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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT — CANADA

This is the third of the 1969 series of six telegraphic reports, issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, covering crop conditions throughout Canada. Included in this report is the sixth 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

Maritimes. — Throughout the Maritime Provinces weather conditions are generally excellent, although it is beginning to become dry in certain sections. In Prince Edward Island, crops are generally good and haying is under way with a good yield anticipated. All areas of Nova Scotia report excellent growth due to favourable weather. However, rain is needed for further plant growth. During the last two weeks weather conditions have been very favourable for haying and operations are progressing well. Strawberries are being sold on the local market. New Brunswick reports that prolonged dry weather has caused some reduction in hay yields. Tobacco plantings were completed on June 27 and present warm weather is ideal for development. Early-seeded cereals are heading although moisture is urgently required for good development. Early vegetables including lettuce, cabbage, beets, radish, etc. are coming on local markets in increasing volume.

Quebec. — Since June 11 rainy weather has prevailed throughout Quebec except for the Gaspé - Lower St. Lawrence regions where conditions have been dry. In the central part of the province daytime temperatures have been normal but nights have been cold while in the north and the east generally below normal temperatures have prevailed. Haying and silage making are now under way and although the season is later than usual a good hay crop is reported. Pastures are also good in spite of heavy weed infestations. Seeding has been completed except in the Abitibi district. The potato crop is promising and grain corn is also doing well but may suffer from the cold nights. Tobacco and sugar beets are also developing well although some tobacco fields have had to be replanted after wind damage. Livestock are in good condition and milk production is high. However, dairymen are milking a larger proportion of their herds than usual to maintain these production levels.

Agriculture Division
Crops Section

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Ontario. — The weather pattern established during April and May has continued with below-average temperatures and frequent rains. Rainfall during June was considerably above normal in almost all areas in the province. Winter wheat has headed well in most areas and colouring started late in June in Essex and Kent while in other counties the crop is approaching the early dough stage and is susceptible to lodging. Many fields in counties bordering Lake Erie were damaged by a severe storm on July 4. Early-seeded spring grains are generally doing quite well but in late-seeded fields growth is slow. Some counties report retarded development due to wet soils and, as a result, harvesting will be later than usual. Delayed planting and cold weather have resulted in slow growth of corn in most districts and weeds are becoming a problem in many fields. Planting of soybeans has been delayed and operations are still under way in many areas but germination of early-seeded fields appears to be quite good. Potatoes have also experienced unfavourable growing conditions and more than the normal amount of seed decay has been evident. Tobacco appears quite uniform with little sign of black root rot disease. Seeding of white beans has been prolonged and about 10 per cent of the crop is still to be planted. Pastures are in above average condition.

Prairie Provinces. — Throughout the Prairie Provinces crop development is later than usual as a result of adverse weather. However, conditions are good in most parts of Manitoba and recent rains in Saskatchewan have greatly improved prospects there. Similarly, in the southwest and north-central parts of Alberta recent moisture has greatly helped crops. Frosts in June did not result in much damage in Saskatchewan with the exception of fall rye but in Alberta, particularly in the drier areas, yields will likely be reduced and frozen black patches are evident in some fields. Weed spraying has been delayed or postponed after the frosts. So far the hay crop has been generally light. However, the recent rains improved pasture conditions.

Rust Report for the Prairie Provinces. — The Canada Department of Agriculture Research Station in Winnipeg states that no rust has been reported in Western Canada up to July 4. The number of rust spores caught in spore traps has been slower than usual.

British Columbia. — Cool, unsettled weather has been general throughout the province with above average rainfall at several interior points following the near drought conditions of early June. Overall results have been beneficial as soil moisture conditions have been restored to normal but strawberry and raspberry harvesting has been hampered through losses from mould. Early potato harvesting has resumed with yields now expected to be about average. Losses from rain damage have been substantial in lettuce and leaf crops generally. A light cherry crop is now at its peak with generally good quality reported. Prunes are progressing favourably and apples are sizing well after a heavier than usual June drop. The cucumber and onion harvests are now under way with the table corn picking commencing later this week. Heavy rains in the Peace River Block have improved grain crop prospects while pastures generally are in good condition.

MARITIME PROVINCES

Prince Edward Island reports that haying operations are presently under way with heavy yields expected. Grain crops look promising. However, there are some misses in the potato crop stand due to set rot in the ground. Pastures are in good condition up to the present time and strawberries are being harvested with an excellent crop anticipated. Weather conditions have been good, however, rain is needed in the eastern part of the province.

