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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Ottawa, May 16, 1950, 3 p.m. - The second of a series of 13 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

Seeding is now general throughout most of Saskatchewan and Alberta but with minor exceptions little work has been done on the land in Manitoba. Provincial officials doubt whether the flooded area (estimated as high as half a million acres) in the Red River Valley will produce much more than feed this year. Warm weather is required to dry up excess moisture if seeding is to become general in the rest of Manitoba by this week end. In Saskatchewan about 25 per cent of the wheat crop is seeded although considerable variation is noted between areas. Practically no work has been done in the southeast while up to 75 per cent of the wheat in the northwest is in. Only 10 per cent of the province's coarse grain acreage has been planted. Warmer weather has prevailed in both Saskatchewan and Alberta over the past week and good progress in seeding is also being made in the latter province. In southeastern Alberta most of the crop is in, somewhat less than half of the wheat acreage is seeded from Lethbridge north to Edmonton, while only a good start has been made over much of the remainder of the province. Surface moisture conditions in Saskatchewan and Alberta are generally adequate for germination but better than average rains will be needed after seeding to build up subsoil reserves which are now deficient. Cold weather has so far delayed the hatching of grasshopper eggs but infestation in most of the affected areas is expected to be at least as serious as last year.

Spring operations in the major part of Manitoba have not yet commenced. Apart from a strip of territory running north from Russell to Swan River where a good start has been made in seeding, little or no work on the land has been done in the province. Given warm, dry weather, seeding should get under way by this week end, except in the Red River Valley where it is unlikely any seeding will commence until the end of the month. The Provincial Department of Agriculture doubts whether much of the estimated half million acres of flooded area will produce much more than feed this year. Provincial authorities also forecast a marked reduction in wheat and sugar beet acreage, and possibly sunflowers with more attention to barley, flax and summerfallow. Roughage is very scarce in most parts of the province and there has been an absence of growth in pastures. There has been considerable loss of poultry in the flood but limited loss of other stock. Market gardeners around Winnipeg have lost most of their bedding plants, their land is flooded and the outlook is critical.

Data not yet available for Newfoundland.

Seeding of spring wheat in Saskatchewan is 25 per cent completed as compared with 85 per cent seeded a year ago. Except in the southeast wheat seeding is under way in most areas but there is considerable variation in amount seeded throughout the province. In the North Battleford, Lloydminster and Meadow Lake area 75 per cent has been seeded; 60 per cent at Maple Creek and Leader; from 5 to 10 per cent in the Regina, Weyburn and Melfort areas while in other parts of the province 20 to 40 per cent has been sown. About 10 per cent of the intended coarse grain acreage in the province has been seeded. Surface moisture is satisfactory to start plant growth but weather has been backward. Cold weather has delayed the hatch of grasshopper eggs.

Under the stimulus of warmer weather seeding has become general throughout Alberta. In the southeast sowing of wheat is practically completed with excellent progress being made in coarse grain seeding. From Lethbridge north to Edmonton rather less than half the crop is in. Planting however is just getting under way in the southwest, in large sections of eastern and central Alberta and in the Peace River District. In general, surface moisture supplies are adequate for germination but subsoil reserves are low in most areas and good rains will be required after seeding to promote development of a satisfactory crop. Grass growth has been slow and beef and dairy herds are still on hay along most of the Calgary-Edmonton line. Grasshoppers are expected to be about as serious as in 1949.

Manitoba - Little or no seeding has been done in Manitoba apart from an area running north from Russell to Swan River. Given favourable drying weather seeding should get under way by the end of this week except in the Red River Valley where an estimated half million acres of crop land is affected by the flood. Exceptionally dry weather will be necessary to permit any seeding by June 1 and it is improbable that much of the flooded area will be seeded this year except for feed. The flood losses of poultry have been heavy but other live stock losses have been limited. Market gardeners face a critical situation with flooded land and almost a total loss of bedding plants. Forage is very short in the province and there has been little growth in pastures.

