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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, June 8, 1949, 3 p.m. - The fourth 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 Division, Department of Transport, Toronto.

SUMMARY

Widespread rains over the greater part of the Prairie Provinces have considerably improved crop conditions in the west. The growing crops are now in quite good condition except in fairly large areas of central Alberta and south-central and south-western districts of Saskatchewan where rain is still urgently required. Cooler, wet weather during the past two weeks has retarded grasshopper infestation although severe outbreaks are reported from some localities in central Saskatchewan. Grasshopper control campaigns are being carried on in the affected areas here and elsewhere with good results generally reported. Recovery from frost damage has been good but some reseeding of coarse grains was necessary in a few districts. While the situation has improved remarkably in the past two weeks it should be noted that subsoil moisture reserves are still inadequate in many areas and much additional moisture will be required to bring the growing crops to maturity.

In Manitoba seeding is almost completed although some delay has taken place due to heavy weed growth and the necessity for some reseeding. In the area from Morden westward to the Saskatchewan boundary and north to Russell the heavy rains of a week ago further delayed late seedings but restored moisture reserves. Slight flood damage occurred in low spots. In the district around Winnipeg and in the mid-lake area rains would now be welcomed especially by market gardeners. Crops in general are progressing satisfactorily with fall rye heading out. Early wheat is well stooled on a heavy stand although there is considerable late crop. Some damage has been reported on light land due to soil drifting. Grasshoppers have been hatching on light soils but municipal spray rigs are operating in affected areas and little damage is indicated. Over 17,000 acres of sugar beets have been planted and thinning started this week. The potato and hay crops are promising.

As a result of recent rains, general crop prospects in Saskatchewan are greatly improved except in south-central and south-western districts where moisture conditions are still unsatisfactory. Conditions in the eastern half of the province appear quite favourable with grain stands fair to excellent. Wheat averages five inches and coarse grains three to four inches in height in this part

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of the province. In other areas stands are slightly shorter. Most crops have recovered from the May frosts although some permanent damage is reported from the west-central section of the province. Insect damage during the past week has generally been slight but serious grasshopper outbreaks have been reported in some localities in the central part of the province. An extensive control campaign utilizing poison baits and sprays is proving effective in most areas. While considerable recovery has been made in general crop conditions, further progress of crops will be dependent on the receipt of timely rains since subsoil moisture reserves are still far from adequate.

Good rains were received over much of Alberta this past week. Seeding is now completed in most of the province and weather permitting, very little will remain by the end of the week. Grain crops are quite generally fair to good with the important exception of a large moisture deficient area in the central part of the province. This dry belt is bounded roughly by a line running northward from Calgary to Wetaskiwin and thence north-east to the Vegreville-Vermilion area. The edge of the dry area then drops south-westward to the Hanna district and back to Calgary. Growth has been poor and germination uneven in this dry section. Rainfall is urgently needed here. Throughout the province the height of wheat varies from two to eight inches and coarse grains from one to six. Grasshopper damage has been light. Wheat crops are recovering from the effects of the May frost but some reseedling of oats and barley has been necessary in north-eastern sections.

Manitoba - With average rainfall since April 1, now slightly above normal, grain crops in Manitoba have made steady progress and are in generally good condition. More rain, however, will be required soon in some sections where moisture reserves are still deficient. Little insect or other damage is indicated so far.

In the eastern part of the province seeding was completed last week. Moisture is needed here but is not urgently required for the cereal crops. A frost on the night of June 6, in the Winnipeg area killed tomatoes, cucumbers and other vines in unprotected spots. Some cutworm damage has been reported in gardens. Heavy rains last week covered the south-eastern part of the province. Hay and pasture crops here are very good. Seeding of barley and flax was delayed by rain but will be completed by the end of this week. Wheat is showing a medium to heavy stand. In the south-central and south-western portions of the province crops are making good progress and fall rye is in head. The sunflower and corn crops are germinating evenly. Grasshopper eggs are hatching slowly and few insects are reported to date. Weed growth is heavy.

