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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Ottawa, June 7, 1950, 3 p.m. - The fourth 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

While some scattered showers and fair rains have occurred during the past few days, the moisture situation in wide areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta has further deteriorated. Cool weather, however, has so far prevented any significant crop damage from lack of moisture. High winds over much of these two provinces have seriously depleted surface moisture and soil drifting has caused considerable damage at local points. Wheat seeding is practically completed in Alberta and Saskatchewan with a small proportion of coarse grains remaining to be planted. In both provinces better-than-average rainfall in most areas will be required from now on to promote development of a satisfactory crop. In Manitoba, seeding is nearly completed in central and northern areas. Progress is variable in southern districts with planting in the flooded area just getting under way. Growth of early-seeded crops, as well as pastures, has been excellent.

Seeding in Manitoba is nearing completion in central and northern areas, advancing in the south, and well started in the Red River Valley where the land is just now drying up. Early-seeded crops are doing well and grass and legume growth is excellent. Rain would be welcome from Brandon north, especially along the Saskatchewan boundary. Elsewhere, moisture conditions are satisfactory. Ten thousand acres of sugar beets have been planted and if the weather holds, 18,000 acres will be sown by the end of this week. A considerable switch has taken place in sugar beet plantings from flooded to non-flooded land. Floods have caused erosion in market garden areas and planting has just now started in the dried-up regions.

Continuous high winds during the past week in Saskatchewan have seriously depleted surface moisture in all parts except the extreme southeast and portions of the Park Belt area. Soil drifting has caused considerable crop damage in local areas with 5 to 10 per cent reseeding necessary at some points. Seeding is almost completed except for about 15 per cent of the coarse grains. Rains received at many points at the end of this reporting period promise good recovery but surface moisture depletion has been so general that further early rains are required to promote growth.

Data not yet available for Newfoundland.

Scattered showers and some fair rains over the past twenty-four hours have improved immediate prospects over many parts of Alberta. Moisture supplies remain good in the Peace River district, in the extreme southwestern part of the province and in parts of the westcentral area west of the Calgary-Edmonton line. Southeastern Alberta, however, is still dry but little crop damage other than that occasioned by soil drifting is indicated thus far. Wheat seeding is completed throughout the province and coarse grains should be all in during the next week. Grain crops generally appear to be in fair condition but hay crops and pasture are only poor to fair in most sections. The low level of subsoil moisture reserves and below-normal precipitation over much of the province will certainly be felt soon unless better-than-average rains occur. Wireworm damage to wheat has been reported from the Lethbridge area and hatching of grasshoppers has commenced in several southern districts.

Manitoba - Early-seeded crops are doing well in Manitoba while grass and legume growth is excellent. Rain will be needed soon from Brandon north, especially along the Saskatchewan boundary. Seeding in the central and northern areas is nearly completed while in the south good progress is now being made and operations have commenced in the Red River Valley. Heavy stands of wild oats have been destroyed before seeding in southern and eastern areas. Throughout the south, pot holes full of water are hampering seeding operations.

Seeding is progressing favourably in the Morden area with 80 per cent of the wheat finished, 20 per cent of the oats and 30 per cent of the barley. Growth of pastures has been favourable. Some soil is baked and hard and extra cultivation is required. The season is four weeks late. At Pilot Mound wheat seeding is completed and barley and oats sowings are well advanced. There has been a small amount of soil drifting in some areas.

In the East Selkirk area very little work has been accomplished due to continuous rain and cold weather. Only 10 per cent of the wheat is seeded, 5 per cent of the coarse grains, while 50 per cent of the potatoes have been planted. Forage crops and pastures are in good condition. Around Winnipeg a considerable reduction in wheat acreage is evident. Seeding of this crop is finished and where the land is dry enough, seeding of other crops is progressing. Pastures and hay fields are showing improvement. Gardeners in non-flooded areas are making good progress in plantings. Very few have started work on the land which was under water.

Seeding became general in the Portage la Prairie area on June 2. Wheat acreage here has been sharply reduced with an increase in barley. Pastures are in excellent condition and the outlook for hay crops is promising. The acreage of sugar beets will probably be reduced while some increase in sunflowers in this area is anticipated. At Brandon wheat seeding is virtually completed and about half the other crops is sown. The weather has been cool but no frost damage has been reported. Warm weather is needed to speed up growth. Farther west, at Woodnorth, seeding during the past week progressed favourably. Probably about 80 per cent of the wheat and half the oats and barley have been seeded while 25 per cent of the flax is in. Germination has been good. Grain seeding at Virden is progressing rapidly. The weather has been favourable during the last 10 days. Coarse grain and flax acreage has been increased considerably. Moisture conditions in this area are favourable but weeds are developing rapidly and add to the problem where seeding is late. Pastures are excellent and the hay crop is promising.

