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## Field Crop Reporting Series — No. 4

### TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT — CANADA

This is the first of the 1968 series of six telegraphic reports, issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, covering crop conditions throughout Canada. Included in this report is the first of a series of eleven telegraphic reports on crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces. A selected list of crop correspondents chosen from the Federal 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.

#### SUMMARY

Maritime Provinces. — Throughout the Maritime provinces, the weather continues cold but the land is generally drying out well. In Prince Edward Island spring is earlier than usual and early potatoes and turnips are being planted. Winter wheat looks good and processing peas and barley are being seeded. Nova Scotia's spring is two weeks ahead of average with most areas reporting a few early vegetables planted and some land worked for grain seeding. Blueberry fields in Cumberland County have survived well. In New Brunswick conditions are excellent for working the land. April plantings were abnormally high for cereals, potatoes and early vegetables. Strawberries are showing good growth but in Charlotte County blueberries have only a light set of buds.

Quebec. — Since the beginning of May the temperature in Quebec has been below normal with a touch of frost in certain areas on the night of May 6. The ground is cold and wet and plant growth has been slow. Pastures and grass-land have suffered some frost damage. Around Montreal sowing is now beginning and bedding plants and those under glass are growing quickly. Sowing of onions, carrots and radishes and planting of corn and early potatoes have begun. Generally, livestock which are in a healthy condition, are still inside. Milk production is about normal for this time of year.

Ontario. — Winterkill of fall seeded wheat in Ontario appears to be very light this year and due to the open spring seeding of oats, barley and mixed grains is proceeding about three weeks ahead of normal. Planting of early potatoes is nearly completed. Soil conditions for the seeding of corn, dry beans and soybeans are excellent. Pastures and hay fields are showing good growth for this time of year. A heavy frost on May 5 and 6 caused some damage to fruit blossoms.

Agriculture Division  
Crops Section

5502-508

Prairie Provinces.— Seeding is well advanced in southern areas of the Prairie Provinces and is expected to be general in most districts this week. Recent rains have improved moisture conditions in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Northern Alberta. Pasture growth, which is fair in Manitoba, has been restricted in the other two provinces by low temperatures.

#### GRASSHOPPER OUTBREAK FORECAST FOR THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES — 1968

According to reports from the Canada Department of Agriculture an egg survey revealed the presence of many eggs in the soil in late 1967 and, for the first time in many years, "severe" infestations were located in parts of Alberta and Manitoba.

Most of the central and western districts of Manitoba will be free of infestations. Outbreaks are expected to be "moderate" to "severe" south of Gladstone and Neepawa, extending beyond Carberry almost to Carman. A "severe" infestation exists north of the Assiniboine River and east of Melbourne, while a second, at St. Claude, threatens crop production south of the river. However, the threatening infestations are primarily in pastures and hay fields. In Saskatchewan infestations are scattered and exist throughout the central, southern and western parts of the province. In Alberta the hazard from grasshoppers has risen sharply in the southern regions. "Light" to "severe" infestations are present in the Pincher Creek-Taber-Milo area. Three "severe" outbreak areas are forecast north of Taber, south of Burdett and north-east of Foremost.

British Columbia.— Although dry weather has permitted normal spring planting, below normal temperatures have hampered growth in all areas of British Columbia. At the Coast seeding of vegetable crops is well underway and early lettuce and greens are being harvested. Berry crops are in full blossom with current conditions indicating decrease in production. In the Okanogan and Kootenay Valley low night temperatures have reduced prospects for apricots and cherries, but other tree fruits have thus far escaped. Vegetable plantings are proceeding normally although growth is rather slow. In the Peace River District seeding of grain crops has begun while in the central part of the province farmers are starting to work the land. Soil moisture conditions are generally below normal and pasture growth has been slowed by cool temperatures and dry winds.

#### MARITIME PROVINCES

The weather continues cool, but the ground is quite dry and considerable cultivation has been accomplished in the Maritimes. Prince Edward Island reports patches of snow remain in sheltered areas. Although very little grain has been sown, early potatoes and turnips are being planted. Winter wheat looks exceptionally good and forage crops are doing well. Winter injury to legumes has occurred in localized areas due to heaving.



Seeding started very early in New Brunswick with planting of early potatoes and peas commencing on April 10 in at least two areas. April plantings were abnormally high for cereals, potatoes and early vegetables. Some winter injury has occurred in alfalfa, however, estimates of loss do not exceed 8 per cent. The balance of new seedings have come through the winter in excellent condition and grass and legume growth far exceeds that of last year. The first regular spray has been completed and most orchards appear to have wintered well. Strawberry fields are showing good growth and growers are presently setting out new stands. Blueberry areas in Charlotte County are reported to be showing only a light set of buds while in the northeastern counties, the set is nearly average. Burning of old stands continues. Market gardeners are commencing to transplant lettuce, early cabbage and cauliflowers.