In Nova Scotia, weather conditions have been favourable for plant development. The Cumberland County area relates that the strawberry crop is good but the blueberry crop is threatened by the case bearer beetle; however, aerial spraying is rectifying the situation. Haylage operations are completed and farmers are now making hay. New seeding fields look promising and winter cereals are progressing well. Silage corn is most encouraging. In central Nova Scotia, weather conditions have been excellent for harvesting hay during the last two weeks with 35 to 50 per cent of the hay harvested. There are good hay yields especially on well fertilized fields. Vegetable crops are growing well and strawberries are coming on the local market. Corn growth is progressing favourably, however, due to dry weather, pastures are beginning to dry up and moisture is required for further plant growth. In Eastern Nova Scotia, farmers have begun haying one week earlier than usual. Silage and hay crops are good and all crops are growing well. Dry conditions are being encountered but nothing is suffering except transplanted vegetables. Strawberries are not yet coming on the market although a bountiful crop is anticipated. Pasture conditions are holding well. The Annapolis Valley reports that all crops look promising. Fine weather conditions have prevailed with a large percentage of hay harvested. The weather has been dry but no crops are suffering from drought. Spring and winter cereals look very good with few reports of disease or insect problems. Early-seeded potatoes are in full bloom and corn fields are looking good with weeds under control. A lot of chemical thinning has been done on apples with good results. Prospects are for a better than average apple crop. More rain is needed to enhance plant growth. In the Amherst region, most farmers are making good progress with their grass and silage operations due to fine weather. At the present time, grass silage operations are nearly completed and the hay crops are above average for this time of year. As a result of dry weather conditions, root crop growth is rather slow. The Kentville area reports that all crops require moisture and pastures conditions are poor. Haying is 60 per cent completed with an average yield. In the Truro area, hot, dry weather during the last couple of weeks has been ideal for the harvesting of an average hay crop with 75 per cent of the harvesting operations completed. Showers over the week end tended to alleviate the moisture shortage, however, grain crops need more moisture for further plant development. Vegetables and potatoes are growing well and there is an ample supply of local strawberries on the market at prices lower than usual. The blueberry crop requires more moisture for further growth. Reports from Cumberland County indicate that the case beetle is a problem.

Prolonged dry weather in New Brunswick has caused some decline in hay yields. Harvesting of forages for silage started on June 16 and large quantities of hay were harvested in the southern counties during the last week of June and first week of July. Northern Counties started harvesting hay on June 30. Pastures are suffering from the dry conditions and supplementary feeding of dairy cattle is required to maintain the milk flow. Tobacco plantings were completed on June 17 and the warm weather is ideal for tobacco development. Early-seeded grains are heading and moisture is urgently required for good development, and late-seeded cereals are suffering from lack of moisture and droughty conditions. Vegetables such as lettuce, cabbage, beets, radish, etc., are presently on the market and are in increasing volume. Reports of light frost in some areas on the night of July 6 indicate slight damage to cucurbits and tomatoes. A good set of apples is evident and early sizing of the fruit indicates a good crop. The strawberry season in the Saint John River Valley is well advanced, while most areas report a good yield, dry weather in the Grand Lake area tended to shorten the season and thus reduce yields. Harvesting in the northern and eastern counties is presently in full swing. The potato crop is average but corn development is below normal. Reports indicate that insect activity is high on certain crops.

In the Perth area weather conditions have been unseasonably cool with frost recorded on July 6 but damage to crops was light. Haying operations are in progress with a good crop anticipated. However, cool weather is making curing difficult. As a result of cool nights and adequate moisture which is ideal for growth, a good grain crop is in prospect. With vigorous growth and excellent runnering strawberries will reach peak production this week and a good crop is expected.

QUEBEC

In the vegetable and fruit growing districts reports indicate that a good crop of strawberries is being picked. About 70 per cent of the radishes and asparagus has also been harvested. However, some acreage intended for green peas was not sown due to weather conditions and beans have suffered damage from excess moisture as well. Scab on apple orchards are also reported.

In the L'Assomption district precipitation has been normal with frequent showers. The temperature averaged 68.2 degrees with 231 hours of sunshine which are below average. As a result tobacco and cereal growth has been delayed. The hay crop, however, is abundant and harvesting is under way. An average sized strawberry crop has been picked.

Reports from Lennoxville indicate cool, wet weather during June resulting in slow growth of cereals and corn. Silage-making is under way in the district with about 50 per cent of the prospective total in storage and about 10 per cent of the haying done. Seeded pastures are in very good condition. Aphids are present on barley and weevils on alfalfa fields in Brome and Shefford Counties. Potato crops are about normal and growers have started to pick their strawberries.

At La Pocatiere conditions have been drier than usual which has adversely affected pasture growth and late-sown grains. Turnips and corn are also showing the effect of the dry weather, while early-sown cereals are beginning to head. Farmers have started to put up hay silage while hay yields are about 10 per cent below normal. Rain is necessary for all crops and pastures will take some time to recover. Some insect damage is reported in the district.

In the Lac St Jean district temperatures during June were below normal with 2.22 inches of rain received. Hay meadows are promising with a good yield in prospect. Pastures also are good and milk production is normal. On the other hand hay and potato crops are not as favourable. At Caplan precipitation during June totalled 3.25 inches which is about normal. Although temperatures were also about normal, the nights of July 6 and 7 were very cold with killing frost in certain districts. Pastures are in excellent condition and as a result milk production is excellent. Farmers are starting to hay and the crop is very promising.

ONTARIO

In Essex county of southern Ontario heavy rains on July 4 ended seeding of soybeans for this season and several thousand acres will remain as fallow land. Winter wheat is maturing but the wet, cool weather is retarding crop development and preventing weed control in cash crops. Harvesting of peas and early potatoes is under way. Haying operations are continuing and quality of the crop is only fair. On Pelee Island fall wheat is maturing somewhat later than usual but the stand is good. Seeding of corn and soybeans was about 95 per cent completed by July 3.

Severe rainstorms on July 4 caused flooding of much low land but it is still difficult to estimate the crop damage at this time. In Kent county crops are generally two to three weeks later than usual due to the cool, wet weather and some areas will not be seeded at all this year. Winter wheat is beginning to turn but a severe storm on July 4 caused lodging in some fields. The corn crop ranges from very good to very poor. Some late fields of corn have been seeded twice. Planting of white beans and soybeans has been delayed by wet weather. Seed corn maggot damage is evident in many fields of corn and beans, while other reports indicate slug damage to corn in low-lying areas. Alfalfa weevil damage has been severe in the Wallaceburg area. Haying operations have been delayed by wet weather.