In the northcentral area at Teulon, seeding is about half finished with all wheat and about 35 per cent of the coarse grains completed. Pastures are in

good condition. At Neepawa 95 per cent of the wheat, 40 per cent of the coarse grains and 25 per cent of flaxseed have been sown. Growth of grass has been rapid and moisture conditions are satisfactory. Slight soil drifting has occurred in this area. In the westcentral area, at Shoal Lake, seeding is 90 per cent completed with the wheat finished and most of this crop showing two inches above ground. Coarse grains are coming up well. While moisture is sufficient for the present there is no surplus in this area. The weather has been keeping cool and frosts have occurred but little damage has been reported.

In the northwest of the province at Dauphin, 75 per cent of the seeding is done. Early-seeded crops are badly infested with wild oats. Moisture conditions are satisfactory in this area. A decrease in wheat acreage and an increase in coarse grain sowings have occurred due to the late spring. Farther north, at Swan River, wheat seeding is completed and barley, oats and flaxseed sowings are 75 per cent finished. Some re-seeding of fields damaged by wind storms has occurred. Cool weather with some rain last week followed by warm weather brought pastures and crops along quickly. Gardens are in good condition but could stand more rain.

The Dominion Entomological Service at Brandon reports that the grasshopper hatch has not yet commenced and no insect damage of importance has occurred. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 37 per cent above normal as compared with 5 per cent above normal at the same time last year and 61 per cent above normal a week ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 5 was 3.4 degrees below normal.

Saskatchewan - Continuous high winds during the past week seriously depleted surface moisture in all parts of the province except the extreme south-east and portions of the Park Belt areas in the north and east. There was considerable local soil drifting damage and re-seeding is necessary on 5 to 10 per cent of plantings at some points. About 15 per cent of the coarse grain acreage remains to be seeded. Rains at the end of the reporting period provided some relief but further early rains are required to promote growth. Whereas there has been general and abundant hatching of road-side grasshoppers since about June 3, no important damage has been reported but wireworm damage is appearing in many districts.

Seeding has now been practically completed in the southeast. Strong drying winds have depleted surface moisture but subsoil moisture conditions in this area are good. Some of the earliest seeded wheat is up about 6 inches. Some soil drifting is reported from Fillmore but crops have been making good progress with all seeding practically completed. Early fields of wheat at this point show about 4 inches of growth. Fall rye stands are thin.

Seeding has been completed in the Indian Head district except for a few fields where wild oats made re-seeding necessary. Several days of very strong winds have done some damage over about 5 per cent of the district. Surface moisture conditions are still good and full recovery is expected. Farther northwest in the Humboldt-Guernsey area, early seeded fields have germinated evenly and show a good stand. There has, however, been considerable soil drifting damage during the past week and as a result of drying winds, moisture conditions are now only fair. A report from Drake states that growth has been retarded by high winds and cool weather but with light rains moisture conditions are still good. Grasshoppers are beginning to hatch.

Many fields in the Swift Current area have been damaged by soil drifting but not beyond recovery if rain comes soon. Top soil is very dry and grasshoppers

are hatching in most parts of the district and there is severe wireworm damage in some localities. Pastures are in need of moisture to sustain growth. At Val Marie some late-sown grain is not germinating due to lack of moisture. Pastures are good but require early rains to continue growth. The rye crop in this district is winterkilled to the extent of about 50 per cent.

Wheat growth averages about 2 inches in the Rosetown district. No damage has occurred and growing conditions are good. As in other areas, farmers here are well prepared to engage in an active grasshopper campaign. The Experimental Station at Scott reports moderate to severe soil drifting damage in westcentral Saskatchewan. This situation was, however, relieved at the end of this reporting period by scattered light to heavy rain and good recovery is anticipated. Farther north at Prince, crop growth has been good but there has been a moderate amount of soil drifting and rain is required.

Wheat seeding has been completed in the Melfort area and coarse grain seeding is well advanced. Grains are germinating very uniformly and there is adequate moisture to promote good crop growth. Little damage resulted in this area from the high winds during the past week.

The Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Saskatoon reports that general and abundant hatching of road-side grasshoppers began about June 3 but no important damage has been reported to date. Serious wireworm damage to grains, however, is appearing in many districts. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 23 per cent below normal as compared with 14 per cent below normal a week ago and 9 per cent below normal at this time last year. Mean temperature for the week ending June 5 was 1.7 degrees below normal.

Alberta - Moisture supplies are good in the Peace River district and scattered showers along with some fair rains yesterday have improved prospects somewhat in other areas. Southeastern Alberta, however, remains dry although little damage other than considerable soil drifting is indicated so far. Wheat seeding is now completed but another week will be required before the coarse grains are all in. Crops appear to be in fair condition with wheat up from one to six inches and coarse grains up as much as four inches. Hay crops and pasture are poor to fair only with live stock in fair condition.