Most areas in Nova Scotia report that lime and fertilizer are being applied. In the Cape Breton and Antigonish areas, a few early vegetables have been planted and some land has been worked for grain seeding. In Pictou County some grain seeding has been carried out, and a few strawberries have been planted. Central Nova Scotia reports some potatoes have been planted and also a few strawberries. There is definite indication that more corn for silage will be planted this year. Cumberland County reports that blueberry fields seem to have survived the winter fairly well and most of the burning is now completed. Western Nova Scotia reports that to date about 95 per cent of the potato crop and about 30 per cent of the grain has been planted. Winter wheat and winter rye appear very good. Some vegetables have been seeded in the Berwick area. Considerable seeding will be done in the next few weeks.

### QUEBEC

With the rapid spring thaw in the Lennoxville district of Quebec the first cereals were sown April 22 while seeding of corn began on May 7. Cold nights have inhibited growth of grassland. The Ladino clover and alfalfa pastures are reported to have come through the winter with only light damage.

In the area around La Pocatière low air temperatures have contrasted with above-average soil temperatures. Sowing has now started and should become general around the middle of this month. The cold weather together with the low rainfall which occurred during April and the beginning of May have slowed plant growth. As yet it is too early to assess the damage which may have occurred in hay and pasture land.

April was dry with only 1.59 inches of rain in the Normandin region. Since the beginning of May temperatures have been colder. Snow disappeared early but the ice is still on the lakes and little plant growth has taken place so far. Due to spring calvings milk production is increasing.

Above normal temperatures, together with below average precipitation, have been experienced in Eastern Quebec around Caplan. The last killing frost occurred on the 7th of April. Spring has generally been earlier than usual with temperatures up to 65 degrees. Plant growth started around the middle of last month and some potatoes have already been planted. Seeding operations should become general soon.

ONTARIO

In Essex county of southern Ontario seeding of oats is completed and early-seeded fields are now showing above ground. Planting of grain corn is progressing well and seeding of sweet corn has commenced. Seeding of canning peas has been completed in most areas and transplanting of tomatoes is underway. Fall-seeded wheat as well as pastures and meadows are making slow growth and a warm rain is now required. Most early vegetables have been transplanted and seeding of potatoes is completed. In Kent County seeding is well advanced and planting of corn is about 60 per cent completed. Winter wheat has come through in fairly good condition with winterkill at a minimum. Field planting of tomatoes commenced on May 7 and most cash crops have already been planted. Seeding of peas is proceeding on schedule and planting of soybeans is expected to begin next week. Soil conditions are extremely dry and a warm rain is needed to promote uniform growth and development of all crops. Some damage occurred on fruit blossoms due to a frost in early May. Planting of corn is well underway in Middlesex county, but germination is very slow due to cool weather and lack of rain in most areas. In Norfolk county, both moisture and temperature conditions have been optimum and early-seeded spring grains have germinated well. Planting of corn is now general. Growth of fall wheat, rye, hay and pastures is good and winter injury appears to be minimal. A recent ground frost caused some injury to horticultural crops. Rain is now the principal requirement.

In Bruce county of western Ontario seeding of spring grains is about 80 per cent completed and corn planting has commenced. Growth has generally been delayed about one week due to cool, wet weather. Some cattle have been turned out to grass but most will not be turned out until about May 10. Seeding of spring grains commenced ten days earlier than usual in Waterloo county, but cool weather has retarded growth of all crops. Planting of corn has been underway for about one week. However, cool weather has retarded development of all crops. Winter wheat, hay and pastures survived the winter in good condition, but growth of these crops has also been slow. In Wellington county, work on the land has just commenced and seeding operations will be general in about a week. Pasture development has been slow and most cattle will not be turned out until the end of May. Winterkill of clover is estimated at about ten per cent. In Halton county, however, the season is about two weeks ahead of normal and soil conditions are excellent. Seeding of spring grains is about 95 per cent completed and planting of corn is about one-third finished. New seedings suffered some winter injury but both hay and pastures are growing rapidly. Early potatoes have been planted. A heavy frost has caused some damage to fruit trees.

In Durum county of central Ontario growth of hay, pastures fall wheat and early-seeded spring grains has been slow. Early-planted potatoes and vegetable crops are well ahead of normal but rain is now required. Seeding operations are about two weeks ahead of normal in Peterborough county, with about 85 per cent of spring grains already planted. Pastures, meadows and fall-sown wheat have wintered well but there is now a general lack of moisture. A frost in late April retarded growth to some extent.

