. Sixteen degrees of frost were reported on the night of September 21. While soil moisture prospects for 1948 are fair, heavy rains would be welcome. In the Woodnorth area unfavourable weather has delayed harvesting. Threshing of wheat is about 90 per cent completed while about 50 per cent of the coarse grain crops remains to be harvested. Flax harvesting has just commenced. Our correspondent in this area reports that the probable average yield of wheat will be 18 bushels, barley 20, oats 30 and flax 11 bushels per acre. Farmers are seeding a considerable acreage to fall rye. Feed supplies are considered to be adequate in this district. Conditions in the Neepawa area are similar to those reported for Woodnorth.

Around Shoal Lake in the north-western section of the province only one-third of the threshing has been completed. Unfavourable weather stopped threshing last week and many harvesters left the district. Labour is now in short supply. Yields here are apparently running somewhat below earlier expectations. No flax or peas have yet been threshed but quite good yields are anticipated.

The Entomological Laboratory at Brandon reports no recent insect damage. While the grasshopper egg survey and forecasts are not yet complete, there is a possibility of light grasshopper damage in 1948 in the southern Red River Valley area. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 is 12 per cent above normal as compared with 17 per cent above normal three weeks ago. Mean temperature for the week ending September 22 was 6 degrees below normal.

#### Saskatchewan

Almost daily rains during the past week have delayed harvesting in all districts. About 20 per cent of the wheat has still to be cut. Wheat threshing in the province is nearly 60 per cent completed. While no serious general damage from wet weather is reported the grades have been lowered in some districts and sprouting in the stook and swath is causing further deterioration of the light crop in west-central and northern districts.

A report from Manor in the south-east indicates that only a small percentage of threshing has been done due to continued wet weather. Yield and quality of wheat in this area are fair. Oat and flax crops are better than wheat. This year's summerfallow fields are weedy, because excess moisture has prevented cultivation necessary for weed control. Live stock is in very good condition. At Indian Head approximately 80 per cent of the wheat has been delivered to elevators. Most of the wheat crop in this area is grading No. 2 or 3 and the average yield is upwards of 25 bushels per acre. Recent rains will tend to cut down the grade. Farther north at Willowbrook, threshing is only 30 to 35 per cent completed and yields are quite variable ranging from 12 to 35 bushels per acre. Coarse grain yields are comparatively



light but pastures are good and the feed situation is fairly satisfactory. There is considerable variability in yields over the central districts. In the Drake-Lanigan area wheat yields range from 2 to 25, averaging approximately 12 bushels per acre. Oats are running about 10 and barley 12.

The Dominion Experimental Station at Swift Current reports that harvesting operations have been at a standstill there for the past 10 days. About 10 per cent of grain is still in the fields, including almost all of the flax. Weathering damage has not been serious and there is no frost damage to grain in this area.

Reports from the Scott area indicate that harvesting of the low yielding crop there has been held up for over two weeks by showery weather. Very little wheat, probably 10 per cent, and slightly more oats and barley, have been threshed. Sprouting of grain in both stooks and swaths, especially in the northern parts of this area will further reduce yields and grades. Combining and threshing is about one-third completed around Melfort with wheat averaging around 15 bushels per acre and barley 30. Oat crops were light in this district and wet weather has caused considerable loss in the stook. Frost damage has not been serious and is mostly confined to gardens.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 16 per cent above normal as compared with 7 per cent above normal three weeks ago. Mean temperature for the week ending September 22 was approximately 6 degrees below normal.

#### Alberta

Harvesting in Alberta has been delayed during the past two weeks because of very unfavourable weather conditions. Recent heavy snowstorms in southern Alberta brought harvesting operations to a standstill for a few days, while continual rains in central and northern Alberta have held up harvesting for the past ten days. Lodging is reported in standing grain and some sprouting in swathed and stooked grain has occurred. A full week of good drying weather is required before harvesting will be general again.

About one-third of the grain harvesting remains to be done in the western part of southern Alberta where the weather is reported to have cleared over the week end. Most of the grain has been cut. In central Alberta a large part of the grain crop has been cut but little threshing has been done. Some sprouting, especially in swathed grain has been reported. Grades are expected to be lowered and some reduction in yields are anticipated. In the Peace River district sixty per cent of the wheat has been cut and cutting of coarse grains ranges from twenty to fifty per cent completed. Grades are expected to be low. Frost was reported on the night of September 17 but no indication of damage has been given.

Light scattered hail storms occurred over southern Alberta during the past week and two severe storms on September 12 were reported across central Alberta. Sawfly losses have increased as a result of the recent snow and rain. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 14 per cent above normal as compared with 7 per cent above normal three weeks ago. Mean temperature for the week ending September 22 was 6 degrees below normal.