In the southwest part of the province, at Melita, very little spring work has been done. Seeding will not be general until the end of this week. Good weather is necessary to permit seeding operations as the land is still very wet. Our correspondent from Morden states that no seeding has been done to date but some is commencing this week. The land is wet and soggy and all growth is delayed three weeks later than normal. Feed for cattle is scarce. In the area around Winnipeg 80 to 90 per cent of the market gardens are flooded with a heavy loss of bedding plants. Farming operations are at a complete standstill in the East Selkirk district. The weather has been damp and cold with considerable snow and rain. A large percentage of the cultivated land is still under water and seeding is not expected to get under way for at least another ten days. At Teulon no work on the land has been done but some activity is expected next week if the weather remains dry. Live stock are in fair to poor condition due to shortage of fodder. There is very little pasture growth as yet.

In the northwest area of the province around Neepawa land work is well under way and will become general by this week end. Municipalities in this area are organized to combat an expected spotty grasshopper infestation. Around Brandon weather remains unseasonably cold. Seeding is just under way and should be general by the week end. At Woodnorth the weather has been cold and backward with rain and snow. Practically no seeding has been done to date. Seed and feed supplies are satisfactory in this district. In the Virden area in the west central part of the province seeding has not started due to excessive surface moisture. Our correspondent reports a probable increase in the coarse grain acreage and



flaxseed. The fall rye crop does not look promising. Increased live stock shipments to market have been made due to feed shortage.

In the northwestern part of the province at Dauphin the work has just started on the land but very little seeding has been done. The moisture supply is satisfactory but warm dry weather is required. Pastures are late and farmers are still feeding cattle.

The Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Brandon reports no insect activity as yet. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 83 per cent above normal as compared with 60 per cent below normal for the same period last year and 78 per cent above normal a week ago. The mean temperature for the week ending May 15 was 3.9 degrees below normal.

Saskatchewan - Seeding in Saskatchewan, with minor exceptions, is now general. On the average 25 per cent of the wheat crop is in. Little or no work has been done in the southeast as yet but up to 75 per cent of the wheat has been seeded in the northwestern areas. The portion seeded in other areas varies from around 10 per cent in the Regina-Weyburn district up to 60 per cent in the Maple Creek-Leader area. Some 10 per cent of the anticipated coarse grain acreage is seeded. Warmer weather in the past few days has started plant growth.

A heavy snow delayed field work in the southeastern corner of the province but drying winds and higher temperatures of the last few days are improving conditions. Pasture growth has started. At Summerberry some seeding has been accomplished. Southeast of Regina at Fillmore snow and rain last week postponed spring operations but the warm, drying weather of the past few days has stimulated weed and grass growth and seeding should become general this week. Seeding of wheat is now general in the Indian Head area with the ground in good condition. At Yellow Grass seeding should be general by the 17th. A moderate amount of grasshopper eggs are showing up in tilled land in this area.

In southwestern Saskatchewan from Swift Current through Val Marie about 50 per cent of the wheat is seeded. Around Swift Current, the soil drifting was fairly general on Saturday and severe in some fields. Some good showers fell on the 15th and weeds and grass are starting rapid growth. Fall rye is good in this area.

In the Scott-Rosetown area 40 to 60 per cent of the wheat is seeded, with some early seeded grain emerging. Rain fell at Rosetown on the 15th. It is expected that crops in this area will be sprayed as a general practice this year. At Scott moisture conditions are deteriorating under influence of warm weather. Pasture and hay crops are slow with prospects poor unless rains are received soon.

In the Melfort area, in the northeast, seeding is getting under way and should be general by the 18th. Moisture on summerfallow fields is adequate for rapid germination but is less satisfactory on stubble fields. Cool weather has retarded growth of pastures but in the western part of this area warmer weather over the week end is improving the situation. At Prince in the northwest of the province, 80 per cent of the seeding is completed. Surface moisture conditions here are now reported fair to poor.

The Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Saskatoon reports that sweet clover weevils are causing severe damage to emerging clover at Tisdale and Armley. No other insect damage is indicated. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 23 per cent below normal as compared with 72 per cent below normal a year ago and 14 per cent below normal a week ago. The mean temperature for the week ending May 15 was 2.4 degrees above normal.



