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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT

Ottawa, July 12, 1949, 3 p.m. - The eighth 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

Based on present conditions a good crop is expected in Manitoba but drought has adversely affected crops over such wide areas in Saskatchewan and Alberta that below normal yields are anticipated for these provinces.

While crops in Manitoba generally are making favourable progress rain is now required particularly in the south-eastern, south-central and Portage-Brandon areas with Morden reporting near drought conditions. The wheat, early oats and barley are nearly all headed and stands are heavy in most districts. A serious outbreak of grain aphis has occurred in the south-western part of the province and late crops of oats and barley have been considerably damaged. Some late wheat is also affected. Chemicals may give control providing sufficient spraying equipment and material can be made available in time. Beet webworms are active and painted lady caterpillars are infesting sunflower crops around Altona. Chemical sprays are giving good control in both instances. Hailstorms on June 29, July 7 and July 8 caused light to heavy damage in scattered local areas of the province. The hay crop is turning out well except in the Winnipeg and interlake areas.

The moisture situation in north-central and northern districts of Saskatchewan was improved by fairly general rains during the past week. Elsewhere, however, there were only light, scattered showers and with temperatures slightly above normal crop deterioration was general ranging from moderate in east-central areas to rapid in the south-west. Immediate rains are required to prevent further deterioration in east-central and south-central districts while little recovery can be expected in the south-west. Light to heavy grasshopper damage has occurred throughout most of the drier area but drought remains the predominant factor in the poor crop outlook.

Alberta has experienced another week of hot, dry weather and rain is urgently needed throughout the province. Crop conditions are generally poor from a line east and north of Coutts to Stettler and west to Lacombe. From Calgary to Red Deer conditions are only fair. Favourable prospects for grain and hay crops are still reported in the south-west and in the Peace River area but the hay crop outlook throughout most of the province remains only poor to fair.

Hallonical Falls Engly

Manitoba - Progress of crops in Manitoba is, in the main, satisfactory, but rain is now needed particularly in the south-eastern, south-central and Portage Brandon areas. Conditions are extremely dry in the Morden district. Most of the wheat and early cats and barley is headed and stands are heavy almost without exception. A serious infestation of grain aphis has broken out in south-western Manitoba west of the line from Virden to Killarney. Late crops of cats and barley and some light fields of wheat are proving very susceptible and considerable damage is indicated. Chemical treatment may give control providing sufficient insecticide and suitable spraying equipment can be made available in time. Painted lady caterpillars are infesting sunflower crops in the Altona area and webworms are attacking the sugar beet crop. Chemical sprays, however, are giving good control in both these cases. Haying is under way and the crop is good except in the Winnipeg and interlake areas.

In the east Selkirk area wheat is entirely headed as is about half the coarse grain crop. Stands are very uneven except on summerfallow. Rain and high temperatures have promoted growth of all crops and hay and pastures are greatly improved. More or less similar conditions prevail in the southeastern corner of the province but rain is now urgently needed here and some hay fields are in poor condition. In the south-central area centering on Morden crops are suffering from continued drought and prospects are deteriorating. Heat and lack of rain has retarded growth and caused premature filling. Row crops are still holding but grasses and vegetable crops are drying. Pastures are poor and relatively light yields of all crops are expected in this district. Farther west at Melita early crops are standing up well but many of the late crops have been damaged by aphis during the past week.

At Portage la Prairie crops in general are good with all wheat and most of the oats and barley crops headed. The weather has been hot and dry during the last few days and rain is now needed. Haying has commenced and the crop is light to satisfactory. Conditions are quite good too in the Brandon-Woodnorth areas although moisture is now needed in the Brandon district. Grain aphis have considerably damaged coarse grain crops particularly in the Scarth district but this is not general.

In the north-central section of the province around Teulon all grain crops are heading out favourably. The stands of wild hay are very poor but tame hay is in better condition. In the north-western part of the province around Neepawa the wheat stand is excellent. Some coarse grain stands are very good while others are light. Haying is general and grass and legume hay yields are very good. Flax is in bloom. At Shoal Lake crops are progressing exceptionally well under ideal weather conditions. In the area around Swan River hot, dry winds have whipped the grain severely causing ends of leaves to brown and wither. Rain is needed in the light soil areas. Haying is under way in most parts of this district with alfalfa and clover showing good stands. Pastures need moisture.

