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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, June 22, 1948, 3 p.m. - The sixth of a series of thirteen telegraphic reports covering crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces is issued today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. 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

Dry, cool weather has prevailed over the greater part of the Prairie Provinces during the past week. Topsoil moisture reserves have been diminishing over parts of Manitoba, most of Saskatchewan and much of central and north Alberta. Fairly general rains in Manitoba and showers in Alberta on June 21 have provided a considerable measure of relief, but most correspondents state that further rains are required. Recent rains have also improved conditions in south-eastern Alberta. In Saskatchewan, and wide areas of central and northern Alberta, rains are urgently required to prevent serious crop deterioration. All three provinces report poor germination in late-seeded crops. Since weather conditions this spring were unfavourable to early seeding over much of the West a large acreage of crops was seeded very late. Unless conditions more favourable to germination and growth of these crops develop in the very near future ultimate yields in the affected areas are almost certain to be curtailed. Insect infestations have not been too severe to date in Alberta and Manitoba but severe grasshopper damage is being experienced over many parts of central, south-western and western Saskatchewan. Extensive control measures in these areas are expected to reduce the loss considerably.

In Manitoba, fairly general rain and showers on June 21 provided much-needed relief to many areas where late-seeded crops particularly had been showing poor germination and growth. Crops in the southern portion of the province have been making quite rapid progress with conditions in northern areas only a little less advanced. Except in local areas of the province surface moisture is now generally in fair supply with subsoil moisture reserves reported good to fair. Insect infestations have not been severe to date.

Lack of rain has brought growth to a standstill over much of southern and eastern Saskatchewan, while deterioration is reported during the past week in western, central and north-western areas of that province. Germination of late-sown grains has been seriously hampered by dry topsoil conditions and rain is now urgently required particularly over the western half of the province. Damage from grasshoppers is most severe in the Rosetown-Dodsland area but is also serious in many other parts in central, south-western and western Saskatchewan. Extensive control measures are being undertaken in the affected areas.



Crop conditions in Alberta are generally fair to good although rain is needed immediately in most central and northern districts as well as in the Peace River area. Showers on June 21 have provided some relief. As in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, germination of late-sown crops has been uneven. Pasture and hay crop prospects, with local exceptions, are considered fair to good and live-stock conditions are generally satisfactory. Insect infestation in Alberta has not been particularly serious to date.

Manitoba - Up until yesterday there was fairly general concern throughout the province with regard to dry topsoil moisture conditions. However, fairly general rains and showers over much of the province yesterday and last night have evidently relieved the situation to a considerable extent. Crops in the southern part of the province have made quite rapid progress with wheat reported up from three to fourteen inches and oats and barley from two to ten inches. In northern sections of the province the wheat crop is somewhat less advanced. With local exceptions, the surface moisture is now generally fair throughout the province with subsoil moisture reserves reported good to fair.

In the area around Winnipeg and in eastern Manitoba pastures have been deteriorating due to lack of moisture, but rains on the 21st relieved this situation and were of benefit particularly to market gardens. The Dominion Experimental Station at Morden in the south-central part of the province reports that crops have suffered from lack of moisture with late-seeded fields particularly showing poor germination. Grasshoppers are seriously damaging fields of grain and sunflowers in some areas east and south of Morden. Shortage of spraying material is aggravating the situation. In this area clover is expected to be an average crop while grass is light. Cutting of alfalfa has commenced. At Melita, in the extreme south-west of the province, week-end rains were most welcome and should facilitate germination of late-sown grains. Early wheat here is now in the shot-blade stage. At Brandon, in the west-central part of the province, the Dominion Experimental Farm states that pastures and hay land have been suffering from lack of rain, but again showery weather on the 21st is expected to improve the situation. Some barley and wheat are headed in this district, while no appreciable insect damage has occurred. In the north-western part of the province around Dauphin last night's rain will improve crop conditions throughout the area. Early wheat is progressing favourably here, although later crops are very patchy. Fall rye is all headed. Early gardens are good, although germination in late gardens has been poor. Shade trees are being attacked by caterpillars but there is no apparent insect damage to crops. At Shoal Lake, south of Dauphin, conditions have been generally good for early-seeded fallow crops but lack of rains has caused unevenness in late-seeded fields of coarse grain and flax. Pasture and grain crops now need rain, especially rye and late crops. Swan River in the extreme north-west reports steady growth in early crops, but here again late-sown crops are badly in need of rain.

The Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Brandon reports that light and spotty grasshopper damage is occurring in a number of districts and that control operations are being impeded by lack of available insecticide supplies. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 9 per cent below normal as compared with 3 per cent above normal a week ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 21 was 4.4 degrees below normal.