Alberta - With temperatures during the past week averaging between 4. and 5 degrees above normal seeding has become general throughout Alberta. In the southeastern corner of the province wheat seeding is practically completed and more than half of the coarse grain acreage is in the ground. About half the grain is up in the Medicine Hat area. Less progress has been made with seeding in the remainder of the province, with the extreme southwest, areas in the central and eastern parts of the province, and the Peace River district being the most backward. Surface moisture is generally considered adequate for germination but subsoil moisture reserves are low in most areas and good rains will be required after seeding to promote development of a satisfactory crop. Grasshopper infestation is expected to be about as heavy as in 1949.

The weather during the past week has been ideal for seeding in that part of southern Alberta east of Lethbridge. In the Medicine Hat district wheat seeding is practically completed with 75 per cent of the oats, 70 per cent of the barley, and 50 per cent of the flax crop in the ground. About half the grain is up with showers on the 13th and 14th proving very helpful. Farther south at Manyberries grass is improving and 75 per cent of the seeding is done. Top soil moisture here is considered fair, but subsoil reserves are poor.

West of Lethbridge and north to Calgary grain seeding is less than half completed. A limited acreage of winter wheat, most of which is in the Fincher Creek—Cardston area is showing a satisfactory stand. Of the 37,000 acres of sugar beets under contract in the irrigation areas, 32,000 have been seeded under good surface moisture conditions. The growth of range grass has been slow but improvement was noted in the past week. Seeding has been later in the Cardston area with only 10 per cent of the spring grains planted to date. Moisture conditions, however, are very favourable and no decrease is anticipated in the general seeded acreage. In the districts surrounding Vulcan and Claresholm from 50 to 65 per cent of the wheat crop is seeded and planting of coarse grains is well on the way to completion. There is ample moisture to germinate the seed although some deterioration of surface moisture has occurred as a result of recent hot, dry weather. No heavy winds have yet been reported this spring.

In the east central section of the province around Hanna three quarters of the wheat seeding is completed but very little coarse grain has been planted. Warmer weather with some rain has improved conditions here. In the Stettler-Donalda sector of central Alberta up to 25 per cent of the wheat has been seeded with coarse grain plantings just getting under way. Weather is now more favourable and progress should be rapid.

Wheat seeding became general during the past week along the Calgary-Edmonton line. From Red Deer north to Edmonton subsoil moisture reserves are reported to be low, and with no rain during the past week surface moisture supplies are dwindling. Pastures are generally backward and dairy and beef herds are still mostly on hay. Our Lacombe correspondent reports that winter wheat and fall rye made good progress during the past week. Germination and growth is considered backward in the Edmonton area. From Calgary to Olds seeding is well on the way to completion with the latter point reporting about 65 per cent of the fall rye winterkilled.

East of Edmonton in the Vermilion district only 10 per cent of the wheat is in with no coarse grains sown so far. Moisture supplies are sufficient for germination but rain will soon be needed to build up reserves. Pastures have just started and stock are very poor.

At Athabasca north of Edmonton moisture conditions are good with 35 per cent of the wheat and 10 per cent of the coarse grains seeded. Our Beaverlodge correspondent (Peace River area) states that seeding is under way and moisture conditions are excellent. Winterkilling of winter wheat has varied from slight to complete.

Sweet clover weevils are appearing in abundance in the Lethbridge area while a grasshopper outbreak similar in intensity to that of 1949 is anticipated. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 38 per cent below normal as compared with 68 per cent below normal a year ago and 33 per cent below normal a week ago. The mean temperature for the week ending May 15 was 4.5 degrees above normal as compared with 7.0 degrees below normal the previous week.

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WEEKLY PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES 1950