The grasshopper situation is apparently in hand for this year with only light damage reported in local areas. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 11 per cent below normal as compared with 12 per cent below normal a week ago. Mean temperature for the week ending July 11 was 1.4 degrees above normal.

Saskatchewan - Northern and north-central districts of
Saskatchewan received fairly general rains during the past week and crop prospects
are improved. Elsewhere, however, there were only light, scattered showers and
with temperatures slightly above normal deterioration was general, ranging from
moderate on stubble crops in east-central areas to rapid in the south-west.
Further general rains are required to maintain present crop prospects. It is now

too late to expect much recovery in the south-west where grain crops will be very light and hay is a complete failure. While grasshopper damage is still a threat over large parts of the drier districts drought has been the predominant factor contributing to the poor crop prospects. Wheat is now over 50 per cent headed. Stands are very short in the dry sections but average over 18 inches in height in most other areas.

Good crop prospects have been maintained in the south-east where wheat is over 60 per cent in head and stands 18 to 20 inches high. Barley has developed well in this area but oat fields, now starting to head, are somewhat patchy. Rain is urgently needed in the Regina-Weyburn area where crops are quite variable as the result of local showers. Definite deterioration is reported from the Fillmore section of this area but yields equal to last year's might still be obtained with timely rains.

While summerfallow crops are holding well in the Indian Head area there has been rapid deterioration in stubble crops. Crop condition generally is reported to be good east and north of Indian Head but much poorer west of there to Regina. Excellent crop prospects have been maintained in the Melville, Yorkton and Punnichy area,

The drought area of the south west is roughly bounded by Coderre, Tugaske, Simpson and west through Broderick, Elrose and Eatonia. A report from the Dominion Experimental Station at Swift Current states that prospects are gradually worsening due to continued drought. About 60 per cent of fields are now damaged beyond recovery and will yield less than 6 bushels per acre. Other fields could show moderate recovery. There has been little or no growth of grass in range areas but there has been a good carry-over of feed in many parts of the area with which to maintain live stock. Grasshopper damage, relatively light so far in the Swift Current area is increasing.

Conditions in the west central area, north of the Goose Lake line, are variable. Scattered showers of varying intensity were received last week. The general condition is fair with local areas of good crops. Improvement, however, has been quite general in the northern districts. All crops are showing satisfactory progress at Melfort and excellent prospects are being maintained over north-eastern districts.

Local hail damage has been reported from the following points: July 4, Kindersley, Colville and Winter; July 6, Luseland, Wynyard, St. Brieux, Leslie, Elfros, Landis, Cloan, Phippin, Cudworth, Melville, Meecham, Leipzig, Lake Lenore, Lanigan, Wilkie, Leroy, Lampard, Mozart, Arcola; July 7, Stoughton, Goodsoil, Midale, Kelfield and Biggar.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 19 per cent below normal, unchanged from a week ago. Mean temperature for the week ending July 11 was 0.9 degrees above normal.

Alberta during the past week. There have been only a few scattered showers in most areas, and a good general rain is urgently needed to secure a fair crop. Crops in south-western Alberta around the Lethbridge-Cardston area and in the Peace River district remain favourable but further rains are needed. Crops east and north of a line from Coutts to Stettler and west to Lacombe are reported as generally poor, while crops in the Calgary to Red Deer area are only fair. The Alberta Hail Insurance Board reports hail from Whiskey Cap, Claresholm, Lomond, Rolling Hills, Cheadle, Balzac, Beynon, Olds to Anee Hill Valley, Big Valley, Leduc, Mannville, Andrew and St. Paul. This hail has affected approximately

30,000 acres with most of the affected areas suffering damage from 10 to 30 per cent. Some improvement is expected in these crops provided additional moisture is forthcoming immediately.

