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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, June 24, 1947, 3 p.m. - The sixth 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

Based upon conditions at the present time and barring the development of adverse weather and moisture conditions during the critical period between now and early August, prospects are good for at least an average crop in the Prairie Provinces this year. Perhaps the most serious hazard the current crop may have to face is the possibility of frost damage. The stage of development of nearly all grains is from ten days to two weeks later than normal and the probability of damage from early frosts is thereby greatly increased.

Rainfall since April 1 is now above normal in Manitoba and approaching normal in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Moisture is fairly well distributed except in rather wide areas of central and northern Saskatchewan, and in parts of the Peace River country. Rains are now needed in these districts. Subsoil moisture reserves accumulated from precipitation last fall were generally above average. Pest infestations have not been overly severe to date but weed growth is heavy and loss from this source, as well as from hail, may yet be considerable.

Heavy rains have fallen over the greater part of Manitoba during the past week. One point reported just under seven inches while three to four inches of precipitation fell in a number of districts. Growing conditions have been good and crops are generally making very satisfactory progress, although the stage of development is still well behind normal for this time of year. Weed growth is very heavy this season and chemical control is being attempted in some districts. Fairly serious infestations of cutworms are reported at some points but the damage does not appear to be widespread. The rains have materially improved pasture condition and hay crop prospects.

Crop conditions in southern Saskatchewan are generally satisfactory with all crops continuing to make good growth. In central and northern areas, however, lack of surface moisture is holding up advancement and timely rains are required to promote growth. Subsoil moisture reserves in most areas are still reported sufficient. In a normal year the wheat crop would be well advanced in the shot blade stage but it is still behind normal with only a moderate part of the southern area having reached this stage. Spring frost damage is not considered to have been serious except in some fields of fall rye. While moderate wireworm damage to wheat on summerfallow is widespread throughout the open prairie area, reports do not indicate that loss of crops due to pest damage will reach serious proportions. Good progress is being made with summerfallow operations and about 50 per cent is now reported completed. Live stock and pastures generally are reported in fair to good condition except in northern areas.

Crop prospects in Alberta continue to be very favourable. Showers in most districts during the past week maintained satisfactory moisture conditions, except in the Peace River district where rain is required. Temperatures during the week remained somewhat below normal but crop progress generally was satisfactory. Crops are later than usual, with wheat averaging seven inches in height and about twenty per cent in the shot blade. Coarse grains are five inches above ground. Pastures are reported good to excellent. Hail storms ranged widely over southern and central Alberta during the week causing some damage to crops.

Manitoba - Good growing conditions have prevailed quite generally during the past week and crops have made satisfactory progress. High winds were depleting the soil moisture in some areas but extremely heavy rains over the week-end improved conditions materially. Fairly serious cutworm damage has been reported in some local areas but indications are that the infestations are not widespread. Weed growth is heavy but chemicals are being tried out in a number of districts. Fall rye is starting to head and early wheat is covering the ground well.

In the south-central portion of the province rains have promoted growth and greatly improved pasture conditions. Moisture supplies are adequate for the present and sunflower, flax and corn crop prospects are much improved. Warmer weather would again be welcome. In the Melita area in the south-west corner of the province very heavy rains have occurred since the 20th and a good deal of low-lying land is under water. It will be several days before the extent of the damage, if any, can be determined.

Brandon in the west-central part of the province has received heavy rains and crop prospects are reported to be bright. Weeds, however, are bad and along with cutworms and mildew will cause failures in numerous fields of flax. Grass hay is only fair in the Brandon district and sweet clover is sparse due to weevil damage. Prospects for alfalfa are good, but all crops remain generally two weeks behind normal growth. West of Brandon, around Woodnorth, very heavy rains occurred over the week-end and crop conditions are now deemed excellent with hay prospects much improved and pastures in good condition.

Favourable reports are received from north-central districts following heavy week-end rains. Some water is still lying on fields but damage should not be excessive. Pastures are in excellent condition and the hay crop is promising. With moisture supplies adequate for the time being more heat is now required to promote growth. Considerable cutworm damage has been reported in gardens and some in crops. In the Neepawa area, moisture conditions are excellent and despite the lateness of the season prospects are good. Fall rye was seeded last week. Earlier grain crops are now up seven and one-half inches. Damage to flax crops from the earlier frosts has not been of a serious nature. Pastures to date have been poor but prospects are now good. Slight crop damage has been reported due to soil-drifting and gardens are backward with poor germination indicated. Cutworms and sweet clover weevils have caused damage at some points.