In Leeds county of eastern Ontario, about 75 per cent of the spring grains have been seeded and plantings on well-drained fields have now germinated. In some areas, fields which were ploughed this spring have yet to be cultivated.



Development of pastures and meadows has been slow due to cool weather. Soil moisture reserves have been depleted and showers are now urgently needed to promote growth. In Dundas county, new seedings, hay and pastures have wintered well. Some field work has been done and a small amount of spring grains and corn has been planted. In Carleton county field work is off to a good start and some spring grains and corn have already been seeded. However, much spring ploughing still remains to be done and a good rain is required. In Renfrew county, work on the land commenced about two weeks ahead of normal and some farmers have completed sowing of spring grains. A few fields of corn have been planted. New seedings are spotty in some areas due to lodging of grain crops last fall.

A report from Kapuskasing indicates that fields have been bare of snow since about April 10 and hay fields are commencing to turn green. Although conditions are about one week ahead of normal only a small percentage of spring grains has been seeded. In the Thunder Bay district, weather conditions have not been favourable for work in the fields and seeding operations are not expected to get underway until about May 10.

#### MANITOBA

Seeding progress varies from five to 40 per cent completed in Manitoba. A general rainfall from one-quarter to one-half inch has interrupted field operations this week. Southern districts are most advanced and early seeded fields have emerged. Most farmers are waiting for better weed growth before seeding. Fall rye and pastures are progressing favourably. Small acreages of special crops have been seeded.

In the southeast part of Manitoba at Emerson seeding has commenced in over 70 per cent of the area. Some farmers are holding back to allow wild oats to grow. Three-quarters of an inch of rain fell over the week-end. Pasture growth has been slow due to low temperatures. At Altona, rain received two weeks ago has greatly improved moisture conditions. Seeding of cereals is 40 per cent completed, and some peas, sunflowers and flax have been sown. Growth of weeds has been slow on account of the cool nights and hence farmers have been delaying beet seeding. Field work was stopped on Monday afternoon by showers. Pastures are well underway. In the Morden district, approximately 8 per cent of the cereals has been seeded and warm temperatures last week started weed and wild oat growth. About six-tenths of an inch of rain was received this week and seeding will not become general for another week. Potato planting was general early last week. Acreage sown to barley and oats is expected to be 14 per cent higher than last year, while rapeseed seedings will be down considerably.

At Pilot Mound approximately 15 per cent of the wheat has been seeded and 10 to 15 per cent of the coarse grains. Some farmers are delaying seeding until weed growth appears, especially wild oats. Rainfall of one-half inch on Monday has improved moisture conditions considerably, and surface moisture is now excellent with sub-soil supplies fairly good. Pastures and hay crops are doing well. In the Somerset area seeding has started in most of the regions, but, due to rain on May 6, it will not be general for another week or ten days. The moisture situation has improved tremendously over the past month, and pasture growth is earlier than normal. The use of fertilizer and chemical weed controls is increasing in this district. Farther west at Melita a trace of precipitation was received during the past week. Sub-soil moisture supplies are low, and surface conditions vary from

fair to dry. Wild oats are starting to emerge but pastures are slow. Seeding is 50 per cent completed. Moisture will be required within the next two weeks to maintain crop growth. Crop emergence has been generally good. Spraying of wild oats will begin this week.

East of Winnipeg around Beauséjour, seeding started last week and also commenced in the Brokenhead and Lac du Bonnet districts. There has been virtually no seeding around Hazelridge, Dugald and Springfield. Farmers are generally waiting for warmer weather and wild oat germination before commencing to sow. There has been little forage growth to date due to dry soil conditions.

In the interlake area at Teulon, seeding is progressing favourably. About one-half inch of rain was received on May 6. Pastures are slow in coming and there has been little weed growth. Feed supplies for livestock are rather low in this area. Farther north at Arborg work on the land is fairly general, but seeding is not general as yet. Low temperatures have hindered seeding which should become general this week. Both surface and sub-soil moisture conditions are good.

