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Ottawa, May 11, 1948, 3 p.m. - The first of a series of 8 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 13 telegraphic reports on crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces. A selected list of crop correspondents chosen from the 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

Seeding conditions have been extremely variable throughout Canada to date this season. Spring is late in the Maritimes but work on the land is well under way in New Brunswick and in south-western areas of Nova Scotia. Conditions in Quebec and Ontario are far in advance of last year. The weather has generally favoured seeding operations. Fall-sown crops have wintered well and over-all prospects are promising. Moisture supplies in the Prairie Provinces are excellent although flooding has created serious problems in local areas. Seeding is under way in some districts of southern Alberta and Saskatchewan and at scattered points in Manitoba. Wet weather and low temperatures have delayed drying, however, and seeding cannot become general before the 15th or 20th of this month. In British Columbia a very late spring has delayed farming operations but warmer weather will permit rapid progress. The fruit crop prospects are promising.

Cold, dry weather has prevailed throughout the Maritime Provinces so far this spring. Work on the land is general in New Brunswick with seeding under way on well drained land in that province and in south-western areas of Nova Scotia. Elsewhere operations have been delayed.

In Ontario and Quebec, in strong contrast to last year, the current season is more advanced than normal. Weather since the latter part of April has generally favoured field work in both provinces. In local areas in Quebec, however, cold, dry weather has retarded operations with the ground thawing out very slowly in some northern districts. Excellent progress has been made in seeding operations throughout most of Ontario and at the present time prospects are considered good for satisfactory yields of field crops throughout this province. In general fall wheat and rye in Ontario suffered little winter-killing.

The spring break-up in the Prairie Provinces was extremely late this year. Dull, wet weather with below normal temperatures has retarded drying of the land. While seeding has started in some southern areas of Alberta and Saskatchewan and in scattered points in Manitoba it will not become general before the 15th or 20th of this month. Moisture supplies, however, are far above normal in all three provinces with serious flooding occurring in many local areas. Due to the lateness of the season some correspondents consider that there will be a shift in acreage from wheat to coarse grains. Further information on this point will be made available in the Bureau's report on 'Intentions to Plant' which will

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be issued Thursday, May 13.

In British Columbia a wet, backward spring, one of the latest on record, has delayed growth and field work throughout the province. With warmer weather, however, recovery should be rapid. Ploughing and seeding operations have been delayed throughout the southern districts and in central and northern areas seeding will not be general for 10 days or two weeks. Present prospects for the fruit crops are excellent. Large crops of strawberries and raspberries are expected and apricots, peaches, cherries and pears are very promising. The apple crop is expected to be larger than in 1947.

Maritime Provinces - In Prince Edward Island cool, backward weather has delayed seeding. With a few warm days soil should be in condition for cultivation. So far there have been no heavy rains and growth has been slow. The weather in Nova Scotia has also been cold and backward and spring work is fully two weeks behind normal. In Yarmouth and Digby counties, in the southwestern part of the province, seeding is now under way. In the Annapolis Valley area, farm operations will no doubt be in full swing next week but in the remainder of the province cold weather is still delaying spring work. The spring has been cold but dry in New Brunswick. Work on the land became general during the first week in May and good progress was made. Some oats and potatoes were planted on well-drained land and seeding should be general next week. Night frosts have retarded growth in meadows and pastures but winter injuries have been lighter than normal.

Quebec - Weather since the beginning of the month has been generally favourable for field work. Warm rains are required, however, to improve soil conditions which are dry and cold. The ground is still frozen in some areas. Pastures are being cultivated and fertilized in the Montreal and Three Rivers regions. In many districts some grain, roots and potatoes have been sown and garden work is progressing rapidly. In strong contrast to last year, the current season is more advanced than normal. Vegetation, however, has not yet come along far enough to permit the determination of the extent of winter-killing in meadows and pastures.

In the L'Assomption area seeding is general through the district with about 30 per cent completed. Pastures are in good condition but growth is slow due to cool temperatures. A few herds of cattle have been turned out to pasture. Reports from Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere reveal normal temperatures and good moisture conditions, with seeding started on May 5. Meadows and pastures here are in good condition and no damage to fruit trees is indicated. Clover and alfalfa crops evidently wintered well. In the Lake St. John area cold weather has delayed growth and the soil is thawing out very slowly. Conditions, however, are deemed about normal for the district and heavy rainfall received on Saturday will assist in warming the soil. Seeding operations should start around the 15th of May. In the southern townships the weather has not been too favourable to growth and only a small amount of grain has been seeded. Prospects are generally good and there is little evidence of winter-killing in the hay meadows.