#### British Columbia

Since September 3, the date of our last report, the weather has been generally fine with the exception of heavy rains over the week end of September 6-7 and again during the night of September 15. Nights have been generally cool and some frosts have occurred. Grain harvesting is practically completed in southern portions of the province while in the northern sections harvesting operations are in full swing with cutting of coarse grains in the Peace River Block about 80 per cent completed. Pastures are improving. Hop picking is completed and yields for the most part have been satisfactory. Picking of the McIntosh apple crop is now general. The fruit is of good colour and excellent quality but the size is varying from heavy to medium and small. Harvesting of the prune and peach crops is now finished. Our correspondent at Saanichton reports that fall planting of cereal crops has commenced. The soil is fairly dry but some precipitation has occurred and has revived dried out pastures. Bulb planting has commenced and will continue for the next six weeks. Considerable losses from blight are indicated in the late potato crop.

(CONTINUED) WEEKLY PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES 1947 1/

Crop District and Province	Station	PRECIPITATION			TEMPERATURE	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. Sept. 22	since April 1	since April 1	Sept. 22 Mean	Normal
<b>MANITOBA</b>						
1	Pierson	.60	11.08	11.23	45	53
	Melita	.50	16.74	14.46	46	52
	Waskada	.22	11.51	11.59	46	52
2	Boissevain	.20	13.99	11.28	44	52
	Ninette	Trace	10.92	11.70	45	52
	Pilot Mound	.58	12.15 2/	12.77	44	52
3	Portage la Prairie	.07	10.79	12.09	N.R.	52
	Graysville	.32	14.80 2/	12.34	50	53
	Morden	.74	15.21	11.90	47	53
	Morris	.68	14.91	12.35	48	53
	Emerson	2.30	15.26	11.45	48	53
4	Winnipeg	.34	13.84	13.63	47	52
6	Sprague	1.58	18.13	12.64	46	51
	Pinawa	.20	6.72	10.77	46	50
7	Virden	.75	17.09	10.23	N.R.	51
	Rivers	.68	13.60	11.87	44	51
8	Brandon	.26	11.54	12.08	45	52
	Cypress River	.56	10.82	12.13	44	52
9	Minnedosa	.59	13.06	11.74	43	51
	Neepawa	.43	12.26	11.74	45	51
10	Russell	.60	11.22	11.19	N.R.	49
	Birtle	.64	16.90	11.66	43	49
11	Dauphin	.14	15.24	10.67	45	49
12	Gimli	.04	12.64	12.43	47	51
13	Swan River	.36	14.01	12.11	43	47
	The Pas	.23	10.52	9.98	43	49
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.52	13.25	11.85	45.4	51.2
<b>SASKATCHEWAN</b>						
1A	Estevan	.49	12.44	10.98	48	51
	Carlyle	.34	13.60	11.85	43	49
1B	Broadview	.95	14.17	10.75	43	50
	Moosomin	.60	18.09	11.07	43	48
2A	Yellow Grass	1.12	10.38 2/	10.30	45	51
	Midale	.62	10.93	11.30	46	51
2B	Moose Jaw	1.42	12.29	10.52	47	52
	Regina	1.16	13.02	10.58	45	50
	Francis	N.R.	11.29 2/	9.82	N.R.	51
	Qu'Appelle	1.22	13.39	12.53	44	52
	Indian Head	1.13	13.24	12.22	44	50
3AS	Assiniboia	1.06	18.83	8.58	43	54
	Ceylon	.96	16.59	12.96	43	51
3AN	Chaplin	1.60	13.96	10.91	44	50
	Gravelbourg	1.24	10.66	9.07	44	50
3BS	Instow	N.R.	8.51 2/	9.64	N.R.	50
	Shaunavon	.94	9.18	8.85	44	48
	Cadillac	N.R.	9.10 2/	11.65	N.R.	50
	Val Marie	.36	9.16	9.65	43	50
	Aneroid	.70	11.40	10.57	46	50
3BN	Pennant	1.30	10.37	10.42	44	51
	Swift Current	1.50	10.05	10.84	44	49
	Hughton	1.68	7.99	9.42	43	49
4A	Maple Creek	1.72	8.82 2/	9.90	46	53
	Consul	1.26	6.03	8.36	44	49
4B	Roadene	1.76	11.03	9.43	44	49
5A	Leross	1.36	15.12	10.93	40	49
	Yorkton	1.20	13.59	11.35	43	49
5B	Dafoe	1.08	14.99	9.90	43	46
	Foam Lake	1.18	15.49	10.90	43	47
	Lintlaw	.88	12.22	11.23	40	47
	Kamsack	.44	14.26	10.19	44	48
6A	Davidson	1.06	11.17	8.80	44	49
	Dilke	1.88	10.81	8.20	N.R.	N.R.
	Semans	1.00	11.98	7.18	42	48
	Strasbourg	1.42	13.97	9.67	42	49
6B	Harris	.80	8.57 2/	9.26	48	48
	Outlook	.95	10.77	8.13	45	49
	Saskatoon	.73	9.87	10.39	44	49
	Elbow	1.19	10.49	8.51	41	50
	Dundurn	.56	9.04	10.39	43	48
	Tugaske	1.46	11.88	8.51	44	49
7A	Kindersley	1.42	10.00	9.30	N.R.	49
	Rosetown	1.29	9.09	10.35	N.R.	48
7B	Macklin	.58	8.64	10.46	42	47
	Scott	.70	9.66	9.87	42	49
	Ruthilda	.90	9.66 2/	10.33	N.R.	N.R.
	Biggar	1.14	10.67	9.42	42	49