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. May 15/50	since April 1	since April 1	May 15, 1950 Mean	Normal
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Pierson	.82	2.98	2.16	46	51
	Melita	.88	2.58 2/	2.12	48	51
	Waskada	N.R.	1.18 2/	1.65	N.R.	50
2	Boissevain	1.08	4.38	2.28	N.R.	50
	Ninette	.66	2.71 2/	2.37	44	51
3	Portage la Prairie	1.00	4.62	2.03	47	51
	Graysville	.70	4.52	1.69	47	50
	Morden	.56	5.00	2.08	N.R.	51
	Altona	N.R.	3.64 2/	2.08	N.R.	51
	Morris	N.R.	Nil 2/	1.83	N.R.	51
	Emerson	.46	3.56	1.27	46	51
4	Winnipeg	1.18	5.20	2.18	46	52
6	Sprague	.68	2.88	2.12	48	49
	Finawa	.48	1.34 2/	1.36	44	49
7	Virden	1.04	4.02	1.30	47	50
	Rivers	.64	2.35	1.87	46	50
8	Brandon	.46	2.40	1.86	N.R.	51
	Cypress River	.48	2.32	1.82	45	50
9	Neepawa	1.22	3.15	1.85	45	50
10	Russell	.26	.26 2/	1.57	N.R.	48
	Birtle	1.06	1.68	1.64	45	48
11	Dauphin	.74	1.88	1.23	47	49
12	Gimli	1.01	4.02	2.02	43	48
13	Swan River	.22	.62 2/	1.33	49	47
	The Pas	Trace	1.09	1.19	44	47
<u>MANITOBA AVERAGE</u>		.71	3.30	1.80	45.9	49.8
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Estevan	.73	1.46 2/	1.68	51	49
	Carlyle	1.04	2.18	2.13	48	49
	Oxbow	.70	1.00 2/	1.97	46	50
1B	Broadview	.72	1.06	1.68	46	50
	Kipling	N.R.	1.17 2/	1.57	N.R.	49
	Moosomin	.36	2.89	1.35	47	49
2A	Yellow Grass	.36	1.42	1.67	51	49
	Midale	.50	2.02	2.02	49	49
2B	Moose Jaw	.01	1.12 2/	1.44	53	52
	Regina	.12	2.03	1.45	51	50
	Qu'Appelle	.42	1.62	1.95	51	50
	Indian Head	.30	1.42	1.62	51	50
3AS	Assiniboia	Trace	1.42	1.27	52	49
	Ceylon	.36	1.79	2.46	48	49
3AN	Chaplin	Nil	.54	1.79	54	50
	Gravelbourg	Trace	1.56	1.28	52	49
	Coderre	Nil	.98	1.30	50	49
	Bishopric	Nil	.70 2/	1.35	50	49
3BS	Shaunavon	.02	.70	1.40	54	47
	Cadillac	.12	.90	2.07	52	47
	Val Marie	Nil	1.26	1.45	51	48
	Aneroid	.08	.50 2/	1.50	53	48



WEEKLY PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES 1950 <sup>1/</sup> (continued)

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. May 15/50	since April 1	since April 1	May 15, 1950 Mean	Normal
SASKATCHEWAN						
3BN	Pennant	.44	1.66	1.86	54	51
	Swift Current	Trace	1.01	1.52	53	51
	Hughton	.40	1.07 2/	1.98	53	48
4A	Maple Creek	N.R.	.30 2/	1.52	N.R.	50
	Consul	.08	.36	1.65	49	48
4B	Roadene	.18	1.34	1.99	54	48
5A	Leross	N.R.	1.93 2/	1.58	N.R.	47
	Lipton	.26	1.60	1.39	49	47
	Yorkton	.58	1.29	1.41	49	48
5B	Dafoe	.02	.84	1.16	50	45
	Foam Lake	N.R.	.72 2/	1.38	N.R.	45
	Lintlaw	.18	1.26	1.64	46	46
6A	Kamsack	.16	.64	1.16	48	46
	Davidson	Trace	.96	1.30	52	49
	Dilke	Nil	1.63	1.43	N.R.	N.R.
6B	Semans	Nil	.62	1.07	49	47
	Strasbourg	Trace	1.54	1.42	52	49
	Harris	Nil	.60	1.14	51	48
7A	Outlook	.01	.85	1.10	56	50
	Saskatoon	.02	1.13	1.23	52	49
	Elbow	Nil	1.34	1.14	54	50
7B	Dundurn	Trace	.52	1.37	55	48
	Kindersley	.12	1.24	1.27	54	48
	Rosetown	.04	1.38	1.61	N.R.	48
8A	Nacklin	.13	.64	2.27	53	47
	Scott	Trace	.53	1.52	52	49
	Ruthilda	.06	.06 2/	1.34	N.R.	N.R.
8B	Biggar	Trace	.79	1.14	54	49
	Mistatim	.06	1.86	1.39	46	48
	Hudson Bay	.11	1.15	1.46	48	48
9A	Humboldt	Nil	.56	1.20	N.R.	49
	Melfort	.09	1.20	1.44	51	49
	North Battleford	.03	.48	1.17	54	52
9B	Rabbit Lake	.04	.70	1.26	52	48
	Prince Albert	.11	1.35	1.46	52	50
	Island Falls	.04	.30	1.43	44	45
	Waseca	.10	.57	1.46	54	48
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.17	1.16	1.51	51.0	48.6
ALBERTA						
1	Taber	Trace	.22 2/	1.80	55	50
	Foremost	Nil	.65	2.82	55	54
	Winnifred	.36	.78	2.09	N.R.	N.R.
	Medicine Hat	.50	.84	1.35	56	53
	Manyberries	N.R.	.92 2/	1.85	N.R.	52
2	Cowley	.05	1.96	2.35	49	49
	Macleod	.04	1.02	1.44	56	52
	Cardston	.26	2.06	2.82	53	51
	Lethbridge	.13	1.16	1.80	54	51
	Magrath	N.R.	N.R. 2/	2.50	N.R.	51