Recent rains have prompted optimistic reports from the west-central districts of the province. All crops including hay and pastures are progressing favourably and reserve moisture conditions are said to be excellent. Prospects are very good although spraying of some fields may be necessary in order to counteract weed conditions. Grasshoppers are hatching in larger numbers, particularly on light land. Spraying operations have commenced in the Macgregor district.

All correspondents in the north-western district of the province report heavy rains and excellent growing conditions for all crops. In some parts of this area crops are as much as three weeks advanced over last year. A small proportion of the coarse grains remain to be seeded. Some wireworm damage is indicated in the Swan River district and our Neepawa correspondent reports some of the early wheat to be heavily infested with wild oats.

In general, damage from insects so far throughout the province has been of a very minor nature. The heavy growth of weeds appears to be the most



serious menace facing the crops so far this season. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 5 per cent above normal compared with 26 per cent below normal a week ago. The mean temperature for the week ending June 6 was 2.5 degrees above normal.

Saskatchewan - Recent rains have greatly improved crop prospects in Saskatchewan with the exception of south-central and south-western districts where moisture conditions are still poor. Seeding is practically completed now in all parts of the province. In the eastern half of the province growing conditions are generally favourable with grain stands fair to excellent. Wheat averages five inches and coarse grains three to four inches in height in this part of the province. Elsewhere stands are slightly shorter. Most crops have recovered from the May frosts although some permanent damage is reported from the west-central section of the province. Insect damage during the past week has been generally slight but reports from some areas in central Saskatchewan indicate fairly heavy grasshopper infestations. According to the Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Saskatoon, control by poison baits and sprays is proving effective. Slight damage by pale western cutworm is occurring in west-central Saskatchewan.

In the south-eastern part of the province conditions have shown great improvement as a result of heavy rains during the past week. Pastures are much improved and all grain is now germinated. Many fields are very weedy and some wheat is being cultivated and reseeded to barley or oats. In the district around Summerberry crop prospects are very good at present. Two inches of rain were received during the past week. Seeding has now been completed. Wheat averages about four inches in height and coarse grains appear to have made good recovery from the frost damage. The flax acreage has been greatly reduced. Pastures are generally fair to good.

Around Indian Head wheat, oats and barley are doing well after satisfactory rains. Pastures are improving considerably. Some grasshoppers are reported to be hatching in grass lands but no poisoning has been undertaken as yet. Some fears are expressed that high winds may cause undue drying. A report from Yellow Grass states that wheat is from three to five inches high and has been greatly benefited by the recent rains. Grasshopper damage has not been serious yet in this district although some spraying has been done. It is expected that weed spraying will commence next week.

In the south-western part of the province seeding has been completed, although crop prospects are still not favourable. Germination has been very spotty due to the continuing drought. In the district around Val Marie pastures have made little progress and the supply of water is very low.

In the east-central section of the province seeding is completed and moisture conditions are good. Total precipitation at Willowbrook this season has been 4.57 inches. Pastures are good and no insect damage has been reported to date. A report from Drake states that conditions were very dry prior to the May 30th rain but that all grain is now showing above ground. Wireworm and frost damage have been slight. An extensive grasshopper baiting campaign is in progress and appears to be quite effective. Rye acreage has been reduced. Pastures in the district are poor and live stock are reported to be in fair condition.

In the central part of the province rain during the past week has caused some improvement. Recovery of coarse grains and many wheat fields, however, has been poor. Some reseeded has commenced only to be delayed again on account of soil drifting. Grasshopper damage is becoming locally severe. General rains are

now needed to maintain adequate growing conditions. Farther west at Rosetown frost damage in some districts now appears permanent. Wheat stands are generally thin and rain is needed. Coarse grains were seeded rather late and it is difficult to judge their progress. A report from the Experimental Station at Scott states that grain crops made good progress during the past week in west-central Saskatchewan. Effective rains were received north of Battleford. Flax is emerging with good stands and pastures have been greatly improved. Grain is stooling heavily but additional rains are required to support heavy growth. As in other parts of the province farmers are actively engaged in the grasshopper campaign.