On June 23 our correspondent at Dauphin reported that 40 per cent of the crops in that area was submerged with rain still falling. Until Friday (June 20) crops were progressing favourably under good growing conditions. Chemical weed control measures are being employed and good results were apparent before the rain although only a small percentage of the fields has been covered. Gardens in this area are in good condition.

The Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Brandon reports that cutworm damage is still continuing in fields and gardens. Average precipitation since April 1 has been 9 per cent above normal as compared with 32 per cent below normal a week ago. Last year at this time average precipitation for the province since April 1 had been 46 per cent below normal. Mean temperature for the week ending June 23 this year was approximately 1 degree above normal.

Saskatchewan - There were heavy rains during the past week in south-east and east-central districts and considerable crop is lying under water at Indian Head. Warm, dry weather is required to force late crops. Early wheat and pastures are in good condition. Except in small areas where rains were exceptionally heavy they were most opportune and arrived before plants began to draw on subsoil moisture. Hail damage on June 19 ranging from 25 to 100 per cent is reported at Radville, Bengough, Willow Bunch, Forward, Pangman, Ogema and Viceroy but since inspections have not yet been made the extent of the damage is not known.

Crop prospects in south-central and south-west areas are being well maintained with pastures and live stock generally in very good condition.

The Dominion Experimental Station at Scott reports that warm weather with a few scattered showers during the past week has promoted good growth but that rain is needed throughout the whole north-west area. Early-sown crops at Prince are suffering for lack of moisture and if timely rains are not received a very limited

crop will be harvested in this area. Late-sown grains are still in fair condition.

Pastures in the Melfort area are poor and the first hay cut will be light and weedy. This condition applies also to the area from White Fox to Prince Albert. No general rains have been received in the northern districts and growth is uneven and slow with below-normal stooing.

The Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Saskatoon reports severe damage by pale western cutworms in a few fields in the Mantario and Eston districts and widespread but moderate wireworm damage on medium soils throughout the open prairie areas of southern and central Saskatchewan. On the whole, insect damage does not appear to be a very serious hazard at present. The most urgent requirement is for general rains over the central and northern areas.

The average precipitation for the province since April 1 is now 10 per cent below normal compared with 20 per cent below normal a week ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 23 was approximately one degree above normal.

Alberta - Showers over most of Alberta during the past week maintained the generally satisfactory moisture conditions, except in the Peace River district where weather continues to be dry. Prospects are good throughout the province, in spite of the lateness of the crops. However, rain is needed in some areas to maintain the favourable outlook. Crops are making satisfactory progress with wheat averaging seven inches high and twenty per cent in the shot blade. Coarse grains show five inches above ground. Warmer weather is needed to hasten crop development. Pastures are reported good to excellent. Hail storms during a four-day period last week ranged over a wide area in south-western and west-central Alberta, causing considerable damage to fall wheat and rye. Good recovery on spring grains is anticipated.

In southern Alberta wheat and coarse grains are reported in good condition. Previously frozen rye in the vicinity of Medicine Hat is re-stooing and with good rains may make a crop. Our Vulcan correspondent reports good growing conditions with flax doing well.

Very favourable prospects are indicated in central Alberta, but warmer weather is needed to accelerate plant growth. Wheat is six to ten inches in height, generally well stooed, with some early fields in the shot blade stage. Coarse grains are making good progress. From Edmonton the stand of wheat is reported generally good, and previous frost damage to crops has been overcome.

Warmer weather in the northern districts has improved the crop outlook. Unusually good prospects are reported by our Athabasca correspondent in spite of crops being about twelve days late. In the Peace River district the greatest need is for rain to replenish diminished moisture supplies. The crop outlook is, however, good.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 7 per cent below normal as compared with 6 per cent below normal a week ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 23 was approximately one degree below normal.