In the west central part of the province at Neepawa above normal temperatures during the past week stimulated weed growth and enabled farmers to continue field operations. Possibly 5 per cent of the seeding has been completed, but most farmers are waiting to cultivate weeds before they seed. There is sufficient moisture for germination, but reserves are below normal. Pasture growth is not yet sufficient to carry livestock without supplementary feeding. Around Minnedosa moisture conditions are good and farmers report that soil conditions for cultivation are excellent. Wild oats are sprouting and in sheltered areas are starting to green. Pastures are also turning green but the growth is insufficient to sustain cattle as yet. Farther west at Shoal Lake 30 per cent of the summerfallow area has been seeded, mainly to wheat. It was warm during the early part of last week, but turned cold and windy with dust blowing. Surface moisture is low and rain and warm weather are needed for seed germination. There will be an increase in mustard seed and oat acreage in this district. At Russell about 10 per cent of the wheat has been seeded and farmers are now waiting for sufficient wild oat growth in order to obtain a kill before seeding. The grass is green and poplar leaves are starting to show. Strong winds have caused soil drifting and rapid evaporation. Rain amounting to .29 inches fell on Monday and it was very welcome. There should be a good germination of crops. There will be an increase in mustard seed and oat acreage in this district also.

In the northwest part of the province at Dauphin seeding commenced on April 25 and will be general this week, although no appreciable amount has been seeded to date. Wild oat germination is starting and some farmers are waiting for a good growth prior to seeding. Soil moisture conditions are fair. One inch of rain was received on April 20 and, although conditions were improved, it was not sufficient to bring supplies up to an ideal level. Pasture growth has been fair, but slow. Farther north at Swan River, wheat seeding has been general throughout the valley with approximately 20 per cent sown to date. Light showers were received Monday evening, and Tuesday. Pasture growth has been slow to date.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 12 per cent above normal, compared with 41 per cent above normal a week ago, 93 per cent above normal two weeks ago, and 141 per cent above normal as compared to a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 6 was 3.7 degrees above normal, in contrast to 2.0 degrees below normal a week ago, 2.1 degrees above normal two weeks ago, and 11.4 degrees below normal for the week ending May 8, 1967.



SASKATCHEWAN

Continuous strong winds in Saskatchewan have depleted supplies of surface moisture and considerable soil drifting has occurred. However, recent province-wide showers have greatly improved conditions. Cool temperatures have restricted grass and weed growth. Seeding is well advanced in southern districts and operations are underway across much of the central portion of the province. Planting activity in northern districts will commence when warmer conditions prevail.

In the southeast part of Saskatchewan in the Willmar area 1.8 inches of rain has fallen up to the end of April and 1.3 inches of rain has been received recently. About 25 per cent of the crop has been seeded to date. Growth in the fall rye crop has been at a standstill but very little winterkill has been experienced. Pastures and forage crops are greening. Cattle in the district have wintered well, but feed at the present time is in short supply. In the Moosomin district around 20 per cent of the wheat and 15 per cent of the oats and barley have been seeded to date. It is expected there will be little change in proportions seeded to crops this year. Fairly high temperatures on April 29 and 30 have started some growth but this has been slow to date due to low temperatures and lack of surface moisture. Many producers in the area delayed seeding in order to destroy spring growth of weeds and wild oats. The one-half inch of rain received last Monday will certainly improve the pasture and crop picture.

The Experimental Farm at Indian Head reports that seeding operations in the district are well underway. Surface soil is very dry and some drifting has occurred on several occasions. The dry surface is due to low precipitation in April and little snow cover on fields since March. Surface moisture conditions are very favourable for good germination. There is very little weed growth as yet and farmers are now conducting operations in some fields hoping for wild oat germination. Pastures are starting to make good growth. Livestock are generally in good condition and are just now getting out on pasture. The 0.2 inches of rain received on Tuesday was most welcome.

Precipitation last fall varied widely in southwestern Saskatchewan ranging from one to six inches with the lowest rainfall in the area to the west of Swift Current. Below average snowfall with very little precipitation was received since the middle of January and fields have been bare since. Runoff was light but there is practically no water in the sloughs and the surface soil is very dry. Fortunately high winds occurred only on a few days but they caused considerable soil drifting. The situation could be serious if high winds occur before the crop becomes established. Moisture conditions in fallow fields range from good to excellent but on stubble fields are only poor to fair. Seeding of stubble fields is considered risky with the exception of some local areas which received heavy showers last fall. Good conditions in the latter part of March permitted a few farmers to start seeding at that time. But the weather during April was cool, with some frost at night. Seeding has continued, however, and in a few districts is nearing completion. At present about five per cent of the wheat has been seeded. Due to warm weather it is expected that seeding will be general by the beginning of next week. Moisture reserves on grass land are poor and heavy rains will be required during May to produce a decent hay crop. Livestock came through the winter in good condition.

In southwestern Saskatchewan at Eastend 90 per cent of the crop has been seeded. One-half to one inch of rain has been received in the area. Pastures are in relatively poor condition and will require more rain to bring them along. The Research Station at Swift Current reports warm dry weather in the area this past week. Seeding has progressed rapidly on light soil and is generally well advanced, however, seeding on heavy soils is just beginning. Recent light showers have delayed field work. Both fall rye and grasslands are showing green. At Leader, seeding of cereal grains has been completed. Some spring rain has helped and in the main seeding conditions are good in the area and good germination can be expected. Only a small flax acreage remains to be sown. Pastures are greening rapidly.