In the north eastern section of the province seeding is practically completed. A report from the Experimental Station at Melfort indicates that all crops are making rapid growth as a result of recent rainfall. Hay and pastures are much improved and show promise of yielding a fair return. In the north-western part of the province growth of all crops has been rapid and stands of grain now range from four to eight inches in height. Weed spraying is fairly general and the grasshopper campaign is in operation. Potatoes and gardens are in good condition and pastures are improving.

With the exception of south-western and south-central sections of the province considerable improvement has taken place in crop prospects throughout the province during the past week. Subsoil moisture reserves, however, are still not adequate to maintain proper growing conditions unless replenished by timely rains. Insect damage, while rather serious in localized areas, appears to have been kept to a minimum by organized control measures.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 9 per cent below normal as compared with 36 per cent below normal a week ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 6 was 0.1 degrees above normal.

Alberta - With the exception of an extensive near-drought area in central Alberta, grain crops over most of this province are progressing favourably. Weather permitting, seeding of all crops will be completed by the end of the current week. Grasshopper damage has been slight. Recovery from the effects of the May frosts has been good although some reseedling of coarse grains was required in north-eastern districts. As moisture reserves are low in many parts of the province ample rainfall will be needed during the remainder of the growing season to ensure satisfactory development of the crop.

In the extreme southern part of Alberta from Manyberries to Medicine Hat grain crops are up seven to ten inches. Some scattered showers have been reported to bring the precipitation for the season to about normal at most points in this area. Except for the extreme south-east corner of the province, this area reports sufficient rain for the next two weeks. The south-west section of the province around Champion reports some serious damage by wireworms. Recent rains have improved growing conditions for all grains and crops are reported to be making good progress. Claresholm area reports spring sown wheat is up six inches and fall rye is heading out.

The central part of Alberta has not been as fortunate in receiving the recent rains this week and crops are generally reported as only fair to poor. In the area from Lacombe to Stettler and up to Sedgewick rain is badly needed. Seeding is completed but germination is very uneven. Feed supplies are approaching

a critical stage with pasture and hay crop growth almost at a standstill. Considerable wind erosion is occurring throughout this district and a good general rain is badly needed. Summerfallow crops are beginning to show the effects of dry weather and some cutworm damage is reported around Lacombe to late seeded crops. Growth in the west-central area around Calgary is also reported as poor. Some fields are very patchy and unless a heavy rain occurs shortly stooling will be light.

Conditions in most of the north-eastern part of Alberta are reported as fair to good. Crops have made good gains this past week due to the recent rains but continued rains are needed to assure even growth. Some grain crops are being reseeded because of severe May frosts. Pastures have not progressed as well as other crops but with another general rain should come along favourably. In the Peace River district crop prospects are generally reported to be good. Wheat is up from four to six inches, coarse grains are up from two to four inches. Insect damage is reported as slight.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 35 per cent below normal as compared with 33 per cent below normal a week ago. Mean temperatures for the week ending June 6 has been 2.1 degrees above normal.