Cool, wet weather in Middlesex county has continued to delay growth of corn and other crops. However, recent dry weather has helped haying and operations are now in full swing. In Norfolk county wheat and rye are beginning to turn and crop prospects appear excellent. Haying operations are under way and although quality is only fair volume of the crop is good. Spring-seeded grains are variable and prospects for these crops are unpredictable at present. Early-seeded oats and barley are in head. Corn is also variable and although some recovery is occurring there are still many late fields. Tobacco is making good growth but like all crops requires warm weather. The strawberry harvest is nearly completed and yields are below normal.

In Lincoln county development of most crops is reported to be excellent. Corn is doing well despite a late start. Harvesting of strawberries is nearly completed and yields were considered excellent. Picking of sweet cherries is just commencing. Scab is prevalent on apples and pears where spraying was not properly done. Damage from alfalfa weevils is quite serious and widespread.

Below normal temperatures still persist in Simcoe county. Although cereal crops look good, growth of corn is slow. Haying operations are a week behind schedule due to wet weather and very little dry hay has been stored as yet. Warm weather is badly needed. Haying operations have been delayed two weeks in Bruce county due to excessive rains but good progress was made during the first week of July. Hay yields are reported to be satisfactory. The corn crop is two to three weeks later than usual but is presently making good growth. Recent warm weather has facilitated haying operations in Waterloo county and harvesting is nearing completion. Although the quality of the crop has suffered somewhat due to late harvesting yields are good. Other crops are reported to be growing well and spring grains are in head. Haying operations in Wellington county are proceeding very slowly and most forage crops are two weeks behind normal. Prospects for most cereal crops look good and although late-seeded corn is growing well, development is still behind schedule.

In Halton county haying operations have proceeded very slowly due to frequent light showers. Grain and corn crops are growing rapidly but high winds and warm temperatures during the week end of June 28 caused some burning of the leaves of spring grains. Pastures and vegetable crops require more rain. The strawberry harvest was below normal.

In Durham county haying operations are general but quality is reduced due to weathering and lateness of the season. The corn crop varies from fair to poor and is urgently in need of continued warm weather. Below-normal temperatures and frequent showers have delayed haying operations in Peterborough county. Hay yields have been above average. Winter wheat is turning and yield prospects look good, and although spring grains are growing well, they are still later than usual. Development of corn has also been retarded. In Leeds county of eastern Ontario warm

weather is required to improve crop conditions, particularly growth of corn. Haying operations are general but some farmers are experiencing difficulty using heavy equipment on soft fields. Haylage operations have proceeded without much difficulty. Early-seeded spring grains are in head. Frequent rains have continued to delay haying operations in Carleton county, although about half the crop has been stored in some districts. Early-sown spring grains are beginning to head but in general these crops are only about 6 to 10 inches in height. Corn is developing slowly after an uneven start but warm weather is needed to promote rapid growth. Pastures are in above-normal condition due to the excess rains which prevailed in late June. Harvesting of hay is under way in Renfrew county. The corn crop shows wide variation with some fields 3 feet in height and others just emerging. Some late-seeded spring grains have been damaged by excess water.

A report from Kapuskasing in northern Ontario indicates that crop conditions are good but about one week later than usual. Haying operations have commenced but have been hampered by wet weather. Early-seeded spring grain looks promising and barley is in head. Haying operations have become general in the Thunder Bay district this week. Hay yields are reported to be average to slightly below average. Spring-seeded grains look generally good but development has been slow. An all-time record low of 32 degrees was recorded on the morning of July 6 and some frost damage on potatoes has appeared as a result.

MANITOBA

Crops are in good condition in most districts of Manitoba with excess moisture in the central area. Large acreages were flooded around Carman and moisture conditions are favourable in other districts. Sunflowers and corn are very slow. Weed spraying, sugar beet thinning and haying are delayed and weed growth on unsprayed fields is heavy. Legumes are just starting to bloom. Rye stands are generally good with frost causing uneven heading.

Rain and cool weather are delaying crops at Altona in the southeast of the province. Early cereals are in head and haying has started but is being delayed by the weather. Beet thinning is two-thirds completed and sunflowers are ten days late. Chlorosis is widespread in flax, peas and late grain. Spraying of rape and flax is not completed due to adverse weather thus resulting in many weedy fields. At Morden very early-seeded wheat and barley are heading out and early-seeded peas are in bloom. Corn and sunflowers are suffering from a lack of heat. Three-quarters of an inch of rain in the past week has held up haying operations. Flax and peas are yellowing badly due to cool, waterlogged conditions. Buckwheat is emerging very well. To the west at Pilot Mound three inches of rain fell last week delaying field operations. Most farmers are unable to do spraying. Low-lying areas are showing signs of waterlogging or yellowing due to excess moisture. Crops are very late for this time of year and sunshine and heat are badly needed. Heavy precipitation at Melita has resulted in 5 to 10 per cent of the crop standing in water. The tame hay yields have improved but the harvesting of wild hay has been cut back by flooding. Stands of rye are good but the heads are filling unevenly. Weed spraying has been hampered by wet weather.

In the Winnipeg area at Beausejour crops are advancing favourably with some early-seeded crops heading out. Moisture conditions are good to excessive. Many fields will remain weedy as excess moisture makes spraying impossible in many cases. Haying operations have started but low yields are expected. At Stonewall general growth is being delayed by cool weather and recent heavy rains have resulted in losses. Haying will be delayed about two to three weeks.