At Melville, in the east-central part of the province approximately 20 per cent of the wheat and five per cent of the coarse grains have been planted. Growth on pasture land has slowed due to the cool weather. The rainfall to date at 3.2 inches, the same as last year at this time, compares with the long time average of 1.2 inches. Farther north at Togo, seeding has become general with moisture conditions from fair to dry at surface levels. However, rain received on Monday will help improve the situation. Wild oats have been growing in several fields and owing to windy weather and late delivery of Avadex spraying operations could not be carried out. The general outlook for the crop in the area is only fair. Pastures are showing growth but a good general rain would be very beneficial. At Sturgis, spring operations are just getting under way in the district. A small percentage of the wheat has been sown but no coarse grains. The germination of weeds and wild oats has been slow and growth of pastures and forage crops has been retarded.

In the central part of the province around Drake, strong winds last week depleted surface-soil moisture. However, the recent rain of 0.3 inches has been beneficial. Seeding should be general this week. There has been little weed germination to date. Cattle have wintered well and are now on pasture. In the vicinity of Craik seeding has become general with 25 per cent of the wheat and 10 per cent of the coarse grains sown. Recent showers, however, have slowed seeding operations but have improved moisture conditions. Growth of pastures has recently improved. To the north at Saskatoon seeding which had just started, was delayed a few days on account of rain. Soil generally was very dry in the district and serious erosion occurred on sandy soil. Sufficient moisture is now present to promote even germination of crops and good pasture growth.

In west-central Saskatchewan at Rosetown seeding is about one-quarter completed. Rain of 0.35 inches has recently fallen in the area. It is expected that increased acreages will be sown to durum wheat, flax, oats and barley as well as some mustard and sunflowers. It is probable that a fair amount of stubble land will be seeded again this year. In the area around Scott rain during the past 24 hours has greatly improved surface conditions. Seeding has just started, with most activity on summerfallow land to date. It has been too cool and dry for weed pasture or crop growth. The fallow subsoil moisture is good while stubble moisture ranges from fair to poor.

In the northeast part of the province the Research Station at Melfort reports that tillage operations are now underway throughout the region but very little seeding has been done to date. With favourable weather field work could be general by the weekend. Moisture on summerfallow land is good and that on stubble is sufficient, being about equal to the five-year average. Fall rye and legumes appear to have survived the winter in good condition. Damage from snow mould has been much lower than in past years.



In the northwest at Meota little or no seeding has been done as yet, but should be general by the middle of next week. Weeds have germinated but land is still too cold for growth. Moisture conditions are generally good on summerfallows but only fair on stubble land. Rainfall since April 1 has been 0.62 inches.

The unweighted precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 61 per cent below normal, compared with 56 per cent below normal a week ago, 45 per cent below normal two weeks ago and 12 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 6, 1968 was 2.9 degrees above normal in contrast to 0.7 degrees below normal a week ago, 3.0 degrees below normal two weeks ago and 9.7 degrees below normal a year ago May 8, 1967.

#### ALBERTA

Moisture conditions in Alberta vary from fair to poor apart from the area around White Court and the Peace River District where general rains were received during the past week. As a result of the rains surface moisture conditions and germination prospects have improved. By May 1 seeding had become general in the irrigation areas of the south-east and is expected to become general throughout the province between May 5 and May 10. Absence of weed growth, as a result of low temperatures, is holding up seeding operations. Seeding of sugar beets, potatoes, canning peas and corn is up to one-third completed, although soil drifting at Taber and Picture Butte has necessitated some reseeding. Although moisture conditions are adequate for germination more rain will be needed soon to promote rapid growth. Pasture growth is very slow due to cool weather and poor moisture conditions. Feed supplies are becoming limited in the North Eastern and Peace River areas resulting in some premature grazing. Good early rains are essential for a normal hay crop. Livestock wintered relatively well.

At Manyberries in the south-east corner of the province about 80 per cent of the seeding has been completed and some of the early-sown crop is beginning to show. Subsoil moisture conditions are estimated to 75 per cent of normal while surface soil moisture is estimated at 85 per cent. Fall rye is patchy. High winds and temperatures up to 88 degrees were experienced last week. The prairie is turning green and livestock are doing well. However, water supplies for livestock are low. Moisture is needed in some areas around Medicine Hat where 90 per cent of the seeding has been completed. Moisture conditions are good on summerfallow but rain is needed to improve poor stubble and range land conditions. Fall rye is showing good growth and early-sown crops are up. Livestock conditions and calving percentages are good.