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 ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. Sept. 22	since April 1	since April 1	Sept. 22 Mean	Normal
<u>SASKATCHEWAN (con.)</u>						
8A	Nipawin	.34	9.38	11.00	43	47
	Hudson Bay Junction	.49	13.57	10.99	41	47
8B	Humboldt	.62	10.87	8.56	42	49
	Melfort	.42	12.28	11.04	42	48
9A	North Battleford	.63	8.85	10.22	44	51
	Rabbit Lake	.80	9.85	10.64	39	48
	Prince Albert	.40	7.84	10.80	42	49
9B	Waseca	.60	7.44 2/	9.89	42	47
	Island Falls	.55	14.00	11.77	41	47
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.99	11.77	10.18	43.4	49.2
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
1	Foremost	2.40	12.82	12.13	44	53
	Winnifred	1.78	10.46	7.91	N.R.	N.R.
	Medicine Hat	2.04	12.01	8.91	45	54
	Manyberries	1.46	5.29 2/	9.39	44	53
2	Cowley	.48	10.33	11.36	43	51
	Macleod	5.06	18.54	10.12	46	53
	Cardston	1.40	11.04	14.79	40	50
	Lethbridge	3.53	16.05	10.27	43	52
3	Vauxhall	N.R.	9.87 2/	8.97	N.R.	51
	Brooks	1.88	13.64	8.60	43	52
	Empress	1.14	5.93	9.03	N.R.	51
4	High River	2.01	16.65 2/	12.69	40	48
	Vulcan	1.48	14.23	10.20	N.R.	N.R.
5	Drumheller	1.68	9.99	10.91	N.R.	54
	Hanna	1.58	9.64	11.08	42	49
6	Olds	.94	14.60	12.75	40	47
	Calgary	1.19	13.25	12.42	40	50
	Three Hills	1.18	11.43	10.65	40	48
	Strathmore	1.70	10.21 2/	11.09	38	46
	Gleichen	N.R.	9.93 2/	9.98	N.R.	48
7	Viking	N.R.	5.11 2/	10.33	N.R.	47
	Sedgewick	.28	10.45	11.03	40	48
	Hardisty	.62	10.97 2/	10.59	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	1.14	12.53	9.09	42	48
	Hughenden	.60	9.16	10.08	43	50
8	Red Deer	.74	15.24	14.82	40	48
	Lacombe	N.R.	11.17 2/	12.34	N.R.	46
	Wetaskiwin	.50	14.69	11.82	41	48
	Camrose	N.R.	10.38 2/	10.95	N.R.	48
	Stettler	.86	12.75	11.82	41	47
9	Jasper	.13	8.81	6.63	44	48
	Rocky Mountain House	.89	16.21	13.68	40	44
	Springdale	.90	15.90	14.91	40	45
10	Vegreville	.34	13.03 2/	12.94	N.R.	46
	Vermilion	.61	12.10	12.87	42	46
	Lloydminster	.60	11.34	9.13	42	46
11	Edmonton	.30	13.35	12.37	42	49
12	Whitecourt	.25	15.16	13.27	39	46
	Edson	N.R.	15.47 2/	12.86	N.R.	48
13	Elk Point	.56	11.15	10.34	40	45
14	Campsie	.24	15.65	12.60	41	47
	Athabaska	N.R.	10.42 2/	11.49	N.R.	47
	Lac La Biche	.62	15.66	10.48	41	47
15	High Prairie	.68	14.57	10.68	42	48
	Kinuso	.82	10.58 2/	10.33	N.R.	48
	Wagner	.73	13.44	11.78	41	46
16	Beaverlodge	.32	12.95	9.10	46	47
	Grande Prairie	.42	9.70	10.88	46	47
	Fairview	.09	10.78 2/	8.06	44	47
17	Fort St. John	.10	7.32	10.20	48	49
ALBERTA AVERAGE		1.08	12.56	11.01	42.0	48.4

N.R. - No report.

<sup>1/</sup> - Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.<sup>2/</sup> - Incomplete: not included in average.