In the area around Brandon moisture conditions are now excellent as a result of five inches of rain over the past two weeks. Warm, dry weather is needed to promote growth. Prospects for grain crops and pastures are very good but hay is much delayed as the rains arrived too late to improve the yield. At Virden rain continued to fall preventing any haying operations but pastures have been much improved. Cereal crops are recovering nicely from frost and are generally good. Conditions have been unsuitable for herbicide spraying. Some fall rye crops have been cut for hay due to frost damage.

At Arborg in the Interlake district weather is continuing cooler than normal and warm weather is necessary to hasten crop maturity. Most of the spraying was done last week and haying has started and should become general in the next two weeks. Pastures are in good condition.

In the west-central part of the province at Neepawa approximately five inches of rain have been received in the past two weeks and sunshine is needed to bring on crops. Cereals are late but in good condition. The hay crop is fair and alfalfa is just beginning to bloom. Spraying operations are delayed and may not be completed. Fall rye is mostly very good and special crops are progressing well. In the area around Minnedosa rain and cool weather has resulted in slow crop growth with some losses in low areas due to flooding.

In the northwest part of the province at Dauphin crops have responded favourably to recent rains but growth is slow due to cool weather. Wet fields are holding up spraying operations. Pastures have improved and warm, sunny weather is needed. At Swan River cool, wet weather has inhibited plant growth and warm, sunny weather is required. Haying operations have commenced. Early-seeded cereal crops are nearing the shot blade stage. General crop conditions are considered fair to good.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 2 per cent above normal in contrast to 4 per cent below normal a week ago, 36 per cent below normal two weeks ago, and 11 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending July 7, 1969 was 8.8 degrees below normal compared with 6.3 degrees below normal a week ago, 9.1 degrees below normal two weeks ago, and 2.6 degrees below normal for the week ending July 8, 1968.

SASKATCHEWAN

Recent rains over wide areas in Saskatchewan have greatly improved the crop picture. However, the stage of development is behind normal. Warmer temperatures are urgently required to advance grain growth. Wheat averages 10 inches in height and approximately 45 per cent of the crop is now in the shot blade, and coarse grains average 9 inches in height. Although most crops are late, prospects are favourable. Oilseed crops are also good. Acreage losses due to June frosts are minor with the exception of losses to fall rye which were considerable.

In the southeast part of the province at Moosomin six inches of rainfall were received since June 25 and as a result crops and pastures have improved considerably. Warm, dry weather is urgently required to hasten development and to permit spraying of fields that are heavily infested with weeds. Late-seeded crops are improving rapidly and it is expected that the harvest will be three weeks later than normal. Crops are in good condition at Yellowgrass due to the recent rains but are eight to ten days late. Moisture supply is now ample for good average crop prospects. Flax and coarse grains have made a good recovery from the effects of the frost occurring last month.

Very little crop spraying has been carried out so far. A good hay crop is anticipated. To the north at Fillmore extremely heavy rains have improved crop conditions, although some low-lying areas are flooded. Early-seeded crops are in the shot blade and late-seeded stubble crops have now emerged but are badly infested with green foxtail and wild oats. Spraying has been halted due to wet fields. Pastures are greatly improved owing to ample moisture. Some hay was cut prior to the recent rains but the bulk of the crop remains standing. In the vicinity of Indian Head approximately three inches of rain during the past two weeks have provided excellent moisture for crop development, but warm weather is now urgently needed. Early-seeded wheat is in the shot blade and is 13 to 15 inches in height. Growth of crops and wheat generally has been slow due to the cooler weather. There has been considerably less spraying for weed control than in the past few years, summerfallow fields are showing a vigorous new growth of weeds and volunteer grain since the recent rains, and will need another tillage operation immediately. Haying operations are just getting under way and the crop is expected to be a light one. Pastures have revived due to recent rains and livestock are in good condition. No insect damage has taken place in the area.

In the south-central part of the province at Gravelbourg the rain in June totalled 2.13 inches and in July precipitation to date 1.95 inches for a total since April 1 of 7.13 inches. Recent rains have advanced growth substantially and wheat stands from 15 to 20 inches in height in the shot blade, flax 13 inches, and barley 12 to 18 inches in height. Very little rye will be salvaged because of frost damage. Pasture conditions have improved substantially. On the whole most crops show good promise.

In the southwest area of the province at Val Marie 7.15 inches of rain falling since April 1 have improved the crop outlook. However, harvest is expected to be much later than normal. Hay in irrigated fields cannot be reached for at least ten days due to excessively wet fields resulting from the combination of irrigation and the recent four inches of rainfall. Natural pastures are doing very well and the alfalfa crop has revived since the frosts in June. One-half of the rye crop was swathed for feed, but the rest is expected to do well. Very little weed spraying was done compared to last year. Warm, dry weather is now needed. Farther west at East-end three to four inches of rain fell over the district during the last two weeks, and recent hail damage occurred in local areas. Crop prospects in the area are only fair. Haying operations have been delayed due to unfavourable weather, and a shortage of fodder is anticipated. Cattle and pastures are in good condition. In the vicinity of Swift Current 1.4 inches of rain over the past three days will help prevent further deterioration of crops. Many fields of wheat are in the shot blade with some fields starting to show head. Crops for the most part will be thin and short. Most fall rye fields will be cut for hay. The hay crop itself will be very light. Livestock generally are in good condition. In the area around Leader the recent rain has helped crops to make a good recovery from the frost damage. Early fields are now in head.