In the south-east corner of Alberta some crops are reported beyond recovery for lack of rain. In this area wheat is 50 per cent headed, oats and barley 10 per cent. Around Manyberries crop conditions remain poor with only a few light scattered showers this past week. Hay and grass crops have suffered considerably from lack of moisture and only a fair crop is being harvested. In some sections in the south-east cattle are being turned in on the failing crops.

Some crop deterioration is reported from Taber west to the Alberta border because of drought, but general rains in this area will bring a good crop. In the south-west the grasshopper population is rapidly becoming adult and some danger is expected from migration into the better crop areas. Stinkbug population is showing signs of increasing in the drier areas but no immediate damage is expected. Wheat is about 20 per cent headed with only small to medium heads and further rains will be needed to carry the present good prospects. In the Cardston district wheat is about 50 per cent headed and is averaging 24 inches in height. In this area the crops are making a splendid growth but more rain is needed to enable them to fill completely.

In the east-central area of the province, Hanna reports late-sown wheat will make from five to ten bushels per acre. In this same area crops sown on stubble are short and very thin and weedy. Very small heads are forming with about 60 per cent of the wheat crop in head.

Late-sown crops have made some improvement over last week in the central part of the province around Sedgewick and Donalda. Wheat is very uneven with some just beginning to show through the surface. In this area oats and barley show signs of returning a fair crop. In the Edmonton district hot, dry weather continues with only a few light local showers being reported during the past week. Grain is being forced into the shot-blade stage and wheat is heading on very short straw. General conditions of grain crops along with pasture and hay crops are reported as the worst experienced in years. Further crop deterioration was checked in the Lacombe area by good showers this past week. Hay and pasture fields are still poor with the hay crop averaging 30 per cent of normal. Farther south of Lacombe rains brought some relief to crops but some local hailstorms were reported.

In the north-eastern section of the province, Bonnyville reports improved crop conditions, especially on the later-sown crops. Early crops are headed and present prospects are for below normal yields. In the north-west area of the province around the Beaverlodge Experimental Station crop prospects are reported as being fair to good. Most crops are somewhat shorter than usual with some wheat and early barley heading out. In this area forage crops are in flower and favourable hay crops are expected.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 35 per cent below normal as compared with 41 per cent below normal a week ago.

Mean temperature for the week ending July 11 was 1 degree above normal.

		Precipitation			Temperature	
Crop District		Week ending		Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
and Province	Station	8 a.m.		since	July 11	
		July 11	April 1	April 1	Mean	Normal
A CITTURAL A						
HANITOBA 1	Pierson	.24	6.39	6.58	64	66
	Melita	.20	6.29	8.42	66	67
	Waskada	.20	7.66	7.42	64	66
2	Boissevain	.38	6.36	6.61	65	66
6	Ninette	.22	4.84	7.23	66	66
67			4.81	6.84	70	65
3	Portage la Prairie	.38	5.47	7.53	72	66
	Graysville	Nil	4.30	7.24	68	67
	Morden				69	67
	Altona	Trace	3.24 2/	7.12	70	67
	Liorris	Nil	4.15	6.86		
	Emerson	.28	4.56	6.40	67	67
4	Winnipeg	22	4.68	7.64	69	67
G	Sprague	1.38	7.12	7.56	65	65
	Pinawa	.28	3.74	5.46	68	65
7	Virden	1.16	8.74	6 09	66	63
	Rivers	1.36	7.24	6.87	GG	64
8	Brandon	*22	7.20	6.90	67	65
	Cypress River	.26	5.66	6.74	N.R.	66
9	Minnedosa	.56	7.81	6.80	65	64
	Neepawa	.68	5.61	6.80	66	64
10	Russell	.34	5.95	6.51	65	63
	Birtle	1.40	7.06	6.66	64	63
11	Dauphin	. 68	8.10	5.70	65	63
12	Cimli	.51	5.02	7.42	69	66
13	Swan River	.40	5.47	6.72	64	63
	The Pas	1,11	6.70	5.05	65	65
MANITOBA AVERAG	E	.48	6.04	6.81	66,6	65.2
SASKATCHEVAN						
la	Estevan	.31	5.13	6.68	66	65
-1-4 %	Carlyle	.82	6.72	7.04	63	63
1B	Broadview	.19	5.28	6.05	64	64
ولليال	Moosomin	1.06	9.48	5.99	65	64
OΛ	Yellow Grass	.50	3.85	6.52	64	65
2A	Midale	.62	5.92	7.07	65	65
2B	Mose Jaw	.20	2.07	6.58	66	67
6013		.17	4.63	6.52	64	64
	Regina	.08	2.68	5.60	60	64
	Francis			7.69	64	65
	Qu'Appelle	.18	3.31	7.51	64	64
3AN	Indian Head	.18	4.33		66	65
	Assiniboia	.38	3.45	5,69	66	-65
	Ceylon	.16	2.83	8.09		
	Chaplin	,10	2.59	6.90	66	65
	Gravelbourg	N.R.	1.46 2/	5.96	N.R.	65 N. D.
	Coderre	.08	3.94	5.77	64	N.R.
	Bishopric	.26	3.66 2/		66	65
3BS	Instow	N.R.	1.83 2/	5.79	N.R.	65
	Shannavon	.18	2.48	5.57	66	63
	Cadillac	N.R.	3.38 2/		N.R.	64
	Val Marie	.1.8	2.20	6.19	65	65
	Aneroid	.08	2.18	6.75	67	64