# WEEKLY PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES 1949<sup>1/</sup>

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. June 6	since April 1	since April 1	June 6 Mean	Normal
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Pierson	3.48	4.79	3.68	58	57
	Melita	3.88	5.18	4.02	58	58
	Waskada	3.76	5.48	3.08	58	57
2	Boissevain	1.12	4.08	3.77	60	57
	Ninette	1.80	3.24	4.07	58	57
3	Portage la Prairie	.25	1.88	3.53	62	58
	Graysville	.62	3.30	3.70	61	57
	Morden	.24	2.52	3.70	62	58
	Altona	.18	2.30	3.70	62	58
	Morris	.02	2.12	3.42	63	58
	Emerson	.36	2.98	3.15	62	59
4	Winnipeg	.01	1.76	4.01	63	59
6	Sprague	.16	3.16	3.94	61	56
	Pinawa	.06	1.46	2.65	62	57
7	Virden	4.24	5.72	2.88	58	57
	Rivers	1.57	3.91	3.34	58	57
8	Brandon	2.92	5.59	3.37	59	57
	Cypress River	1.96	3.66	3.51	60	58
9	Minnedosa	2.32	5.22	3.40	57	57
	Neepawa	1.21	3.37	3.40	61	57
10	Russell	3.24	4.51	3.08	53	56
	Birtle	2.32	3.86	3.11	58	55
11	Dauphin	1.33	4.41	2.76	59	55
12	Gimli	Trace	1.31	4.13	60	55
13	Swan River	1.56	3.84	2.84	56	54
	The Pas	.52	3.08	2.38	55	56
MANITOBA AVERAGE		1.50	3.57	3.41	59.4	56.9
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Estevan	1.42	2.57	3.41	59	56
	Carlyle	3.16	4.10	3.66	56	55
1B	Broadview	1.90	4.01	3.16	54	56
	Moosomin	4.16	6.44	2.97	58	56
2A	Yellow Grass	.18	1.59	3.25	57	56
	Midale	.16	2.04	3.74	56	56
2B	Moose Jaw	.65	1.16	3.22	58	58
	Regina	1.60	3.11	2.98	55	56
	Francis	.54	1.36	2.27	53	56
	Qu'Appelle	.66	1.86	3.78	54	57
	Indian Head	.60	3.10	3.42	54	56
3AS	Assiniboia	.12	1.44	2.57	58	57
	Ceylon	Trace	.80 2/	4.14	54	57
3AN	Chaplin	.08	.78	3.62	58	57
	Gravelbourg	.24	.36	2.54	58	55
	Coderre	.02	1.78	2.83	57	N.R.
	Bishopric	.20	2.08 2/	2.74	57	56
3BS	Instow	N.R.	1.37 2/	2.73	N.R.	56
	Shaunavon	Nil	.90	2.68	58	54
	Cadillac	.04	1.84	4.28	60	54
	Val Marie	Nil	.88	3.09	58	55
	Aneroid	Nil	.72	3.14	59	55
3BN	Pennant	.10	1.42	3.43	56	56
	Swift Current	.16	1.50	3.20	57	56

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WEEKLY PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES 1949 (continued)