In the east-central part of the province at Togo four inches of rain coming over the last two weeks have improved crop conditions. If the present situation holds, it is expected that a normal crop will result. Stands of early seeded wheat are short, and late grains have been retarded by frosts. Pastures have come back to normal but the hay crop is rated as poor. Crops in general are two weeks later than normal. Rainfall over the past two weeks at Endeavour has greatly improved crop conditions with rainfall to date at 3.17 inches. Wheat now averages about 12 inches in height and coarse grains somewhat shorter, but improving. Rapeseed crops show very light growth. The hay crop is expected to fall short of meeting local requirements.

In the central region of the province at Craik 3.75 inches of rain received over the past ten days have provided ample moisture to improve both crops and pastures. Wheat is coming along in the shot blade and is about 10 inches in height. Most other crops have recovered from frost damage with the exception of rye which experienced a 50 per cent loss in the area. Crops look good in the vicinity of Saskatoon but are about ten days late due to the below normal temperatures occurring in June. As a result of the 1.75 inches of rain falling in the last few days, moisture conditions are excellent. Warm weather is needed to improve crop growth, as crops are just starting to head. Haying is in progress and yields are good.

In the west-central region at Rosetown 2.32 inches of rain were received over the past few days. Crops are about eight days behind normal but the presence of warm weather should bring crops on quickly. Early-seeded wheat is now in head. Early-seeded flax is in flower and haying will start in about ten days. Farther north at Scott the 1.5 inches of rain received since July 1 have improved the crop outlook. Early fields of grain are now in head and the early-seeded rape is in bloom. Moisture came too late to improve hay production but haying has been temporarily halted due to the poor weather although good progress has been made to date. Many fall rye fields have been harvested for feed. Summerfallows are in good condition.

In the northeast part of the province at Melfort showers ranging up to one inch of rain brought some relief to crops suffering from dryness but considerably more moisture will be needed to satisfy crop requirements. Wheat and barley crops are now heading and stands look generally good on summerfallow but only fair on stubble. Much of the rapeseed crop is late with patchy growth due mainly to frost, drought and cut-worms. Stands of fall rye and flaxseed appear to show good promise. All crops are generally at least one week later than normal. The hay crop this year is very light. Pastures have made little progress since the previous report.

In the northwest part of the province at Meota crops are about two weeks later than normal but stands are average to good. Rainfall of 1.6 inches during the past week helped the moisture situation considerably. Some haying has been done and reports vary considerably from light to heavy crops. Warm weather is needed to speed growth of all crops and permit haying operations to be completed. Summerfallows will have to be worked for the third time.

The Canadian Hail Underwriters Association reports hail storms on July 2, Loreburn area; July 3, Fertile, Grenfell, Hubbard, Leslie, Duval and Dinsmore areas.

The Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association also reports the following hail storms: July 2, Shaunavon, Piapot, Maple Creek, Parkbeg, Chaplin, Calderbank, Loreburn and Elbow; July 3, Fertile, Stoughton, Limerick, Simmie, Neville, Broadview, Fenwood, Ituna, Strasbourg, Venn, Marengo, Herschel and Denzil.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 20 per cent below normal compared with 31 per cent below normal a week ago, 40 per cent below normal two weeks ago, and 38 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending July 7 was 5.1 degrees below normal compared with 6.4 degrees below normal a week ago, 5.4 degrees below normal two weeks ago, and 1.2 degrees above normal for the week ending July 8, 1968.

ALBERTA

In most areas of Alberta crops are later than they were at the same time last year. The slow development has been mainly due to unfavourable weather. The early-seeded crops are now heading but the later seeded ones have been almost dormant for several weeks. The north-central region has many fields with ungerminated or frozen black patches. Also, many fields have a distinct yellow appearance which may be due to a nitrogen deficiency. Both frost and drought damage will likely affect quality and reduce yields. It appears that yields of rapeseed will be low but it seems apparent that there is a larger acreage than last year. Early in the week light rains were general in north-central Alberta and thus the persistent drought was relieved in this area. It remains to be seen whether later-seeded and frost-damaged crops can recover enough to make a good stand. Moisture conditions are good in parts of the southwest where heavy rains continued last week. Very uncertain conditions surround crop spraying in many areas. Weed control may turn out to be less general and less satisfactory than usual. Pest conditions are not abnormal for this time of year. Hay crops are reported as good to fair. In some areas hay is deteriorating due to heavy rains. The overall supplies of forage are about average. In the dry areas pastures are poor but good to excellent in those areas that received heavy rain.

In the southeast of the province at Manyberries wheat is about 17 inches in height and the condition of the crop is graded at 90 per cent of normal. The topsoil moisture is about 80 per cent and rains the past week improved crop conditions. The prairie is turning green and cattle are doing well. Some haying has been done in the area. To date no hail damage has been reported. Scattered rains have improved crop prospects at Medicine Hat except for an area between Medicine Hat and Schuler. Frosted grains have made a good recovery. The dry land hay crop is light and a feed shortage may develop. Pastures are fair but cattle are doing well. Most wheat and barley are headed.

