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Price: \$2.00 for series of 25 Crop Reports.

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Ottawa, July 25, 1950, 3 p.m. - The tenth of a series of thirteen telegraphic reports covering crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces is issued today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. A selected list of crop correspondents chosen from the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, private crop observers and grain men, supply the information on which these reports are based. The weather data included in this release are furnished by the Meteorological Division, Department of Transport, Toronto.

SUMMARY

For the third successive week crops in the Prairie Provinces in general have made favourable progress. This is in contrast to the situation which frequently prevails as a result of extreme July heat and lack of moisture. Conditions in Manitoba continue satisfactory although cool weather and rains have retarded heading. Stands are generally heavy but late and adverse weather could create a serious hazard through lodging. In Saskatchewan conditions have been well maintained with improvement noted in some districts. Prospects in the province as a whole appear to be above normal. With the exception of scattered areas, crops in Alberta have generally improved during the past week. Further moisture will be required soon in some areas to maintain satisfactory development of crops. Haying is in progress in Alberta but wet weather has delayed operations in most areas of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Grasshopper damage has been generally light to date and with the exception of central and western Saskatchewan the threat is diminishing. It is observed that the crop is much later than normal in many parts of the Prairies and consequently there may be some danger of early frost damage in susceptible areas. Although moisture conditions are generally favourable at this date, there are wide areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta where timely rains will still be required to promote satisfactory crop development.

Crops continued to make satisfactory progress in Manitoba during the past week but warm, dry weather is needed to hasten development. Early-seeded crops are headed but late-sown grains won't reach that stage until early August. Grain stands are very heavy with little or no damage except some flooding in low spots. The flax crop shows some improvement this past week; rye is poor to fair; sugar beets promising. Growth of corn and sunflowers is backward due to cool weather and these crops may not mature unless warm, dry weather is received. Rains are delaying haying throughout the province. Pastures and gardens, however, are excellent.

Crop conditions were well maintained in Saskatchewan during the past week with some improvement in parts of the southcentral and southwestern districts resulting from recent rains. Moisture conditions are generally satisfactory although central and western districts will require more rain soon. Excess precipitation and cool weather are retarding the development of rank stands in southeastern districts where wheat is only 40 to 60 per cent headed as compared with 75 to 90 per cent over the rest of the province. Length of straw is satisfactory in both wheat and coarse grains over most areas. Grasshopper damage has

been held to a minimum in the affected areas although the threat is still serious in central and western Saskatchewan.

Moisture conditions have been improved over much of the province by recent rains. Crops have shown quite general improvement during the past week although early rains would be of benefit in parts of the southeast, south-central and northeastern sections of the province. Recent losses from hail have been generally light and insect damage appears to be diminishing. Most special crops are in good condition. Since crops are generally later than normal there will be some danger of frost damage in susceptible areas of the province.

Manitoba - Crops continue to make satisfactory progress in Manitoba although warm, dry weather would now be welcome. This past week was warm to moderately cool and showery and not much progress has been made with haying. Crop growth is very heavy but late, with early-sown grain just heading and late-sown grains in the shot blade stage. Corn and sunflowers are being adversely affected by the cool weather but sugar beets and pastures are excellent. The condition of the flax crop is improving while the rye crop varies from poor to fair. Grasshoppers are hatching in the flooded area of the Red River Valley and are abundant in field margins in many districts throughout the valley. Damage has not been significant to date.

In the southcentral part of the province at Pilot Mound, a bumper wheat crop is in prospect with the crop averaging 18 inches in height and about 20 per cent headed. Coarse grains are growing well and beginning to head. Rye is only fair and warm weather is needed for maturity. The hay crop is excellent but dry weather is needed for haying. All crops are progressing favourably at Melita. Early wheat and oats are in head and some flax is in bloom. Haying is slow on account of the rain and gardens and pastures are excellent. No damage to crops has been reported.

In the East Selkirk area continual rain and cloudy weather has held back haying operations and very little hay has been harvested. Crop prospects are promising with earlier crops showing 18 to 20 inches of growth. Most crops have reached the shot blade stage but heading has not commenced. Any corn that has been sown in this area is very poor. Gardens, however, are excellent. Around Winnipeg all crops are growing luxuriously. Early-sown barley and wheat are heading and most of the later crops are in the shot blade stage. The potato crop is promising due to abundant moisture and light insect infestation. Rains are delaying haying and some hail damage northwest of Lac du Bonnet has occurred. At Portage la Prairie moisture supplies are ample to excessive and dry sunny weather is needed for all crops. Some wheat and barley is heading. The pea crop is good but weedy; the flax crop is good but late and the corn is very late. The potato crop is also good and the hay crop excellent. Thinning and weeding of sugar beets have not yet been completed. At Brandon conditions have changed little since last week, the weather continuing cool and cloudy. Heading of crops has been delayed and warm, dry weather is required. Haying operations have been interrupted by showers. Prospects for all crops are good except for lateness.