In the western Quebec district field operations started the last week in April and seeding operations got under way during the first week in May. The ground was very dry when winter set in last fall and the rather light coat of snow did not provide much moisture. The land, however, is firm and easy to work. Reflecting the poor cereal crop of last year, seed grain is in short supply and live stock in general is in poorer shape than usual. Nevertheless, pastures are getting a good start which will make it possible to turn the cattle out early. New meadows on most farms have wintered well and look promising.

Ontario - Good progress was made in Ontario with seeding of spring grains during the last half of April and the first few days of May. At May 1 it was estimated that 40 to 90 per cent of the intended spring grain acreages was seeded in most counties of old Ontario. In the counties along the St. Lawrence River seeding just commenced last week. Seeding should be completed about the middle of the month in old Ontario. In northern Ontario operations started in the first week of May and it is expected they will be completed by May 25. At the present time prospects are considered good for satisfactory yields of field crops throughout Ontario.

A report from Northumberland County states that although seeding started in the first week of April operations have dragged along all month with only about 60 per cent finished. Wet weather has also caused delay in getting orchards sprayed. In Renfrew County spring cropping conditions are ideal. Seeding is completed and warm showers are promoting rapid growth. Alfalfa and clover stands are good but late-sown fall wheat has been badly winter-killed. Farmers are ploughing up additional sod fields for spring grains this year. In western Ontario tobacco seed beds are making satisfactory progress and planting of flue-cured will commence during the week of May 12. About half the contracted acreage of sugar beets has been planted under good conditions. Potato planting is well advanced with tops showing above ground in southern counties. A slightly increased acreage of early vegetables has been set out in all southern areas.

In the province as a whole, fall wheat and rye suffered little winter-killing except in the counties of Bruce, Grey, North Simcoe and Renfrew where the extent of damage ranges from 20 to 40 per cent. These crops are now making satisfactory growth and above average yields per acre are expected. Pastures and hay and clover crops, including 1947 seedings, suffered less than usual winter damage. In general, growth to date has been rather slow due to low temperatures and cool winds. Considerable numbers of young cattle have been turned out to pasture but dairy cattle generally are still in barns. Frequent rains between May 6 and 10 throughout the whole of Ontario have provided an abundance of moisture and warm weather is now needed to promote growth.

Manitoba - The spring break-up came late in Manitoba this year and dull weather to date has retarded drying of the lands. Soil conditions vary from favourable to wet. In a few restricted areas disastrous flooding will delay field work for some weeks. In the province as a whole only a few scattered points report commencement of seeding. Seeding will not be general until about the middle of the month. Due to the late season it is anticipated that less wheat will be sown. The reduction will be taken up by increases in sowings of coarse grains and flaxseed. A report from Morden states that seeding is in full swing in some areas. The growth in pastures is delayed.

In southern Manitoba, around Melita, practically no work has been done on the land. In north-central Manitoba at Teulon seeding operations have just commenced. The correspondent there states that the outlook is quite good. The report from Minnedosa states that seeding will not be general until the middle of the month. Reduced seeding of wheat is anticipated. At Shoal Lake some land was worked last week but the land in general is very wet. Farmers are very short of feed in the area and growth of grass has been delayed. A few farmers were on the land around Swan River during the week but seeding will not be general in that area until May 15. Moisture conditions are good. Live stock, however, have come through the winter in poor shape. Spring pastures are now growing fast and the fall rye crop conditions are good. Throughout the province cold weather has delayed insect activity with no damage to date.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 70 per cent above normal, with mean temperature for the week ending May 10 being 6.3 degrees below normal.

Saskatchewan - Seeding operations in the province have been delayed two to three weeks from normal due to late snow, heavy run off, and more than normal seasonal rainfall. While fair progress has been made in the south-west and seeding has commenced in south-central, western and central districts farmers in the northern and eastern districts have not yet been able to get onto the land. During the last few days, however, drying has been more rapid than expected and good progress is in prospect for this week. Subsoil moisture conditions are good to excellent in all districts. Fall rye acreage is now in good condition.