The Lethbridge area in the southwest part of the province reports that winter wheat is filling out well and spring wheat is starting to head. An above average pea harvest has commenced. Prolonged wet, cool weather has delayed cultivation and weed control. This has resulted in only 29,000 out of 40,000 acres of sugar beets being classified as good. Five thousand acres still remain to be thinned. Our correspondent estimates that there will be about a 40 per cent reduction in carrots and peas. Reports from Cardston indicate that haying and field work have been held up on account of the soft ground. The barley crop is showing signs of too much rain. Warm, dry weather would be welcome. Rapeseed is now blossoming and wheat and barley are heading. The rye crop is not filling out too well as a result of frost damage. Only mild hail damage has occurred so far. At Claresholm warm, dry weather is needed for the next few weeks. Up to two inches of rain fell in the past week. Water is lying in a number of fields and some grain is turning yellow. Spring wheat and barley are starting to head. Haying has been delayed due to the wet weather. There has been no hail to date.

In the south-central region around Brooks showers were received over most of the district during the past two weeks, thus improving pastures and field crops. Some fields of peas for seed are reported as being excellent. Most of the barley and wheat is heading except where severe setbacks occurred from earlier frosts. Frequent showers have lowered the quality of some first-cut alfalfa. Since the last report the Vulcan area has received five and one-half inches of rain and a great deal of cool weather. Hot weather is needed to help crops reach maturity. Some of the hay that was swathed earlier has since rotted. Pasture land is growing rapidly and it appears that a better than average crop can be expected.

At Hanna in the east-central region three inches of rain were received between the period June 26 to July 6. Crop damage has occurred in the area and it is reported that wheat, oats and barley were damaged 25 per cent by drought and 25 per cent by frost. About 50 per cent of the wheat is in head at a height of about 12 inches. Good hay will be in short supply. A large percentage of the grain was not sprayed on account of the drought. It is expected that crops may now recover due to the recent rains.

At Calgary moisture conditions are now excellent although crop growth has been hampered due to the cool, wet weather. With a return to warmer weather, crops will progress rapidly. Heavy rain during the past week was received at Olds. Wheat is now heading and crop conditions are generally good.

Rain was received over the week end at Sedgewick in the northeast-central area. About one to three inches of rain were received and this was greatly needed in order to save the burning crops. All crops are now late and hot weather is needed in order for them to advance.

At Edmonton recent rains were received and warm weather is now needed in some surrounding regions so that crop growth will progress favourably. About two inches of rain have been received in the Stony Plain area since July 1. This has greatly improved crop prospects. Early-sown grain is starting to head at about 12 inches in height. The grain planted late is patchy due to poor germination. Hay and pasture crops will make a quick recovery.

The Lacombe area in the west-central part of the province received 1.58 inches of rain since July 1. Frost on June 12 delayed cereal crops. Some early planted crops have headed at 10 to 12 inches with tillers greatly delayed. Those crops sprayed just prior to the frost were the hardest hit but fertilized crops showed less damage than others. Reseeded fields emerged well. The hay crop is poor and only about one-half ton per acre is expected.

In the north-central area at Colinton all cereal, forage and oilseed crops are suffering from a lack of moisture especially the later-sown ones. The early-sown crops are starting to head even though the stand is not very tall. The heads are shorter than normal. Rape and flax crops are now in blossom and these crops as well are shorter than those of a normal year. Herbicide spraying is at a minimum for fear of doing more harm than good to the grain under these dry conditions. Forage seed stands are very short and farmers are delaying haying operations in the hope that some general rains will come and improve these crops. If hay crops do not improve within the next week there will be very little forage left for seed as most farmers will cut their total forage for hay. Temperatures since the last report are about normal for this time of year and the rainfall has been very spotty varying from three-quarters of an inch in some areas to nil in others.

Reports from Beaverlodge in the Peace River area indicate that the surface moisture is good due to recent rains. Cereal crops are beginning to head and some insect damage occurred on early rape. Haying has commenced in the area. At Fort Vermilion scattered rain showers brought much needed moisture to many parts of the area. However, more rain is needed, particularly in those areas missed. Some hail damage has occurred and grasshopper damage is severe in localized areas. Early wheat crops are beginning to head as are barley crops. Some fields of rape are in full bloom. Given some rain and freedom from frost crop prospects will be about average.

The Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association reports hail storms on June 30 in the Cardston area. The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation reported the following hail storms: July 1, storm from Cochrane to east of Calgary mainly confined to Bow River Valley with some severe damage; large storm from Black Diamond through High River, Nanton, Parkland, Carmangay to Picture Butte, with some patches of heavy losses; July 5, major storm from Trochu moving northwest through Huxley, Innisfail, Markerville, Eckville to Rocky Mountain House; a lesser storm occurred from 12 miles south of Lethbridge to Coaldale.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 5 per cent below normal compared with 16 per cent below normal a week ago, 37 per cent below normal two weeks ago, and 9 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending July 7 was 4.1 degrees below normal compared with 3.8 degrees below normal a week ago, 1.0 degree above normal two weeks ago, and 3.0 degrees above normal for the week ending July 8, 1968.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

At Victoria on Vancouver Island the Weather has been hot and dry to June 21 and mostly cloudy and cool since then with one inch of rain. The strawberry harvest has been completed with hot weather contributing to reduced size and a shortened picking season. Loganberry picking has commenced with yields reduced by 35 per cent due to winter damage. Cherries are now being harvested with a reported bird problem in the orchards. The apple set is reported as heavy. Greenhouse tomatoes are practically over.

At Agassiz in the Lower Fraser Valley the past two weeks of cool, showery weather has corrected the moisture deficit arising from dry weather in the first three weeks of June. The pea harvest has commenced and yield and quality are good. Cool temperatures have greatly improved the programming of harvest and strawberry picking is completed. The raspberry harvest has approached peak yield but some problems with fruit rot exist due to wet weather. Pasture conditions are excellent but harvesting of the second cut of hay has been delayed by rains.