About one inch of rainfall was received early in the week in the area around Lethbridge and soil moisture conditions are reported as good. To that time pastures were dry. Seeding is nearing completion in the Bow Island area and proceeding well around Lethbridge. Generally, winter wheat is good although there are some patchy fields as a result of earlier drought. Seeding of sugar beets is about 80 per cent complete, with the contracted acreage about the same as last year. At Cardston moisture conditions are good. Crop acreages are expected to be about the same as last year except for a 10 per cent increase for barley. Winter wheat is in good condition with only normal plowback reported. Some barley acreage has been sown and seeding is expected to become general around May 8. Hay prospects are presently good. Field work is in full swing at Claresholm and 10 per cent of the wheat and barley acreage has been sown. The weather has been very cool and rain occurred on May 7. Wild Oats are just beginning to sprout and grass growth is very slow. Acreages sown to grain crops are expected to be about the same as last year except for an increase in barley acreage.

In the south central part of the province, around Vulcan, about 20 per cent of the seeding has been completed and it is estimated that there will be a small increase in the acreage sown to oats, barley and flaxseed. At the present time moisture conditions are poor.

In the central southwest area, around Calgary, very little seeding has been done. Moisture conditions are poor, and high winds during the past few days have caused some soil drifting. Temperatures have been dropping to the freezing point at night. At Olds, field work is well underway and some seeding has been done. A good general rain is needed to restore pastures which are in poor condition at the present time.

At Vermilion, in the northeast central part of the province, the weather has been cold and windy, with little or no rain reported. Moisture conditions are estimated at about 90 per cent of normal on summerfallow and 80 per cent on stubble. There has been little seeding so far but it should be in full swing in a week or ten days. Due to cold weather, there has been very little weed growth.

In the area around Edmonton, spring work is underway and seeding of wheat should become general in about a week. The weather has been cool, and dry, and moisture conditions are fair to poor. At Stony Plain, spring cultivation is well underway and some seeding of barley has been completed. Soil moisture reserves are low due to lack of spring rain. Pastures and hay crops are not growing yet and it is causing an acute shortage of feed.

In the west-central region, around Lacombe, the snow disappeared around the end of February and since then precipitation has amounted to 1.02 inches. Both surface and sub-soil moisture reserves are low and considerable soil drifting has taken place on fallow fields. Very little seeding has been done and there has been no growth of hay or pasture.

At Bonnyville, in crop district 6, field work is becoming general and seeding is expected to start next week. At the present time both sub-soil and surface moisture supplies are low and pastures are in poor condition. At Colinton, rainfall received since May 1 has amounted to about one inch. Spring work is in full swing and about 5 per cent of the wheat acreage has been seeded. A large wheat acreage is expected as it has been reported that many farmers are switching from rapeseed. Some winterkill has been reported in forage crops.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 16 per cent below normal compared to 19 per cent below normal a week ago and in contrast to 7 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 44 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 6, 1968 was 2.1 degrees above normal, compared with 1.3 degrees above normal a week ago, and in contrast to 5.2 degrees below normal two weeks ago and 7.8 degrees below normal for the week ending May 8, 1967.



BRITISH COLUMBIA

At Victoria, dry and wet weather conditions have delayed the planting of early potatoes and strawberries by about two weeks. Growth of forage and pasture crops has also been delayed due to unfavourable weather conditions. Greenhouse tomatoes and cucumbers appear to be in good condition.

In the Lower Fraser Valley at Agassiz, continued below normal temperatures have delayed all seeding activities. Early corn planting started May 1 and seeding of peas is almost completed. Pasture growth is generally satisfactory following a set-back during April. Small fruits are generally satisfactory with the exception of isolated instances of frost damage to strawberries during April.

Around Kamloops, corn planting for silage is well underway. Livestock are being turned out to pastures and lower ranges. Average moisture conditions are reported in this area.

At Vernon, the weather has been drier and cooler than normal. Moisture conditions are low and pasture growth has been retarded. Winter wheat growth is excellent and about 75 per cent of spring cereals are planted.

In the Dawson Creek area, cool temperatures in late April delayed field operations. Cultivation started about April 22 and became general by the end of the month.

At Fort St. John, the weather has been cool and moisture reserves are fair due to the early melting of snow. Pastures and range land have just started to turn green. Fall wheat and rye have generally wintered well.