Greatest progress has been made in the south-west, Wheat seeding is up to 60 per cent completed in the Eastend area and about 40 per cent at Maple Creek. Swift Current reports indicate that upwards of 5 per cent of wheat has been seeded. This degree of progress applies generally to south-central districts. While land work is commencing in western districts, seeding will not be general till next week. Spotted flooding on the level, heavy clay soils around Rosetown and Elrose will reduce wheat acreage. The same conditions apply to the Regina and Moose Jaw areas.

At Melfort all fields are in a very wet condition. Rather severe soil damage occurred through gullying and sheet erosion and seeding operations will commence about three weeks later than normal. Severe weather and shortage of feed over large areas, especially in west-central and north-western districts left live stock in poorer than normal condition but with ample moisture available rapid pasture growth is expected to result in improved live-stock conditions.

The Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Saskatoon reports that no insect damage has become apparent to date. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 56 per cent above normal while the mean temperature for the week ending May 10 has been 2.2 degrees below normal.

Alberta - Spring work is exceedingly late in Alberta this year. Little seeding has been accomplished to date except in the south-east portion of the province. Provincial officials estimate that, with good weather, seeding could become general between May 15 and May 20. Soil moisture is excellent throughout the province but excessive moisture on many fields may seriously impede seeding operations. Under these conditions many correspondents consider that wheat acreage may be reduced with coarse grains being substituted. The availability of seed may, however, be a determining factor since supplies of coarse grain seed are less plentiful than wheat. Feed supplies are reported short in many districts, with live stock in fair to poor condition.

Medicine Hat, in the south-eastern section of the province reports wheat 30 per cent seeded, oats 5 per cent, barley 5 per cent and flax 10 per cent seeded. Fall rye, winter wheat and pastures are in very good condition, with no winter-killing of forage crops reported. Volunteer rye and winter wheat are being left for crop. Floods in local areas have delayed seeding two weeks in comparison with last year. Reports from Vulcan and Claresholm, which are located in the important wheat producing areas south and east of Calgary, indicate that it will not be possible to do any seeding for another five to ten days. At Claresholm there was heavy rain and snowfall over the week-end. In this district some flooded areas may not dry up in time for seeding. Fall wheat and rye however, came through the winter in good condition and grazing conditions are satisfactory.

Brooks, in the irrigation area south-east of Calgary, reports no seeding to date, with heavy rains occurring in the last two days. Seeding here will not become general until the 20th. From Stettler, in the central section of the province, it is reported that the ground is very soft with water from recent rains still lying in the fields. It is estimated that seeding will not be general here for at least two weeks. Further north at Donalds it may be possible to do some field work by the latter part of this week, but low places in the fields are still filled with water. Fall-sown crops have wintered well in this area. Here, too, it is thought that the acreage sown to wheat may be down with coarse grain acreages being increased.

Reports from Calgary and Olds in the west-central part of the province indicate that rain and snow received during the latter part of last week will keep farmers off the land for at least another week. A reduction in wheat acreage in this area is anticipated, while it is thought that oats and barley seedings will be increased.

In the vicinity of Edmonton, cool weather with strong winds is being experienced. This should assist in drying the soil but much farm land is still under water and 8 to 12 days may be required before spring operations can become general.

Reports from the Athabasca and Peace River areas also indicate that seeding cannot become general before the 15th to the 20th of this month. Entomological authorities at Lethbridge state that there are no insect problems to date and that the effect of the very late season and excessive moisture on the insect situation cannot yet be evaluated. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 117 per cent above normal with mean temperature for the week ending May 10, 1.5 degrees below normal.

British Columbia -

This spring is one of the latest on record in British Columbia and is at least three weeks later than last year. Heavy snow still remains in the mountain areas and a sudden rise of temperature may cause severe flooding in the Kootenay, Columbia, Thompson and Fraser Valleys. Soil moisture conditions at present are excellent in all areas and with warm weather growth would be rapid. Ploughing and seeding operations have been delayed in the Vancouver Island and Lower Fraser Valley districts. In the Vanderhoof-Prince George areas seeding will not begin for at least 10 days. In the Peace River district conditions are also backward. Seeding will not be started until mid-May.

In the fruit growing areas of the province, the outlook is promising. The winter was mild and moisture supplies are adequate. The blooming period has been delayed by cool, backward weather which, if it continues, may result in poor pollination. At present, however, the outlook is for a very heavy crop of strawberries and raspberries. Apricots, peaches, cherries and pears are also promising while the apple crop should be larger than last season. A considerable increase in vegetable acreage is anticipated.