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. June 23
		8 a.m. June 23	Since April 1	Since April 1	Mean	Normal
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Pierson	3.88	6.83	5.18	59	61
	Melita	3.54	7.92	6.46	62	62
	Waskada	N.R.	2.06 2/	5.45	N.R.	63
2	Boissevain	2.98	5.70	5.22	63	62
	Ninette	1.54	4.88	5.73	64	62
	Pilot Mound	1.30	3.53 2/	5.85	64	63
3	Portage la Prairie	2.24	4.70	5.16	66	63
	Graysville	1.40	5.22	5.70	62	62
	Morden	1.34	4.26	5.52	65	63
	Morris	1.24	4.55	5.19	65	63
	Emerson	1.32	4.34	4.76	65	63
4	Winnipeg	1.56	4.91	5.81	66	63
6	Sprague	.48	8.02	5.75	65	61
	Pinawa	.26	2.12	4.05	65	61
7	Virden	5.66	9.40	4.56	61	61
	Rivers	4.09	6.73	5.17	64	62
8	Brandon	2.86	5.50	5.20	64	62
	Cypress River	1.46	3.54	5.14	63	62
9	Minnedosa	3.00	5.20	5.15	62	61
	Neepawa	2.32	4.05	5.15	63	61
10	Russell	5.62	6.36	4.88	59	59
	Birtle	6.82	9.96	4.89	58	60
11	Dauphin	3.76	7.32	4.20	61	61
12	Gimli	1.43	5.42	5.87	64	61
13	Swan River	2.70	5.21	4.84	60	59
	The Pas	1.57	3.15	3.65	63	60
MANITOBA AVERAGE		2.57	5.64	5.17	62.9	61.6
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Estevan	1.96	6.00	5.19	61	61
	Carlyle	4.12	7.62	5.38	56	59
1B	Broadview	3.29	7.26	4.51	59	60
	Moosomin	6.96	11.65	4.62	59	61
2A	Yellow Grass	1.80	3.89	4.89	61	61
	Midale	2.24	4.43	5.43	60	61
2B	Moose Jaw	.28	5.23	4.99	63	62
	Regina	.76	5.16	4.82	62	60
	Francis	1.88	4.22	4.10	58	60
	Qu'Appelle	N.R.	3.83 2/	5.81	N.R.	60
	Indian Head	2.62	7.48	5.61	61	60
3AS	Assiniboia	.86	8.27	4.25	60	62
	Ceylon	3.34	7.42 2/	6.34	N.R.	61
3AN	Chaplin	.08	5.28	5.38	64	62
	Gravelbourg	.08	4.62	4.56	61	61
3BS	Instow	N.R.	3.96 2/	4.38	N.R.	60
	Shaunavon	.26	4.44	4.15	60	60
	Cadillac	N.R.	4.06 2/	6.50	N.R.	60
	Val Marie	.52	4.74	4.67	58	61
	Aneroid	.30	4.56	5.16	61	60
3BN	Pennant	.20	4.91	5.49	60	60
	Swift Current	.07	4.62	4.93	60	62
	Hughton	N.R.	2.15 2/	4.77	N.R.	60
4A	Maple Creek	.12	4.04	4.79	59	61
	Consul	.49	2.32	4.31	57	59
4B	Roadene	.06	4.99	4.78	60	60
5A	Leross	1.54	4.22	5.03	56	58
	Yorkton	3.75	6.78	4.65	61	60
5B	Dafoe	.18	2.16	4.40	62	58
	Foam Lake	1.18	2.92	4.68	62	58
	Lintlaw	1.84	3.42	4.68	60	58
	Kamsack	2.38	5.30	3.85	61	58
6A	Davidson	Nil	2.74	4.13	62	60
	Nilke	.32	2.75	3.58	N.R.	N.R.
	Semans	.14	1.60	3.20	64	59
	Strasbourg	.58	3.72	4.71	60	60
6B	Harris	.54	3.01 2/	4.07	62	60
	Outlook	.20	3.60	3.19	64	60
	Saskatoon	.11	2.35	3.98	63	60
	Elbow	Nil	3.08	4.15	62	60
	Dundurn	.08	3.06	4.87	63	60
	Tugaske	Nil	3.06	4.16	61	60
7A	Kindersley	Nil	2.08	3.67	61	57
	Rosetown	Trace	2.50	4.60	62	58
7B	Macklin	.02	2.94	4.78	59	57
	Scott	Nil	2.14	3.98	56	59
	Ruthilda	Nil	2.16 2/	4.50	N.R.	N.R.
	Biggar	Trace	2.49	3.40	62	59
8A	Nipawin	.28	2.08	4.76	66	58