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. June 6	since April 1	since April 1	June 6 Mean	Normal
<b>SASKATCHEWAN</b>						
3BN	Hughton	N.R.	1.16 2/	3.51	N.R.	55
4A	Maple Creek	N.R.	1.29 2/	3.11	N.R.	56
	Consul	2.56	3.55	3.01	56	55
4B	Roadene	.08	1.13	3.50	58	55
5A	Leross	1.06	4.50	2.99	50	53
	Lipton	.82	1.82	2.72	54	53
	Yorkton	3.01	5.04	3.10	55	56
5B	Dafoe	.53	1.91	2.59	52	53
	Foam Lake	1.60	6.21	2.98	52	53
	Lintlaw	2.48	6.33	3.31	50	53
	Kamsack	1.93	3.42	2.32	55	54
6A	Davidson	.68	1.18	2.79	54	56
	Dilke	.62	2.59 2/	3.00	N.R.	N.R.
	Semans	.40	2.78	2.16	54	53
	Strasbourg	.44	5.01	3.17	52	55
6B	Harris	N.R.	1.44 2/	2.17	N.R.	55
	Outlook	1.92	3.23	2.28	56	57
	Saskatoon	1.17	1.82	2.54	55	56
	Elbow	1.02	1.72	2.68	55	57
	Dundurn	.68	1.42	2.91	54	55
7A	Kindersley	.10	2.44	2.51	56	53
	Rosetown	.70	1.80	3.03	56	54
7B	Macklin	.32	3.00	3.49	55	53
	Scott	1.22	3.45	2.65	57	55
	Ruthilda	N.R.	2.50 2/	2.83	N.R.	N.R.
	Biggar	1.92	3.26	2.74	54	55
8A	Nipawin	N.R.	.67 2/	2.85	N.R.	53
	Hudson Bay	2.35	5.54	2.72	54	55
8B	Humboldt	1.12	1.71	2.54	54	55
	Melfort	1.70	3.06	2.93	53	56
9A	North Battleford	2.04	3.92	2.67	55	58
	Rabbit Lake	1.16	2.05	2.50	52	56
	Prince Albert	1.19	2.72	2.77	55	56
9B	Waseca	1.06	2.08 2/	2.71	56	54
	Island Falls	3.28	5.12	2.70	52	54
<b>SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE</b>		1.04	2.70	2.97	55.3	55.2
<b>ALBERTA</b>						
1	Taber	N.R.	2.95 2/	3.08	N.R.	56
	Foremost	.16	2.76	4.52	60	61
	Winnifred	1.30	2.96	3.25	N.R.	N.R.
	Medicine Hat	1.40	3.21	2.75	60	59
	Manyberries	Trace	1.98	3.24	60	59
2	Cowley	.59	3.35	3.83	54	53
	Macleod	.56	4.44	3.07	60	58
	Cardston	1.14	3.90	5.53	56	57
	Lethbridge	2.09	5.56	3.39	58	57
3	Vauxhall	.38	2.99	2.77	58	57
	Brooks	.62	2.06	2.89	58	58
	Empress	.24	1.28	2.92	58	59
4	High River	.44	2.69	4.29	53	54
	Vulcan	N.R.	2.04 2/	3.11	N.R.	N.R.

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WEEKLY PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES 1949 (continued)

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. June 6	since April 1	since April 1	June 6 Mean	Normal
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
5	Drumheller	.05	.93	3.16	59	57
	Hanna	.14	.72 2/	3.50	58	57
	Naco	.34	1.64 2/	3.63	56	57
6	Olds	Nil	1.52	3.76	56	53
	Calgary	.23	.71	3.61	57	54
	Three Hills	.32	1.64	2.83	56	52
	Strathmore	.04	.16 2/	3.28	56	52
	Gleichen	.06	1.42 2/	3.03	58	54
7	Sedgewick	Nil	.60	2.37	56	54
	Hardisty	.54	1.10 2/	2.38	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	.55	1.51	2.79	56	54
	Hughenden	.38	1.89	2.94	56	57
8	Red Deer	.04	1.44	4.15	55	53
	Lacombe	Trace	1.72	3.31	57	53
	Wetaskiwin	Trace	.88	2.91	57	53
	Camrose	.08	1.02	3.36	59	52
	Stettler	.14	.55	4.11	59	53
9	Jasper	.12	1.52	1.94	55	53
	Rocky Mountain House	.20	1.72	3.82	56	51
	Springdale	Nil	1.17	3.94	52	52
10	Vegreville	.20	.84 2/	3.54	56	54
	Vermilion	1.04	1.84	3.06	55	53
	Lloydminster	.30	1.58	2.53	55	53
11	Edmonton	.03	1.59	3.06	58	55
12	Whitecourt	Nil	1.68	3.42	55	54
	Edson	Nil	1.00 2/	2.79	54	53
13	Elk Point	.94	2.02	2.74	56	53
14	Campsie	.06	2.52 2/	3.06	56	53
	Athabaska	.16	1.26 2/	3.08	54	54
	Lac La Biche	.07	1.54	2.87	54	53
15	High Prairie	.12	2.66	2.62	60	53
	Wagner	.11	2.75	3.04	54	55
16	Beaverlodge	.24	2.61	2.58	57	53
	Grand Prairie	.42	2.65	2.95	57	55
	Fairview	.03	1.38	2.04	58	54
17	Fort St. John	Trace	2.15	2.79	58	54
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.33	2.06	3.19	56.7	54.6

N.R. No report.

1/ Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

2/ Incomplete: not included in average.