WEEKLY PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES 1948 ^{1/}

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. May 10	since April 1	since April 1	May 10 Mean	Normal
MANITOBA						
1	Pierson	.09	3.84	1.86	42	48
	Melita	.96	4.38	1.78	42	48
	Waskada	.10	2.76	1.37	42	48
2	Boissevain	.22	2.76	2.03	41	48
	Ninette	.44	2.61	2.06	42	47
	Pilot Mound	.34	3.06	1.81	41	47
3	Portage la Prairie	.29	1.75	1.77	41	48
	Graysville	.12	2.74	1.34	43	47
	Morden	.16	3.22	1.77	42	48
	Morris	.10	2.06	1.58	43	48
	Emerson	.10	.88	.92	40	49
4	Winnipeg	.23	2.36	1.86	41	49
6	Sprague	.12	1.33	1.78	40	46
	Pinawa	.14	1.04	1.16	37	47
7	Virden	.43	3.85	1.10	42	47
	Rivers	.09	3.86	1.60	41	48
8	Brandon	.14	3.11	1.60	42	49
	Cypress River	.16	3.91	1.48	47	47
9	Minnedosa	.04	1.92	1.60	41	48
	Neepawa	.10	2.21	1.60	41	48
10	Russell	.12	1.85	1.32	39	46
	Birtle	.32	2.19	1.39	40	45
11	Dauphin	.14	3.70	.96	39	46
12	Gimli	Trace	.79	1.60	37	45
13	Swan River	.02	2.74	1.12	39	43
	The Pas	Nil	2.52	1.00	36	44
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.19	2.59	1.52	40.8	47.1
SASKATCHEWAN						
1A	Estevan	.06	1.41	1.38	46	47
	Carlyle	.10	1.24	1.88	41	46
1B	Broadview	.23	2.18	1.40	41	47
	Moosomin	.26	1.69	1.11	41	47
2A	Yellow Grass	.01	1.95	1.41	45	46
	Midale	.04	2.17	1.71	43	46
2B	Moose Jaw	.05	1.92	1.17	47	49
	Regina	.02	2.08	1.20	46	47
	Francis	Nil	1.38	.85	42	45
	Qu'Appelle	.22	2.02	1.65	41	47
	Indian Head	.48	2.62	1.34	42	47
3AS	Assiniboia	.17	2.10	1.10	45	47
	Ceylon	Trace	2.14	2.14	42	47
3AN	Chaplin	.04	.88	1.47	46	48
	Gravelbourg	.10	1.94	1.08	46	46
	Coderre	.08	.70	1.08	46	N.R.
	Bishopric	Nil	.42 2/	1.11	47	46

WEEKLY PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES 1948 ^{1/}(Cont'd)

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. May 10	since April 1	since April 1	May 10 Mean	Normal
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
3BS	Instow	.88	1.82 <u>2/</u>	1.09	45	47
	Shaunavon	.80	2.00	1.20	46	45
	Cadillac	.86	3.48	1.68	44	45
	Val Marie	.60	1.92	1.19	44	46
	Aneroid	.64	2.41	1.25	46	46
3BN	Pennant	.02	2.48	1.62	46	49
	Swift Current	.11	2.15	1.24	45	49
	Hughton	Nil	1.77	1.69	46	46
4A	Maple Creek	.18	1.29	1.26	48	48
	Consul	.78	1.50	1.38	43	46
4B	Roadene	.26	2.42	1.69	47	46
5A	Leross	.14	2.45	1.34	39	45
	Lipton	.34	1.32	1.14	42	45
	Yorkton	.15	1.97	1.12	41	46
5B	Dafoe	.03	1.79	.93	42	42
	Foam Lake	N.R.	2.80 <u>2/</u>	1.14	N.R.	43
	Lintlaw	.04	2.20	1.31	40	43
	Kamsack	.04	2.36	1.00	N.R.	43
	Davidson	.28	2.03	1.07	44	47
6A	Dilke	Trace	.74 <u>2/</u>	1.12	N.R.	N.R.
	Semans	.16	2.21	.88	44	45
	Strasbourg	.32	1.34	1.10	42	46
	Harris	N.R.	.74 <u>2/</u>	.97	N.R.	46
	Outlook	.14	.63	.85	48	47
6B	Saskatoon	.02	1.56	1.00	45	47
	Elbow	Nil	2.42	.87	45	48
	Dundurn	.62	2.20	1.18	46	45
	Tugaske	.10	1.34	.83	44	47
	Kindersley	.02	1.38	1.06	N.R.	46
7A	Rosetown	.06	1.46	1.38	48	45
7B	Macklin	.16	2.47	2.04	46	44
	Scott	.01	1.87	1.31	44	46
	Ruthilda	.14	.14 <u>2/</u>	1.10	N.R.	N.R.
	Biggar	Trace	1.12	.91	44	46
8A	Nipawin	Nil	1.54 <u>2/</u>	1.36	42	44
	Hudson Bay	.02	2.76	1.21	39	45
8B	Humboldt	.20	1.70	.98	N.R.	46
	Melfort	.10	1.84	1.15	42	46
9A	North Battleford	.06	1.98	.94	44	50
	Rabbit Lake	.02	2.82	1.06	42	46
	Prince Albert	.47	2.36	1.26	42	47
9B	Waseca	.04	3.14	1.25	43	46
	Island Falls	Nil	1.67	1.18	37	41
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.18	1.93	1.24	43.8	46.0