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

Crop District and Province	Station	PRECIPITATION			TEMPERATURE	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m. June 23	
		8 a.m. June 23	Since April 1	Since April 1	Mean	Normal
<u>SASKATCHEWAN (concluded)</u>						
8A	Hudson Bay Junction	2.43	6.20	4.48	61	60
8B	Humboldt	.08	2.18	3.86	62	59
	Melfort	.17	2.12	4.11	N.R.	60
9A	North Battleford	Trace	1.43	4.35	62	62
	Rabbit Lake	.16	2.59	4.21	57	60
	Prince Albert	.22	1.87	4.40	64	60
9B	Waseca	N.R.	1.95 2/	4.40	N.R.	58
	Island Falls	1.40	4.31	4.21	62	59
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.96	4.11	4.58	60.8	59.8
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
1	Foremost	.64	5.64	6.16	58	65
	Winnifred	.72	4.90	4.27	N.R.	N.R.
	Medicine Hat	.62	4.88	4.20	59	62
	Manyberries	N.R.	2.49 2/	4.48	N.R.	63
2	Cowley	.03	4.65	5.82	54	57
	Macleod	.36	8.54	4.72	60	63
	Cardston	.56	4.12	7.73	59	61
	Lethbridge	.72	6.60	5.03	59	61
3	Vauxhall	N.R.	3.38 2/	3.93	57	62
	Brooks	.32	6.52	4.05	60	63
	Empress	.14	1.80	4.39	58	64
4	High River	.70	8.52	6.29	56	57
	Vulcan	.56	4.70	4.97	N.R.	N.R.
5	Drumheller	.34	3.15	5.04	N.R.	62
	Hanna	.12	2.80	5.41	58	62
6	Olds	.72	5.56	5.34	56	56
	Calgary	1.58	5.38	5.48	57	58
	Three Hills	.80	3.67	4.74	58	56
	Strathmore	.36	2.72 2/	5.11	56	57
	Gleichen	.28	3.85	4.43	59	58
7	Viking	.10	2.85 2/	4.42	60	57
	Sedgewick	.58	3.94	4.21	58	57
	Hardisty	.12	3.25 2/	3.99	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	.09	3.83	4.08	58	59
	Hughenden	.80	3.66	4.36	59	62
8	Red Deer	1.27	6.18	6.37	57	57
	Lacombe	N.R.	5.03 2/	5.34	N.R.	58
	Wetaskiwin	.42	4.82	4.85	57	58
	Camrose	1.02	3.52	4.79	57	58
	Stettler	.76	3.60	5.71	57	57
9	Jasper	.22	3.53	2.65	53	55
	Rocky Mountain House	.19	6.08	5.79	55	55
	Springdale	.82	5.91	6.02	54	56
	Vegreville	.96	3.98	5.41	60	58
10	Vermilion	.16	3.01	4.76	58	58
	Lloydminster	Trace	1.41	3.93	60	58
11	Edmonton	.20	5.13	4.83	58	58
12	Whitecourt	.55	4.51	4.93	54	58
	Edson	.64	4.43	4.50	54	56
13	Elk Point	.64	2.94	4.34	58	57
14	Campsie	.44	5.20	4.86	56	58
	Athabaska	.28	3.56	4.41	54	58
	Lac La Biche	.59	6.17	4.50	60	58
15	High Prairie	.92	4.74	4.23	60	58
	Kinuso	N.R.	1.63 2/	4.39	N.R.	58
	Wagner	.54	4.66	4.46	57	58
16	Beaverlodge	.16	3.44	3.74	57	57
	Grand Prairie	.07	2.44	4.40	57	57
	Fairview	.39	3.52	3.34	57	57
17	Fort St. John	.31	2.33	4.32	58	59
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.49	4.46	4.79	57.4	58.7

N.R. - No Report.

1/ - Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

2/ - Incomplete; not included in average.



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