Saskatchewan - The Provincial Department of Agriculture at Regina indicates that crop growth is at a standstill over the greater part of southern and eastern Saskatchewan while deterioration has occurred during the past week in western, central and north-western areas. Dry topsoil conditions



have seriously hampered germination of late-sown grains. Immediate rains are required particularly in the west half of the province. The grasshopper infestation is heavy in the Shaunavon, Blane Lake area but is most severe in the Rosetown, Dodsland region. Extensive baiting and spraying operations are under way in the affected areas.

In the areas south and east of Regina, wheat has made quite good progress but late-sown coarse grains show very patchy germination and moisture is required. Few grasshoppers have hatched in this area and pastures and hay crops are in good condition. In the Indian Head area, east of Regina, field crops are making good progress with brome and alfalfa hay fields fully up to average. Farmers in the immediate district have commenced spraying to control weeds. West and north of Regina grasshoppers are threatening the crop on the light land toward the Qu'Appelle Valley. Rain is urgently needed in a large area between Saskatoon and Regina where considerable deterioration has occurred during the past week. Early fields of wheat are in the shot blade but late-sown fields are generally poor. Rye has headed but moisture is urgently required to fill the crop. The hay harvest is likely to be poor due to insufficient moisture earlier in the season.

Extremely variable moisture conditions are reported from Swift Current but conditions in general here are deemed slightly better than average although reserve moisture is getting low in most sections of the district. Grasshopper damage here is severe in a few fairly localized areas. South of Swift Current, at Val Marie, prospects vary from poor to good, rainfall having been very spotty this season. At Willowbrook in the east-central section of the province wheat is well above ground with rye heading out thin. Oats and barley stands are very patchy due to dry weather. Our Rosetown correspondent reports crops need rain now in that area to stop deterioration.

No rainfall is reported at Melfort since our last report and all crops need rain, particularly those on lighter soil. First-cut hay yields will be light though somewhat better than last year. Pastures are only fair and reports indicate varying degrees of damage from turnip beetles, particularly on the rapeseed crop. At Prince in the north-western portion of the province a heavy shower of rain this past week brought relief to the north part of the district where rain was needed to halt further deterioration. Early crops here are from six to ten inches in height, but concern is being felt over the flax crop due to uneven germination and lateness. The hay crop is fair but pastures are suffering from lack of moisture. The Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Saskatoon reports light damage by cutworms in west-central Saskatchewan and severe but scattered damage in the Weirsdale-Carrot River district. Damage by grasshoppers is continuing throughout the infested areas. Considerable wireworm damage has occurred.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 29 per cent below normal as compared with 22 per cent below normal a week ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 21 was .4 degrees below normal.

Alberta - A report filed yesterday by the Provincial Department of Agriculture at Edmonton terms crop conditions in Alberta fair to good. Moisture supplies are considered generally sufficient in the southern part of the province but rain is needed in north and central regions. Showers falling yesterday will provide some relief. Germination of late-sown grains has been irregular. Wheat now averages 3 to 8 inches in height and coarse grains are up two to six inches. Summerfallowing has started. Pasture and hay prospects are considered fair to good with live-stock conditions satisfactory.



A report from Medicine Hat indicates scattered rains have held the crops fairly well although burning has occurred in some places. Fallow in this district is 75 per cent completed and fall wheat is now headed out. Spotty outbreaks of grasshoppers have occurred in the vicinity of Medicine Hat, Bow Island, Foremost and Schuler. Few fields have been badly damaged and baiting is in progress.

The Dominion Experimental Station at Lethbridge states that, south and west of the line between Calgary and Taber, further moisture was received during the past week with three and one quarter inches at Lethbridge. Warm, bright weather is now needed in this area. North and east of this line subsoil moisture reserves are generally good but the surface moisture is being rapidly depleted. Cool, cloudy weather has prevailed at Vulcan during the past week and crops have been making good growth. Flax is 50 per cent seeded. At Hanna in the east-central section of the province early wheat is 5 inches high but late seeding has shown only 50 per cent germination. Topsoil is very dry, although subsoil reserves are still good. Very little flax has been seeded. Light rains on the 21st in some central areas of the province have relieved dry topsoil conditions to some extent. Germination in many parts of central Alberta has been very uneven. Winter wheat is heading out short with small heads. Further rains are required. Reports from Calgary and Lacombe are quite optimistic. Favourable growing weather has prevailed at Lacombe during the past week but reserve moisture is disappearing rapidly. Hay crops here ripened prematurely but in spite of this a good yield is in prospect. Rains and cool weather have maintained good moisture conditions in the Calgary district and with warm weather growth will be rapid and plants should stool quickly. Fall rye in this area is in very good condition.