At Vernon in the North Okanagan hot, dry weather in early June followed by cool, showery weather last week has insured continued good pastures, good fall wheat and a second hay crop. The first cutting of hay has been completed. Fall cereals are ripening rapidly and field corn is excellent. Spring cereals and peas are light due to the early heat. The weather is continuing cool and showery.

At Creston in the South Kootenay precipitation during the past two weeks has adversely affected crop growth and harvesting. A high proportion of first-cut alfalfa has been spoiled due to excess moisture. Strawberry mould and split cherries are also evident. Water has also ponded in the lowest areas of the grain fields.

Kamloops in the South Caribou reports excellent range and pasture conditions due to the recent heavy rains and cloudy weather. Over three and one-third inches of rain has fallen in the past two weeks. Corn and potato crops are well advanced and looking good. Winter wheat and spring barley crops are excellent. Some very good hay has been put up but any not stacked in the last ten days will be of little value.

In the Peace River Block at Dawson Creek two weeks of rain totalling two to three inches in late June has satisfied moisture needs. The crops are reported to

need more heat. Up until now the weather has been cool. At Fort St. John cool, cloudy weather during the last two weeks of June has assisted crops in recovering from drought and light frosts. Topsoil and subsoil moisture levels are high. Early-seeded grain has headed but the heads are short. The drought conditions of early June have delayed late-seeded crops. Hay and seed crops are short due to the dry weather and yields are expected to be reduced.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation			Mean tem- perature week ending	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	8 a.m.	
		8 a.m.	since	since	July 7	
		July 7, 1969	April 1	April 1	1969	Normal
			inches		degrees F.	
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Boissevain	1.38	6.60	7.39	57	65
	Pierson	2.06	8.19	6.83	58	66
	Waskada	1.54	6.22	N.R.	59	N.R.
2	Baldur	1.19	6.37	7.23	56	66
	Pilot Mound	1.31	7.73	7.04	56	65
3	Altona	.38	5.86	6.36	58	68
	Deerwood	1.42	8.11	6.93	59	68
	Graysville	1.45	8.29	6.59	57	67
	Morden	.64	6.82	7.01	58	69
	Morris	2.00	7.24	6.57	57	68
	Portage la Prairie	.96	8.28	8.18	58	68
	Roland	1.48	7.12	6.80	58	68
4	Stonewall	.72	7.62	7.24	58	66
5	Emerson	1.06	6.89	6.59	58	68
	Steinbach	1.26	6.19	6.82	59	66
	Winnipeg	.64	8.79	6.89	58	67
	Starbuck	N.R.	8.05(2)	6.82	N.R.	67
6	Seven Sisters Falls	.25	5.85	6.85	59	66
	Great Falls	.11	2.81(2)	5.18	59	67
	Sprague	.61	8.59	7.13	56	65
7	Rivers	2.36	7.68	7.16	56	65
	Viriden	2.33	7.61	6.81	56	66
8	Brandon	2.00	8.08	7.24	56	65
	Cypress River	2.21	9.31	7.04	57	67
9	Gladstone	.83	7.22	7.29	N.R.	66
10	Birtle	1.36	6.07	6.94	54	64
	Rosburn	.93	3.79(2)	6.49	56	63
	Russell	.20	4.39	5.90	55	63
11	Dauphin	.30	6.61	7.33	58	66
12	Arborg	N.R.	5.18(2)	6.96	N.R.	65
	Gimli	.14	5.93	6.90	58	66
	Steep Rock	N.R.	.46(2)	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
13	Swan River	.51	4.22	6.31	57	64
	The Pas	.29	2.89	5.50	57	64
MANITOBA AVERAGE		1.09	6.92	6.82	57.3	66.1

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. July 7, 1969	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. July 7	Normal
			inches		1969	degrees F.
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Carlyle	2.50	8.32	6.22	58	65
	Estevan	1.53	6.21	6.63	61	66
	Oxbow	2.39	7.66	6.20	57	65
	Willmar	2.86	7.58	6.66	N.R.	N.R.
1B	Broadview	1.97	7.39	7.22	56	63
	Moosomin	2.62	8.32	7.06	56	65
2A	Yellow Grass	.98	4.98	6.13	60	65
	Weyburn	1.10	5.31	6.20	61	65
	Midale	1.14	6.03	6.17	61	66
2B	Moose Jaw	.97	4.98	6.01	60	66
	Regina	.91	4.56	6.24	60	64
	Francis	2.73	7.69	5.80	57	64
	Indian Head	.89	6.45	6.13	58	63
3AS	Ormiston	1.28	4.10	6.56	60	64
	Cardross	1.59	7.03	6.44	60	65
	Ceylon	1.21	6.90	6.47	58	63
	Chaplin	1.81	4.14	5.49	60	65
3AN	Gravelbourg	N.R.	5.36(2)	5.49	N.R.	65
3BS	Shaunavon	2.10	8.25	5.62	58	63
	Pambrun	N.R.	5.68(2)	6.10	N.R.	65
	Aneroid	1.14	7.35	5.37	60	64
	Instow	.98	7.27	5.85	58	64
3BN	Swift Current	.77	4.94	6.16	56	64
	Pennant	.67	3.99	5.84	61	65
	Hughton	N.R.	2.16(2)	4.95	N.R.	65
4A	Maple Creek	2.14	5.44	5.32	63	65
	Consul	.50	3.26	4.40	N.R.	63
4B	Abbey	1.90	4.91	5.34	62	64
	Leader	1.49	5.25	5.02	61	66
	Cupar	.63	3.04	6.00	60	65
5A	Balcarres	N.R.	2.81(2)	6.43	N.R.	N.R.
	Lipton	2.21	4.91	N.R.	58	N.R.
	Melville	.30	4.30	6.56	57	63
	Yorkton	.38	3.64	6.04	58	63
	Bangor	.70	5.51	6.73	57	64
5B	Wynyard	.43	3.10	5.89	60	63
	Foam Lake	.17	3.17	6.04	58	63
	Kuroki	.19	2.42	6.27	57	62
	Kamsack	.58	3.29	5.70	57	63
6A	Davidson	1.73	5.16	5.99	59	63
	Strasbourg	.79	2.94	6.53	60	63
	Watrous	.36	2.91	5.54	61	64