In the northcentral part of the province ample rains brought crops along quickly. Ten per cent of the barley and wheat has headed and about 75 per cent is either heading or in the shot blade. The flax crop is good with some flowering while alfalfa is about 25 per cent in bloom with little seed setting as yet. The hay crop is excellent but haying operations have been hindered by frequent showers. Our Minnedosa correspondent states that crops are making rapid growth and conditions are excellent. Wheat and barley are headed out. Summerfallow has not yet been worked due to excessive moisture and the hay crop, though excellent, has not been gathered because of wet weather. In the westcentral part of the

province, at Shoal Lake, growth has been lush but dry, warmer weather is now needed. Wheat and barley is about half headed out while 25 per cent of the oats are headed. The crops are still standing well but would lodge badly if wind storms occurred. Flax is between the bud and flowering stage. Haying has been delayed due to wet weather and although half the summerfallow has been worked the remainder has been neglected due to rain. Chemical weed killer has not been used on about one-quarter of the crop because of wet weather.

In the northern part of the province, at Swan River, practically all cereals are headed. Legume crops are in heavy bloom and gardens are excellent. Heavy rains this past week ensure sufficient moisture until after harvest. Rains are causing prolonged delay in haying operations. No grasshopper damage nor blight has been reported but some bacterial rot is occurring in potatoes.

The Entomological Laboratory at Brandon states that grasshoppers are now hatching in the flood areas of the Red River Valley and are abundant in field margins in many districts throughout the valley. The campaign has been hampered by wet weather. The empusa disease reported last week is heavy in some spots but still not sufficient to greatly reduce the grasshopper infestation. Corn borer egg masses up to 10 per 100 plants have been found at Morden and there has been a heavy flight of beet webworm adults. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 35 per cent above normal as compared with 2 per cent below normal at the same time last year and 41 per cent above normal a week ago. Mean temperature for the week ending July 24 was 3.1 degrees below normal.

Saskatchewan - Crop prospects have been well maintained in Saskatchewan during the past week with some improvement in parts of the south-central and southwestern districts as a result of recent rains. Moisture conditions in most districts are satisfactory for present needs but some central and western districts have no reserves to draw on and therefore timely rains will be required to mature the crop. Excess precipitation and cool weather are retarding the development of rank stands in southeastern districts where wheat is only 40 to 60 per cent headed as compared with 75 to 90 per cent over the rest of the province. Wheat and coarse grain crops have developed a satisfactory length of straw in most districts. The grasshopper threat remains serious in central and mid-western districts. While hail storms have struck in many local areas, damage from this cause has not been extensive.

Warm dry weather is required in southeastern districts where growth has been very heavy and rank and some fields are starting to lodge. Cool, wet weather has made it impossible to finish haying in the Manor district and has retarded development of the cereal crops. Similar conditions are found in the Fillmore district where crop prospects are excellent but warm dry weather is required to mature the crop. A report from the Experimental Station at Indian Head indicates that some late-sown fields are beginning to turn yellow because of wet and cool weather which has also retarded haying.

Crops in southcentral districts are making excellent progress. Hail damage has occurred at Radville, Lake Alma, Dunkirk, Fir Mountain, Lafleche and other widely scattered districts. While moisture requirements are satisfactory for present needs, further rains will be required over this whole area due to lack of reserves.

Continued cool weather has maintained crops in good condition in the Swift Current areas but fall rye stands are mostly thin although heads are well filled. Barley is well filled and shows promise of a fair crop. Wheat in this area has just started to fill and while the present condition of the crop is fair to good there is a possibility of very rapid deterioration should hot and

dry weather set in because moisture reserves have been depleted. Grasshoppers are still numerous and are causing some damage to fall rye. Farther south, around Val Marie, drought conditions are more pronounced and an early light harvest is expected. Recent scattered showers, however, have helped to maintain pastures.

Conditions in eastcentral districts in the Melville and Yorkton areas continue to be very promising and though somewhat late, crops are developing well. Farther west in central Saskatchewan prospects for an average or better than average crop appear to be general over most districts. Very little rain fell in this area last week but cool weather prevented deterioration. Wheat is over 65 per cent headed and both early wheat and fall rye are filling well. However, there is little reserve moisture and deterioration will occur should the weather turn dry and hot.