In the extreme southeast of the province seeding is completed and germination has been good. Crops have emerged three to four inches but rain is needed in the near future to assure good growth of crops and range. Subsoil moisture is poor. To the east and south of Lethbridge, in southwestern Alberta, crops need rain while north, toward Calgary, growth continues to be slow although crops are not suffering. Spring-sown grains cover the ground in a very few fields only. Cultivating and thinning of sugar beets have started and stands are good. In the extreme southwest, around Cardston, seeding of all grains is now completed and moisture conditions are very satisfactory. Pastures are in splendid condition and little damage is indicated from cutworms and wireworms. In the southcentral area, from Vulcan through to Brooks, weather has been cold, dry and windy with some soil drifting. Growth is slow and pastures are poor. Good rains are needed.

In the eastcentral section our Hanna correspondent reports no rain in the past week. Germination has been even and wheat is up from three to six inches, but rain and warmer weather are needed. Some fields have drifted, pastures are very poor and grasshoppers have commenced hatching in some districts. At Calgary no rain has fallen for a week and high winds have depleted surface moisture.

Lacking early rains crops will be uneven. Current prospects are just fair. Fair rains in the Donalda-Stettler area of central Alberta have somewhat alleviated the dry conditions which existed previously. Some drifting has been reported and more rain and warmer weather would be welcome. At Sedgewick, wheat is up three to five inches and the coarse grains are all seeded. Some drifting has occurred here but pastures are good. Rain is needed. Reports from Olds and Lacombe, in the westcentral part of the province, state scattered showers yesterday improved conditions. Considerable soil drifting occurred around Lacombe last week. The wheat crop averages about three inches in height and a few barley fields remain to be seeded. Our Lacombe correspondent states heavy rains are essential for hay and pasture crops and to assure a normal development of cereals. Farther west at Eckville all crops are germinating well and growth is rapid. The District Agriculturist in that area reports considerable wind erosion this year as a result of insufficient seeding of grasses and legumes. Subsoil moisture is satisfactory in this area and seeding is 90 per cent completed.

Edmonton received about an inch of rainfall over the weekend and germination and growth in this area should now be rapid. In the northeast at Bonnyville continuous cold, strong winds in the last week have caused serious soil drifting and considerable damage to crops through cutting down of growing grain and stunting of hay and pasture. However, a half inch of rain fell yesterday and should improve conditions. Farmers in this area are now considering seeding more barley and forage crops. The Dominion Experimental Station at Beaverlodge reports wheat seeding completed with 90 per cent of the oats and barley in the ground. Moisture supplies are good to excellent and early seedings are showing green. Crop prospects are good. At Falher, also in the Peace River area, seeding is completed and half the grain crops is above ground. Moisture supplies are plentiful and no frost or hail has been reported.

The Entomological report from Lethbridge states that wireworm damage to spring-sown wheat is reaching serious proportions with considerable reseeding being required. While grasshoppers are starting to hatch the control campaign is not yet under way. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 44 per cent below normal as compared with 35 per cent below normal a year ago and 35 per cent below normal a week ago. The mean temperature for the week ending June 5 was 0.4 degrees below normal.