For footnotes see page IV.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation			Mean tem- perature week ending	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	8 a.m.	
		8 a.m.	since	since	8 a.m.	
		July 7, 1969	April 1	April 1	July 7	
				1969	Normal	
				degrees F.		
<u>SASKATCHEWAN - Concluded</u>						
6B	Harris	.33	2.34	5.11	59	65
	Outlook	1.43	3.18	4.87	62	66
	Rosthern	.38	2.87	5.06	57	64
	Saskatoon	.07	3.63	4.72	59	65
	Elbow	2.23	4.75	5.87	60	64
	Tugaske	2.01	4.23	6.28	60	64
	Dundurn	.37	2.90	5.05	57	65
7A	Alsask	1.54	3.41	4.47	61	65
	Kindersley	1.11	4.26	4.25	60	65
	Rosetown	1.01	4.13	5.12	59	65
7B	Macklin	.50	3.04	4.72	58	63
	Denzil	1.27	4.72	4.88	58	63
	Scott	.80	3.62	5.08	58	62
	Biggar	.48	3.99	5.13	59	64
8A	Hudson Bay	1.25	2.66	6.01	58	62
	Prairie River	NIL	1.87	6.42	57	62
8B	Humboldt	.34	2.86	5.33	58	63
	Melfort	.20	1.83	5.63	59	63
9A	North Battleford	.61	3.16	4.82	56	64
	Victoire	.12	2.56	5.44	60	60
	Prince Albert	.34	2.76	5.26	58	63
9B	Waseca	N.R.	2.98(2)	5.39	N.R.	62
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		1.10	4.60	5.74	58.9	64.0

ALBERTA

1	Empress	1.25	6.97	4.90	61	N.R.
	Foremost	.23	4.18	5.59	60	65
	Manyberries	N.R.	2.73(2)	5.26	N.R.	65
	Medicine Hat	.12	2.30	5.25	63	67
2	Brooks	Trace	3.88	5.06	59	65
	Gleichen	.69	5.62	6.13	57	63
	Hays	N.R.	4.19(2)	4.89	N.R.	66
	Rainier	N.R.	3.37(2)	5.23	N.R.	65
	Vauxhall	.79	5.58	4.89	59	64
	Raymond	.09	6.50	6.21	57	65
	Lethbridge	.42	7.48	6.70	59	64
	Trochu Equity	N.R.	.65(2)	5.90	N.R.	62
	Queenstown	.43	7.06	6.48	57	63

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.	since	since	8 a.m.	
		July 7, 1969	April 1	April 1	July 7	
					1969	Normal
					degrees F.	
<u>ALBERTA - Concluded</u>						
3	Calgary	1.20	9.54	7.32	54	61
	Cardston	.11	10.26	7.79	55	62
	Pincher Creek	.10	12.33	8.45	54	61
	Fort MacLeod	.80	10.04	7.63	58	65
	High River	1.58	11.98	8.17	53	59
	Magrath	1.02	9.29	7.84	58	63
	Olds	3.11	7.47	7.49	53	60
4	Alliance	2.22	4.15	5.09	60	62
	Coronation	1.92	3.87	4.73	59	62
	Hughenden	1.50	4.82	5.17	59	63
	Lloydminster	1.15	4.52	5.06	59	63
	Stettler	3.56	6.40	5.95	57	62
	Vegreville	.55	3.11	5.30	57	62
	Ranfurly	.69	3.63	5.71	57	62
5	Vermilion	1.54	3.96	5.01	56	61
	Edmonton	1.73	4.63	6.74	57	63
	Lacombe	1.58	4.40	7.51	57	61
	Red Deer	3.66	6.51	6.81	56	61
	Rocky Mountain House	2.94	9.42	8.15	53	59
	Wetaskiwin	2.28	4.67	6.81	58	62
	Campsie	.93	3.91(2)	6.63	57	59
6	Edson	1.64	7.53	7.44	55	57
	Elk Point	.94	4.34	5.75	59	60
	Lac la Biche	.98	5.56	5.57	59	62
	Whitecourt	1.10	3.75	6.67	57	58
	Beaverlodge	.34	4.21	5.13	57	59
7	Fairview	.81	4.35	5.18	59	59
	Ft. Vermilion	NIL	3.92	4.14	61	60
	Grande Prairie	.20	3.95	5.23	59	59
	High Prairie	.33	2.81	5.77	58	59
	Peace River	.59	2.87	4.18	57	59
	Rycroft	.90	3.91	5.24	56	59
	Wagner	.39	3.35	5.10	58	59

(1) Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

(2) Incomplete; not included in average.

N.R. - No report.