The Dominion Experimental Station at Scott reports that grain crops have made good progress during the past week in the westcentral parts of the province. Early sown fields are starting to fill and prospects indicate yields somewhat above average. The grasshopper threat is still serious and will cause reduction of yields in parts of this area.

Showers have been received over most of the northern districts during the past week and present prospects are generally good to excellent. Pastures have been well maintained and wheat is beginning to fill. A report from Prince states that wheat and flax crops promise better than average yields and present rate of development is satisfactory in all crops.

While hail storms have been widely scattered, especially over south and central parts of the province, damage has been generally light and quite local in extent. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 2 per cent above normal as compared with 4 per cent above normal a week ago and 7 per cent below normal at this time a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending July 24 was 3.2 degrees below normal.

Alberta - Alberta field crops have shown general improvement during the past week although rain is needed in parts of the southeast where prospects are only fair. Further good rains occurred in the Red Deer--Calgary area and in the Camrose and Wetaskiwin districts. Some improvement is indicated in the area north and east of Edmonton. Most crops in Alberta, however, are later than normal. Hail losses have been light in the past week and insect damage is diminishing. Canning crops are in good condition and sugar beets made satisfactory recovery from early hail damage. The alfalfa seed crop is promising with a good set of seed. An increased sweet clover crop is in prospect but alsike and red clover will be down owing to reduced acreage and winter damage. Brome is fair to good.

In the Medicine Hat area rain on the 24th of June and on subsequent occasions has kept crops coming but they are thin and short. All grains are headed and the rye harvest has commenced. Yields of this grain will be light. Farther north at Schuler crops are in better condition but rains are needed to complete filling. Pastures are much improved and the feed outlook is satisfactory. At Manyberries all crops are reported in good condition with wheat starting to fill and oats and barley at the flowering stage. The range is in good condition with fair surface and subsoil moisture supplies.

Little rain has fallen in the Brooks area and the weather has been hot and dry. Farmers are irrigating and crops are uneven and late. Potatoes are

fair to poor in this area. In the important wheat growing area around Vulcan wheat is 90 per cent headed, although heads are small. A good rain fell in the past week and this will fill earlier-seeded grains. In the extreme southwest of the province around Cardston crop prospects remain very good. Spring wheat is about half headed and moisture reserves are good. A very satisfactory crop of hay is being harvested. At Claresholm, south of Calgary, heavy showers have prevented further deterioration of crops and some grain fields have improved. Yields may prove better than anticipated earlier.

Good growing weather is reported from Hanna in the eastcentral area with one and a half inches of rain in the past week. Conditions are generally good here with wheat 75 per cent headed out with small heads. In the Donalda-Sedgewick areas of central Alberta crops are quite well advanced and our Sedgewick correspondent states that there is enough moisture to see the crop through and prospects are the best in years. Above-average yields are anticipated at Donalda. Moisture conditions are also good at Stettler but crops are about two weeks late. The hay crop is fair but pastures are good.

In westcentral Alberta from Calgary through Olds to Lacombe moisture conditions are generally satisfactory and crops have made a good recovery. Hail damage at Olds is estimated at about 5 per cent for the district. Pastures are very good at Calgary and fair to good at Lacombe where haying is in full swing. Edmonton reports clear, dry weather during the past week with considerable improvement noted in the crop since the rains a week ago. Wheat crops are making a good recovery although rains will be needed soon again.

At Bonnyville northeast of Edmonton light frosts last week may have damaged crops in the bloom stage--otherwise prospects are fair following good rains in mid-July. More rain will be needed to ensure complete filling of grain. At Falher in the eastern part of the Peace River district crops are progressing well but more rain will be needed. Wheat is practically all headed with coarse grains 40 per cent in head. Forage crops are doing well and there is no visible crop damage in evidence. A severe hail storm is reported from the Grande Prairie area and three slight hail storms have occurred at Sexsmith.

The Entomological Laboratory at Lethbridge reports that grasshoppers are commencing to infest cover crops from Granum to High River. Wheat stem sawfly infestations are not as serious as last year in the area south of Lethbridge because of the large acreages of Rescue wheat now being grown. Hail losses have been generally light over the province during the past week. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 21 per cent below normal as compared with 17 per cent below normal a year ago and 20 per cent below normal last week. The mean temperature for the week ending July 24 was 2.2 degrees below normal.