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

Total Normal Total Normal Teck ending 8 a.m. and Frovince Station Station July 11 Arril 1 Arril 1 Arril 1 Item Normal			Precivitation				Temperature	
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Crop District		Week ending Total		Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
and Frovince	Station	8 a.m.	since	since	July 11	
		July 11	April 1	April 1	Mean	Normal
ALBERTA		month the second of the second				
4	High River	.04	5.37	7.80	60	60
	Vulcan	.01:	5,25	6.68	N.R.	N.R.
5	Drumheller	.46	6.11	6.67	67	67
	Hanna	.46	3.09 2/	7.21	63	65
	Naco	.28	4.42 2/	6.28	62	64
6	Olds	.70	3.78	6.79	62	60
	Calgary	.17	2.74	7.23	62	61
	Three Hills	.20	3.90	6.19	64	60
	Strathmore	.60	2.28 2/	6.51	64	62
	Gleichen	Nil	3.85 2/	5.83	64	62
7	Sedgewick	. 68	3.34	5.93	63	59
	Hardisty	.40	2.34 2/	5.97	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	.65	3.86	5.32	64	62
	Hughenden	Nil	2.61	5.80	N.R.	65
8	Red Deer	.06	3.43	8.19	61	59
	Lacombe	N.R.	2.32 2/	7.21	N.R.	60
	Wetaskiwin	.14	1.92	6.65	63	61
	Camrose	. 22	2.06	6.41	62	62
	Stettler	.20	3.45	7.33	67	59
9	Jasper	.26	3,87	3.42	58	58
	Rocky Mountain House	.61	3.53	7.52	60	59
	Springdale	.38	2.43 2/	8.22	57	59
10	Vegreville	.20	1.70 2/	7.31	N.R.	59
	Vermilion	.50	4.12	6.79	62	60
	Lloydminster	.34	2.94	5.37	64	60
11	Edmonton	.63	2.81	6.78	64	61
12	Whitecourt	.13	2.59	6.72	59	60
	Edson	.40	5.77	6.39	57	58
13	Elk Foint	.58	3.16	5,93	62	60
14	Campsie	.14	3.16 2/	6.77	61	60
	Athabaska	.24	3.84 2/	5.98	61	60
	Lac La Biche	.99	5.54	6.32	63	60
15	High Prairie	.78	5.49	5.95	64	60
	Wagner	Trace	4.71	6.15	60	61
16	Beaverlodge	.40	5.03	4.96	58	59
	Grand Prairie	.39	3.58	5.92	59	59
	Fairview	.14	3.34	4.46	59	59
17	Fort St. John	1.15	5.30	5,93	59	61
ALBERTA AVERAC	Œ	.34	4,15	6,35	62.7	61.7

N.R. No report.

^{1/} Source: Meteorological Service of Canada,

^{2/} Incomplete: not included in average.