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## Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation			Mean tem- perature	
		Week ending 8 a.m. May 6, 1968	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	week ending 8 a.m.	
					May 6	
					1968	Normal
			inches			degrees F.
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Boissevain	.22	1.60	1.25	50	46
	Pierson	.03	.80	1.25	51	48
	Waskada	.05	1.11	1.21	53	49
2	Baldur	.10	1.15	1.48	50	47
	Pilot Mound	.07	2.00	1.53	51	47
3	Altona	nil	1.31	1.13	53	48
	Deerwood	.03	2.26	1.48	53	49
	Graysville	trace	2.68	1.28	52	48
	Morden	trace	2.15	1.56	53	49
	Morris	.01	1.72	1.21	52	48
	Portage la Prairie	.02	1.75	1.35	52	48
	Roland	trace	1.96	1.37	53	49
	Stonewall	.21	1.50	1.37	48	48
	Emerson	trace	2.57	1.49	53	48
5	Steinbach	trace	1.62	1.45	51	47
	Winnipeg	.15	1.42	1.44	52	47
	Starbuck	trace	1.77	1.38	53	48
6	Seven Sisters Falls	trace	1.47	1.60	50	46
	Great Falls	N.R.	.93(2)	1.08	N.R.	46
	Sprague	.23	1.94	1.65	50	46
7	Rivers	.02	1.31	1.07	52	46
	Virden	.25	.81	1.00	55	48
8	Brandon	.04	1.70	1.29	50	48
	Cypress River	nil	2.12	1.27	51	48
9	Gladstone	trace	1.23	1.28	N.R.	47
10	Birtle	.06	.63	1.09	49	46
	Rosburn	trace	.51	1.02	50	46
	Russell	nil	.02	.85	51	45
11	Dauphin	trace	.83	1.29	49	47
12	Arborg	.09	1.13	1.25	45	45
	Gimli	.16	1.14	1.24	49	46
	Steep Rock	.07	1.16	1.30	47	44
13	Swan River	.07	.61	1.11	48	46
	The Pas	trace	1.73	1.23	42	43
14	Grass River	N.R.	1.29(2)	1.25	N.R.	46
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.06	1.45	1.29	50.6	46.9

For footnotes, see page IV.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation			Mean tem- perature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	week ending	
		8 a.m. May 6, 1968	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. May 6 1968	Normal
			inches		degrees F.	
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Carlyle	Trace	.28	1.04	50	46
	Estevan	NIL	.69	1.17	52	49
	Oxbow	Trace	.54	.93	50	47
	Willmar	NIL	.36	.82	N.R.	N.R.
1B	Broadview	.02	.22	1.02	49	45
	Moosomin	.13	.71	1.02	51	47
2A	Yellow Grass	NIL	.04	1.07	50	47
	Weyburn	Trace	.08	1.03	50	47
	Midale	NIL	.08	.98	51	48
2B	Moose Jaw	.16	.40	1.07	51	49
	Regina	.06	.08	1.00	50	48
	Francis	NIL	Trace	.92	44	47
	Indian Head	.08	.15	1.01	49	47
3AS	Ormiston	Trace	Trace	1.13	52	48
	Cardross	NIL	.03	1.13	50	48
	Ceylon	NIL	.24	1.17	50	47
3AN	Chaplin	N.R.	N.R.	.95	N.R.	48
	Gravelbourg	NIL	.37	.84	52	48
3BS	Shaunavon	NIL	.39	1.05	54	48
	Pambrun	Trace	.18	1.20	53	47
	Climax	1.18	1.88	1.00	51	N.R.
	Aneroid	NIL	.10	1.18	51	48
	Instow	.25	.36	1.01	51	48
3BN	Swift Current	Trace	.23	1.22	52	47
	Pennant	Trace	.06	1.14	53	49
	Hodgeville	N.R.	N.R.	1.20	N.R.	47
	Hughton	.01	.31	.98	49	48
4A	Maple Creek	.28	.96	1.11	52	49
	Consul	.23	1.13	.99	49	47
4B	Abbey	.07	.84	1.09	53	48
	Leader	.38	1.14	1.05	51	49
5A	Cupar	N.R.	N.R.	1.00	N.R.	47
	Lipton	.22	.34	1.00	48	45
	Balcarres	N.R.	.10(2)	1.10	N.R.	N.R.
	Melville	.06	.11	1.00	50	46
	Yorkton	.06	.09	1.07	50	46
	Bangor	.02	.28	1.13	45	45
	Wynyard	Trace	.12	1.20	48	46
	Foam Lake	N.R.	.09(2)	1.21	N.R.	46
5B	Kuroki	Trace	.27	1.21	49	44
	Lintlaw	Trace	.29	1.33	49	44
	Kamsack	.04	.23	1.00	48	46
6A	Davidson	N.R.	1.14(2)	1.04	N.R.	47
	Strasbourg	.36	.87	1.05	49	46

For footnotes see page IV.



Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation			Mean tem- perature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	week ending	
		8 a.m. May 6, 1968	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. May 6	
			inches		1968	Normal
						degrees F.
<u>SASKATCHEWAN - Concluded</u>						
6A	Watrous	.01	.36	1.00	49	47
6B	Harris	NIL	NIL	1.01	49	47
	Outlook	.02	.12	.74	50	49
	Rosthern	Trace	.28	1.09	50	48
	Saskatoon	Trace	1.09	1.12	50	48
	Elbow	NIL	.02	.97	51	47
	Tugaske	.14	.24	1.07	53	47
	Dundurn	NIL	.80	.95	50	49
7A	Alsask	.14	.35	1.03	52	49
	Kindersley	.08	.25	.84	51	47
	Rosetown	.06	.31	1.06	50	47
7B	Macklin	NIL	.30	.91	48	47
	Denzil	Trace	.19	.98	50	47
	Scott	.01	.19	1.05	48	46
	Biggar	.05	.17	.92	49	48
8A	Hudson Bay	Trace	1.02	1.28	47	44
	Prairie River	.04	1.65	1.44	47	44
8B	Humboldt	NIL	.07	1.03	48	45
	Melfort	NIL	.59	1.10	49	45
9A	North Battleford	.02	.28	1.02	50	47
	Victoire	N.R.	1.51(2)	1.10	N.R.	44
	Prince Albert	Trace	.68	1.31	47	46
9B	Waseca	.21	1.14	1.15	47	47
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.07	.41	1.06	49.8	46.9
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
1	Empress	NIL	.40	.96	55	48
	Foremost	.01	1.35	1.10	52	51
	Manyberries	NIL	.69	1.17	52	49
	Medicine Hat	Trace	1.73	1.19	54	51
2	Brooks	NIL	.20	1.05	49	49
	Drumheller	NIL	.63	1.04	53	48
	Gleichen	NIL	.87	1.41	52	48
	Hays	NIL	1.12	.88	52	50
	Rainier	NIL	.42	1.10	52	49
	Vauxhall	NIL	1.29	.91	52	49
	Raymond	Trace	1.42	1.98	51	49
	Lethbridge	Trace	1.97	1.65	51	49
	Trochu Equity	.09	.67	1.60	52	49
	Queenstown	NIL	1.33	1.46	52	48
3	Calgary	.04	.67	1.66	49	45

For footnotes see page IV.



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## Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation			Mean tem- perature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	week ending	
		8 a.m. May 6, 1968	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. May 6	
			inches		1968	Normal
						degrees F.
<u>ALBERTA - Concluded</u>						
3	Cardston	NIL	.03(2)	1.72	49	47
	Pincher Creek	.04	2.23	2.12	48	46
	Fort MacLeod	NIL	2.90	1.55	51	49
	High River	Trace	2.10	2.12	46	44
	Magrath	NIL	.99	2.03	51	49
	Olds	.36	1.15	1.42	49	46
4	Alliance	.11	.42	1.07	51	47
	Coronation	.01	.49	1.16	50	47
	Hughenden	.06	.29	1.11	49	47
	Lloydminster	.17	.99	1.01	47	47
	Stettler	.04	.35	.98	49	47
	Vegreville	.12	.26	.85	49	47
	Ranfurly	.16	.75	1.17	49	47
	Vermilion	.10	.87	1.03	49	47
	Edmonton	.06	.89	1.34	50	48
	Lacombe	NIL	.84	1.61	50	46
5	Red Deer	.10	.68	1.35	48	46
	Rocky Mountain House	.11	1.27	1.78	48	45
	Wetaskiwin	.10	.90	1.60	50	47
	Athabasca	.22	.52	1.00	41	45
	Campsie	1.47	1.81	1.20	48	46
	Edson	.35	.89	1.31	46	44
	Elk Point	.43	1.90	1.04	47	45
6	Lac la Biche	.21	.59	1.22	49	45
	Whitcourt	1.56	1.61	1.46	45	44
	Beaverlodge	1.00	1.45	1.03	42	45
	Fairview	.93	1.06	1.10	44	45
	Ft. Vermilion	.15	.36	.70	45	43
	Grande Prairie	1.04	1.71	.91	45	45
	High Prairie	N.R.	.14(2)	1.13	N.R.	46
	Peace River	.77	.77	.74	45	44
	Rycroft	1.04	1.42	.98	43	45
	Wagner	1.45	2.06	1.05	46	44
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.26	1.07	1.27	48.9	46.8

(1) Meteorological Service of Canada.

(2) Incomplete; not included in average.

N.R. — No report.