WEEKLY PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES 1/, 1950

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. July 24/50	since April 1	since April 1	July 24, 1950 Mean	Normal
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Pierson	.68	10.92	7.47	60	66
	Melita	.46	12.09	9.51	62	67
	Waskada	.44	6.75	8.47	60	66
2	Boissevain	.54	11.30	7.47	60	66
	Ninette	.98	13.19	8.06	61	67
3	Portage la Prairie	1.74	14.48	7.91	64	65
	Graysville	.46	12.04	8.52	64	67
	Morden	.16	11.94	8.24	65	67
	Altona	.44	7.46 2/	8.15	63	67
	Morris	1.56	3.60	7.90	65	67
	Emerson	1.14	10.34	7.50	61	67
4	Winnipeg	.52	11.35	8.95	63	67
6	Sprague	.12	10.99	8.73	62	65
	Pinawa	.24	5.38	6.47	64	65
7	Virden	.56	13.33	6.88	62	64
	Rivers	.79	10.30	7.89	60	64
8	Brandon	.72	13.35	7.94	N.R.	65
	Cypress River	.58	10.20	7.83	64	66
9	Neepawa	.54	11.97	7.82	62	64
10	Russell	.60	6.66 2/	7.49	60	63
	Birtle	1.22	12.35	7.88	59	63
11	Dauphin	1.16	11.53	6.78	N.R.	64
12	Gimli	.84	10.30	8.45	64	65
13	Swan River	2.12	8.86	7.87	63	63
	The Pas	.79	6.48	6.03	64	65
<u>MANITOBA AVERAGE</u>		.78	10.57	7.85	62.3	65.4
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Estevan	.12	9.98	7.45	62	65
	Carlyle	.26	10.52	8.06	58	63
	Oxbow	.16	7.37 2/	7.66	59	64
1B	Broadview	.48	8.98	7.20	N.R.	64
	Kipling	.52	10.16	7.21	60	66
	Moosomin	1.46	14.32	6.73	63	66
2A	Yellow Grass	.26	8.25	7.31	61	65
	Midale	.24	10.56	8.14	60	65
2B	Moose Jaw	Trace	6.44	7.42	62	66
	Regina	Trace	8.51	7.47	61	65
	Qu'Appelle	.10	8.04	8.78	61	65
	Indian Head	.10	8.06	8.53	60	64
3AS	Assiniboia	.50	9.82	6.34	61	65
	Ceylon	.14	9.11	9.11	57	66
3AN	Chaplin	.04	7.20	7.76	62	65
	Gravelbourg	.24	8.52	6.31	60	65
	Coderre	.34	8.02	6.42	60	66
	Bishopric	.86	7.50 2/	6.62	61	66
3BS	Shaunavon	Trace	5.00	6.44	61	63
	Cadillac	.04	5.78	8.45	62	64
	Val Marie	.24	4.34	7.03	60	66
	Aneroid	Trace	3.82 2/	7.44	61	64

WEEKLY PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES 1/, 1950 (cont'd)

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. July 24/50	since April 1	since April 1	July 24, 1950 Mean	Normal
SASKATCHEWAN						
3BN	Pennant	.08	6.38	7.66	63	65
	Swift Current	.15	8.20	7.51	60	65
	Hughton	.18	5.88	6.73	62	64
4A	Maple Creek	.16	3.61 2/	7.23	64	65
	Consul	.06	3.76	6.04	58	61
	Roadene	.18	4.16	6.75	62	64
5A	Leross	.30	5.80 2/	7.53	58	63
	Lipton	.16	7.56	6.70	60	62
	Yorkton	1.89	8.80	7.40	61	62
5B	Dafoe	.09	5.14	6.58	60	62
	Foam Lake	.28	5.53	7.21	61	62
	Lintlaw	.48	6.94	7.42	59	61
6A	Kamsack	1.12	5.13	6.73	62	64
	Davidson	.06	6.19	6.10	61	65
	Dilke	Nil	5.24	6.57	N.R.	N.R.
	Semans	.10	4.70	4.90	60	63
	Strasbourg	.12	7.40	6.92	58	63
	6B	Harris	N.R.	6.08 2/	6.71	N.R.
	Outlook	.22	5.77	4.92	62	64
	Saskatoon	.01	8.50	6.63	61	63
	Elbow	Trace	5.83	6.16	62	64
7A	Dundurn	.04	6.14	7.38	60	64
	Kindersley	Nil	6.53	5.99	62	63
	Rosetown	.10	6.75	7.02	61	63
7B	Macklin	.44	5.68	7.11	N.R.	60
	Scott	N.R.	6.67 2/	6.43	N.R.	62
	Ruthilda	.10	5.02 2/	7.08	N.R.	N.R.
8A	Biggar	Trace	5.87	7.17	62	63
	Mistatim	.82	8.32	7.17	58	63
	Hudson Bay	1.54	7.07	7.23	61	63
8B	Humboldt	.02	4.13	6.05	59	63
	Melfort	.56	6.45	6.95	59	63
	9A	North Battleford	.33	6.28	6.80	62
	Rabbit Lake	.38	7.30	7.05	60	62
	Prince Albert	.57	8.53	6.87	62	64
	9B	Island Falls	.50	5.34	6.99	60
	Waseca	N.R.	6.42 2/	6.78	N.R.	61
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.31	7.14	7.02	60.6	63.8
ALBERTA						
1	Taber	.24	3.22 2/	6.00	64	68
	Foremost	.20	4.29	8.29	62	69
	Winnifred	.28	3.86	5.44	N.R.	N.R.
	Medicine Hat	.14	3.53	6.25	64	69
	Manyberries	.06	5.17	6.31	63	69
	2	Cowley	Nil	5.95	7.73	58
	Nacleod	.16	7.40	7.01	64	67
	Cardston	.02	8.04	10.39	61	66
	Lethbridge	.18	4.79	7.16	62	66
	Magrath	N.R.	3.68 2/	9.25	N.R.	66