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WEEKLY PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES, 1950 (continued)

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending 8 a.m.	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	Week ending 8 a.m. May 15, 1950	
		May 15/50			Mean	Normal
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
3	Vauxhall	.14	.44 2/	1.51	54	51
	Brooks	.09	.61	1.66	54	52
	Bindloss	.08	.46	1.69	N.R.	53
	Empress	.01	.03	1.57	56	53
4	High River	.04	1.91	2.47	50	48
	Vulcan	N.R.	.85 2/	1.82	N.R.	N.R.
5	Drumheller	.10	.49	1.57	55	49
	Hanna	.26	.43 2/	1.92	56	51
	Naco	.02	1.55	2.08	52	50
	Oyen	Nil	.64 2/	1.26	N.R.	N.R.
6	Olds	.14	.78	2.14	52	48
	Calgary	.17	1.45	1.74	53	49
	Three Hills	.20	.74	1.21	52	48
	Strathmore	.10	.44	1.60	52	47
	Gleichen	.14	.91	1.59	52	49
	Hussar	.10	.36 2/	1.98	N.R.	N.R.
7	Sedgewick	N.R.	.42 2/	1.48	N.R.	48
	Hardisty	.04	.62 2/	1.16	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	.14	.51	1.73	53	49
	Hughenden	.24	.89	1.70	54	50
8	Red Deer	.06	1.34	2.04	50	49
	Lacombe	Trace	2.04 2/	1.61	52	49
	Wetaskiwin	Trace	1.46	1.35	55	48
	Camrose	Nil	.54	1.97	54	46
	Stettler	Trace	.37	2.48	55	49
9	Jasper	Trace	1.40	1.14	50	47
	Rocky Mountain House	Trace	.97	2.38	51	46
	Springdale	Nil	1.08 2/	2.16	50	46
10	Vegreville	.01	.31	1.81	58	48
	Vermilion	.17	.70	1.47	54	47
	Lloydminster	.64	1.08	1.17	54	46
11	Edmonton	.01	1.19	1.55	55	50
12	Edson	.02	1.04 2/	1.40	52	49
	Whitecourt	.03	.97	1.88	52	48
13	Elk Point	.08	.94	1.35	54	47
14	Campsie	N.R.	.77 2/	1.34	N.R.	48
	Athabaska	.22	1.42	1.43	54	48
	Lac La Biche	.14	1.09	1.63	53	48
15	High Prairie	1.16	2.22	1.14	55	48
	Wagner	.64	1.90	1.54	53	48
16	Beaverlodge	.08	1.36	1.18	54	48
	Rycroft	.34	1.30	.99	56	48
	Grand Prairie	.05	1.33	1.39	55	50
	Fairview	Nil	1.04	.87	55	48
17	Fort St. John	.12	1.34	1.27	56	49
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.14	1.06	1.70	53.6	49

N.R. No report  
 1/ Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.  
 2/ Incomplete; not included in average.

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