At Vermilion, east of Edmonton and near the Saskatchewan border, rain is badly needed and a short hay crop is anticipated. At Athabasca, north of Edmonton, lack of moisture is also acute and all crops are suffering. The Dominion Experimental Station at Beaverlodge in the Peace River district also states that grain crops require rain as the topsoil is very dry. Drought damage is now showing up in some fields and wireworm and grasshopper damage is reported from some parts of the area. Hay crops, however, are excellent indicating good subsoil moisture reserves.

The Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Lethbridge reports some scattered damage by cutworms; the sawfly flight is under way in southern Alberta but it is still too early to estimate the degree of infestation.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 6 per cent above normal as compared with 15 per cent above normal a week ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 21 has been .1 degree above normal.

Weekly Precipitation and Temperature in the Prairie Provinces 1948 <sup>1/</sup>

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. June 21	since April 1	since April 1	June 21 Mean	Normal
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Pierson	.36	5.22	5.01	55	61
	Melita	.08	5.76	6.17	56	62
	Waskada	.46	4.38	5.13	56	61
2	Boissevain	.60	6.21	5.06	55	61
	Ninette	.34	5.35	5.54	56	61
	Pilot Mound	.34	5.86	5.60	56	62
3	Portage la Prairie	.10	5.01	4.96	60	63
	Graysville	.18	5.64	5.47	62	62
	Morden	.22	6.56	5.31	59	62
	Morris	.22	4.42	4.99	58	63
	Emerson	.14	3.24	4.57	58	63
4	Winnipeg	.09	4.44	5.60	58	63
6	Sprague	.10	3.89	5.54	55	60
	Pinawa	.06	1.54	3.88	56	61
7	Viriden	.37	5.60	4.36	57	61
	Rivers	.19	5.50	4.94	56	61
8	Brandon	.26	4.79	4.98	57	61
	Cypress River	.14	4.09	4.95	55	62
9	Minnedosa	.14	3.67	4.94	55	61
	Neepawa	.17	3.26	4.94	58	61
10	Russell	.20	3.89	4.67	54	59
	Birtle	.18	4.17	4.68	55	60
11	Dauphin	.04	5.20	4.03	N.R.	60
12	Gimli	Trace	1.97	5.69	58	61
13	Swan River	.12	4.26	4.61	57	59
	The Pas	.07	3.93	3.50	59	60
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.20	4.53	4.97	56.8	61.2
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Estevan	.14	4.41	4.98	55	61
	Carlyle	.10	2.48	5.18	54	59
1B	Broadview	.09	3.05	4.34	52	59
	Moosomin	.54	4.42	4.43	55	60
2A	Yellow Grass	.28	3.21	4.78	56	60
	Midale	.10	2.63	5.25	54	60
2B	Moose Jaw	Nil	2.61	4.78	59	61
	Regina	.22	3.03	4.61	56	60
	Francis	.22	2.52	3.89	54	60
	Qu'Appelle	.60	3.64	5.58	56	61
	Indian Head	.60	4.78	5.35	55	59
3AS	Assiniboia	.36	3.60	4.06	56	62
	Ceylon	.02	3.76	6.09	52	60
3AN	Chaplin	.02	1.64	5.17	58	61
	Gravelbourg	.64	3.10	4.31	56	60
	Coderre	.40	1.70	4.40	N.R.	N.R.
	Bishopric	Nil	1.97	4.24	56	60
3BS	Instow	.40	5.72	4.19	54	60
	Shaunavon	.22	4.80	3.98	54	60
	Cadillac	.18	4.86	6.26	56	59
	Val Marie	1.12	3.82 2/	4.48	53	61
	Aneroid	.16	3.30	4.92	58	59
3BN	Pennant	.04	3.18	5.24	56	59
	Swift Current	.50	4.14	4.73	56	60
	Hughton	N.R.	2.13 2/	4.62	N.R.	59