WEEKLY PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES 1/, 1950 (cont'd)

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. July 24/50	since April 1	since April 1	July 24/50 Mean	Normal
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
3	Vauxhall	.18	3.61 2/	5.84	63	68
	Brooks	.46	2.99	5.98	63	69
	Bindloss	N.R.	4.22 2/	5.98	N.R.	70
	Empress	.06	1.67	6.67	65	70
4	High River	.24	5.25	8.49	58	62
	Vulcan	.56	4.72 2/	7.44	N.R.	N.R.
5	Drumheller	.76	4.81	7.53	63	69
	Hanna	.54	6.11 2/	8.31	58	66
	Naco	.96	7.73	7.24	60	65
	Oyen	.54	7.30 2/	5.96	60	N.R.
6	Olds	.41	6.27	7.73	N.R.	60
	Calgary	.05	6.22	6.29	60	63
	Three Hills	.08	5.70	6.96	60	61
	Strathmore	N.R.	2.64 2/	7.25	N.R.	62
	Gleichen	.26	5.05	6.75	62	63
	Hussar	.46	2.88 2/	6.80	N.R.	N.R.
7	Sedgewick	N.R.	6.13 2/	6.98	N.R.	60
	Hardisty	Nil	6.95	7.23	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	.65	8.71	6.10	60	63
	Hughenden	.16	8.45	6.80	N.R.	67
8	Red Deer	.34	5.99	7.58	58	60
	Lacombe	.25	4.62 2/	8.23	60	61
	Wetaskiwin	.32	5.00	7.70	60	62
	Camrose	.01	3.99	7.49	61	61
	Stettler	.04	6.35	8.50	63	61
9	Jasper	.12	7.24	3.98	60	59
	Rocky Mountain House	.08	6.77	8.37	58	60
	Springdale	.12	3.86	9.57	56	60
10	Vegreville	Nil	4.09	8.65	N.R.	60
	Vermilion	.44	6.23	8.31	59	61
	Lloydminster	1.48	8.00	6.39	61	62
11	Edmonton	.02	5.54	8.17	63	62
12	Edson	.06	5.56 2/	7.73	60	58
	Whitecourt	.19	6.17	8.41	59	61
13	Elk Point	Nil	3.66 2/	6.95	58	62
14	Campsie	.16	3.48 2/	8.14	58	61
	Athabaska	.08	3.66	7.25	64	61
	Lac La Biche	.25	5.24	7.16	62	61
15	High Prairie	.14	5.68	7.18	N.R.	61
	Wagner	.20	6.09	7.56	61	62
16	Beaverlodge	.04	4.80	5.85	64	61
	Rycroft	.12	4.00 2/	5.08	58	61
	Grand Prairie	.80	6.51	6.94	62	61
	Fairview	.05	7.21	5.06	63	61
17	Fort St. John	.11	7.25	6.95	64	62
<u>ALBERTA AVERAGE</u>		.27	5.71	7.26	61.0	63.2

N.R. No report

1/ Source: Meteorological Service of Canada

2/ Incomplete: not included in average