WEEKLY PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURES IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES 1948 = (Concluded)

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. May 10	since April 1	since April 1	May 10 Mean	Normal
ALBERTA						
1	Taber	2.34	3.39	1.80	44	48
	Foremost	1.80	2.22	2.47	48	52
	Winnifred	2.00	2.67	1.81	N.R.	N.R.
	Medicine Hat	.49	.91	1.11	48	51
	Manyberries	1.06	2.42	1.59	49	50
2	Cowley	.97	1.66	2.06	41	48
	Macleod	4.54	4.84	1.14	47	49
	Cardston	2.85	4.25	2.23	41	48
	Lethbridge	2.35	3.25	1.54	45	49
3	Vauxhall	1.74	2.57	1.28	44	49
	Brooks	1.66	2.26	1.42	46	50
	Empress	.06	.52	1.36	47	50
4	High River	N.R.	.63 2/	2.16	N.R.	46
	Vulcan	3.00	4.54	1.62	N.R.	N.R.
5	Drumheller	1.34	2.55	1.31	N.R.	47
	Hanna	N.R.	N.R.	1.67	N.R.	49
	Naco	.08	2.91	1.78	42	48
6	Olds	3.30	5.84	1.84	42	46
	Calgary	2.99	5.72	1.43	44	47
	Three Hills	2.38	4.04	.99	45	46
	Strathmore	2.50	3.48	1.35	46	45
	Gleichen	2.58	4.24	1.34	42	47
7	Viking	Nil	1.09 2/	1.55	46	45
	Sedgewick	.01	.41 2/	1.37	48	46
	Hardisty	.10	1.03	.96	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	.30	3.05	1.53	46	47
	Hughenden	Trace	1.80	1.50	N.R.	47
8	Red Deer	1.47	4.11	1.69	45	45
	Lacombe	N.R.	1.15 2/	1.34	N.R.	47
	Wetaskiwin	.60	4.38	1.14	46	46
	Camrose	.26	2.34	1.70	46	45
	Stettler	.34	1.72	2.17	47	46
9	Jasper	.04	1.56	.98	44	44
	Rocky Mountain House	1.87	5.68	2.10	42	42
	Springdale	.84	3.66 2/	1.84	43	44
10	Vegreville	.06	1.72	1.54	N.R.	46
	Vermilion	Trace	2.26	1.21	45	45
	Lloydminster	Nil	2.55	.96	45	44
11	Edmonton	.87	3.93	1.29	48	48
12	Whitecourt	.74	6.60	1.58	45	45
	Edson	.46	5.28	1.21	42	46
13	Elk Point (Glendon)	N.R.	1.52 2/	1.13	N.R.	45
14	Campsie	.86	3.66 2/	1.06	46	46
	Athabaska	N.R.	.52 2/	1.11	N.R.	45
	Lac La Biche	1.08	2.74	1.40	45	46
15	High Prairie	.38	3.13	.94	47	45
	Kinuso	.22	1.58 2/	1.08	44	46
	Wagner	.25	2.83	1.25	45	45
16	Beaverlodge	.08	2.62	.92	46	46
	Grand Prairie	.07	2.15	1.18	47	47
	Fairview	.25	3.75	.70	48	46
17	Fort St. John	.24	2.01	1.03	47	47
ALBERTA AVERAGE		1.09	3.13	1.44	45.2	46.7

N.R. No Report. 1/ Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

2/ Incomplete: Not included in average.