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. June 21	since April 1	since April 1	June 21 Mean	Normal
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
4A	Maple Creek	.46	3.81	4.59	56	60
	Consul	.69	4.11	4.16	52	58
4B	Roadene	.14	3.76	4.63	57	59
5A	Leross	.46	3.81	4.79	52	57
	Lipton	.72	2.86	4.12	54	57
	Yorkton	.18	2.73	4.47	56	59
5B	Dafoe	.06	2.76	4.18	56	57
	Foam Lake	.42	4.19	4.48	55	57
	Lintlaw	.20	3.07	4.51	53	57
	Kamsack	.22	3.32	3.66	N.R.	58
6A	Davidson	.48	3.41	3.98	56	60
	Dilke	.14	.88 2/	4.40	N.R.	N.R.
	Simons	.42	2.93	3.07	58	57
	Strasbourg	.58	2.14	4.53	54	59
6B	Harris	.48	1.56 2/	3.80	60	59
	Outlook	Trace	1.37	3.08	61	60
	Saskatoon	.06	1.98	3.80	59	59
	Elbow	Nil	3.43	3.98	57	60
	Dundurn	.08	2.30	4.64	57	58
	Tugaske	Trace	1.92	3.98	62	60
7A	Kindersley	Trace	1.82	3.53	N.R.	56
	Rosetown	.14	1.90	4.41	N.R.	57
7B	Macklin	.26	3.07	4.62	56	57
	Scott	.22	2.24	3.82	57	59
	Ruthilda	.14	.58 2/	4.34	N.R.	N.R.
	Biggar	.06	1.66	4.21	59	59
8A	Nipawin	N.R.	2.36 2/	4.51	N.R.	58
	Hudson Bay Junction	.13	4.79	4.26	55	59
8B	Humboldt	.04	2.84	3.71	N.R.	59
	Melfort	.02	2.76	3.96	56	59
9A	North Battleford	.15	2.26	4.15	60	61
	Rabbit Lake	Nil	3.54	4.01	52	59
	Prince Albert	.08	3.55	4.21	56	60
9B	Waseca	.12	3.38	4.21	56	58
	Island Falls	.08	2.21	4.03	57	58
<u>SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE</u>		.24	3.12	4.41	54.8	59.1
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
1	Taber	.50	5.15	4.83	58	60
	Foremost	.46	3.82	5.96	59	64
	Winnifred	.28	4.19	4.15	N.R.	N.R.
	Medicine Hat	.08	2.26	4.03	58	61
	Manyberries	.44	4.10	4.34	56	62
2	Cowley	2.37	9.06	5.68	53	56
	Macleod	2.50	10.46	4.53	57	62
	Cardston	3.44	11.68	7.47	55	60
	Lethbridge	2.98	9.01	4.84	56	60
3	Vauxhall	Nil	3.15	3.80	56	61
	Brooks	.62	4.06	3.92	59	62
	Empress	Nil	.58	4.30	57	63
4	High River	1.08	6.59 2/	6.06	52	56
	Vulcan	.62	6.86	4.72	N.R.	N.R.

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Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. June 21	since April 1	since April 1	June 21 Mean	Normal
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
5	Drumheller	Nil	3.88	4.82	N.R.	61
	Hanna	.14	1.36 2/	5.19	62	61
	Naco	.22	3.51	4.77	57	60
6	Olds	N.R.	6.94 2/	5.16	N.R.	55
	Calgary	.43	8.62	5.27	55	57
	Three Hills	.46	5.54	4.52	56	55
	Strathmore	.14	4.08 2/	4.89	56	56
	Gleichen	.08	5.42	4.26	57	57
7	Viking	N.R.	1.16 2/	4.28	N.R.	56
	Sedgewick	Nil	.61 2/	4.00	57	57
	Hardisty	.14	1.35	3.77	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	.22	3.87	3.93	57	58
	Hughenden	.46	2.42	4.19	57	61
8	Red Deer	.56	6.67	6.11	56	56
	Lacombe	Nil	5.25 2/	5.10	56	57
	Wetaskiwin	.01	4.93	4.62	63	57
	Camrose	.08	3.40	4.61	57	56
	Stettler	.30	2.36	5.52	61	56
9	Jasper	.20	3.63	2.56	58	54
	Rocky Mountain House	.16	8.42	5.54	56	54
	Springdale	N.R.	7.68 2/	5.76	N.R.	54
10	Vegreville	Nil	2.97	5.19	N.R.	57
	Vermilion	.17	3.03	4.54	56	57
	Lloydminster	.22	3.01	3.77	59	57
11	Edmonton	Nil	5.71	4.61	59	57
12	Whitecourt	Nil	8.09	4.75	55	57
	Edson	.04	7.82	4.29	54	56
13	Elk Point	Nil	2.52 2/	4.15	56	56
14	Campsie	Nil	4.87 2/	4.65	54	57
	Athabaska	N.R.	1.04 2/	4.25	N.R.	57
15	Lac La Biche	Nil	2.92	4.30	60	57
	High Prairie	Nil	6.21	4.04	62	56
	Kinuso	N.R.	1.58 2/	4.22	N.R.	55
	Wagner	Nil	3.88	4.28	59	57
	Beaverlodge	.16	3.26	3.61	64	56
16	Grand Prairie	.11	3.32	4.22	63	57
	Fairview	.55	4.60	3.18	63	56
	Fort St. John	.05	2.18	4.10	65	58
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.43	4.89	4.61	57.8	57.7

N.R. - No Report.

1/ - Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

2/ - Incomplete: Not included in average.

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