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

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. June 5/50	since April 1	since April 1	June 5, 1950 Mean	Normal
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Pierson	.16	4.32	3.59	53	57
	Melita	.12	4.62	3.92	55	58
	Waskada	Nil	3.49	2.98	50	57
2	Boissevain	Nil	5.63	3.69	55	57
	Ninette	Nil	5.51	3.97	56	57
3	Portage la Prairie	.78	6.38	3.44	56	58
	Graysville	.04	6.06	3.59	56	57
	Morden	.16	7.28	3.59	57	58
	Altona	.48	4.62 2/	3.61	57	58
	Morris	N.R.	Nil 2/	3.32	N.R.	58
	Emerson	.48	4.66	3.06	55	59
4	Winnipeg	.50	6.39	3.91	55	59
6	Sprague	.56	4.88	3.83	54	56
	Pinawa	.58	3.12	2.57	52	57
7	Virden	.14	5.36	2.78	56	57
	Rivers	.43	4.14	3.25	53	57
8	Brandon	.78	4.29	3.27	N.R.	57
	Cypress River	.12	3.36	3.42	53	58
9	Neepawa	.26	4.21	3.30	54	57
10	Russell	.48	2.02 2/	2.98	52	55
	Birtle	.28	2.87	3.01	52	55
11	Dauphin	1.18	3.43	2.67	50	55
12	Gimli	.76	5.42	4.05	52	55
13	Swan River	.26	1.34	2.73	51	54
	The Pas	.74	2.92	2.31	47	56
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.39	4.53	3.31	53.5	56.9
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Estevan	.09	2.88	3.31	55	56
	Carlyle	.32	3.30	3.56	52	55
	Oxbow	Nil	2.08 2/	3.47	54	56
1B	Broadview	.28	2.85	3.09	N.R.	56
	Kipling	Nil	3.66	2.91	52	56
	Moosomin	.60	4.20	2.88	54	56
2A	Yellow Grass	Nil	1.82	3.16	N.R.	56
	Midale	.08	2.72	3.65	54	56
2B	Moose Jaw	.02	2.18	3.11	57	58
	Regina	.08	2.78	2.88	54	56
	Qu'Appelle	.06	3.10	3.67	54	57
	Indian Head	.02	2.42	3.30	54	56
3AS	Assiniboia	Trace	2.86	2.48	55	57
	Ceylon	.04	2.27	4.04	51	57
3AN	Chaplin	.10	1.74	3.52	56	57
	Gravelbourg	Trace	2.26	2.46	55	55
	Coderre	.12	2.02	2.74	53	56
	Bishopric	Nil	1.52	2.66	55	56
3BS	Shaunavon	.08	1.10	2.60	55	54
	Cadillac	.08	1.24	4.16	55	54
	Val Marie	Nil	1.62	3.00	53	55
	Aneroid	Nil	.90 2/	3.03	54	55

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

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. June 5/50	since April 1	since April 1	June 5, 1950 Mean	Normal
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
3RN	Pennant	.24	2.18	3.31	57	56
	Swift Current	.12	1.69	3.10	54	56
	Hughton	N.R.	1.87 2/	3.43	N.R.	55
4A	Maple Creek	.38	.80 2/	3.01	57	56
	Consul	Nil	.70	2.93	51	55
	Roadene	.10	1.56	3.43	57	55
5A	Leross	.22	2.80	2.90	N.R.	53
	Lipton	.04	2.86	2.64	53	53
	Yorkton	.02	1.59	3.01	54	56
5B	Dafoe	.33	2.13	2.50	53	53
	Foam Lake	.44	1.67	2.90	53	53
	Lintlaw	.22	2.58	3.24	50	53
6A	Kamsack	.37	1.43	2.24	51	54
	Davidson	.16	2.40	2.72	55	56
	Dilke	Nil	2.60	2.92	N.R.	N.R.
6B	Semans	Trace	1.44	2.11	54	53
	Strasbourg	.14	2.96	3.08	54	55
	Harris	Nil	1.82	2.10	51	55
7A	Outlook	.10	2.65	2.22	57	57
	Saskatoon	.26	1.91	2.46	55	56
	Elbow	.06	2.90	2.60	56	57
7B	Dundurn	.08	1.74	2.80	55	55
	Kindersley	.04	2.63	2.45	56	53
	Rosetown	Trace	2.85	2.94	N.R.	54
8A	Macklin	.24	1.40	3.42	55	53
	Scott	.26	1.07	2.57	55	55
	Ruthilda	.02	1.52 2/	2.75	N.R.	N.R.
8B	Biggar	.06	2.13	2.64	55	55
	Mistatim	.54	3.50	2.72	47	56
	Hudson Bay	1.15	2.89	2.64	50	55
9A	Humboldt	.33	1.53	2.47	51	55
	Melfort	.41	2.29	2.86	52	56
	North Battleford	.38	1.31	2.58	55	58
9B	Rabbit Lake	.18	1.68	2.41	53	56
	Prince Albert	.63	2.86	2.68	53	56
	Island Falls	.27	2.12	2.63	44	54
	Waseca	N.R.	.81 2/	2.63	N.R.	54
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.17	2.23	2.91	53.6	55.3
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
1	Taber	.06	.62 2/	3.02	59	56
	Foremost	.02	1.15	4.43	56	61
	Winnifred	Nil	1.00	3.19	N.R.	N.R.
2	Medicine Hat	Trace	1.16	2.67	58	59
	Manyberries	Nil	1.35	3.17	55	59
	Cowley	.34	3.07	3.74	48	53
3	Macleod	.24	2.60	2.98	57	58
	Cardston	.54	2.98	5.41	52	57
	Lethbridge	.11	2.06	3.30	56	57
	Magrath	.14	.22 2/	4.19	54	57

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

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m.	since	since	June 5, 1950	
		June 5/50	April 1	April 1	Mean	Normal
ALBERTA						
3	Vauxhall	.02	1.82 2/	2.71	57	57
	Brooks	Nil	.86	2.82	56	58
	Bindloss	Nil	.48	2.81	53	59
	Empress	.12	.17	2.83	57	59
4	High River	.36	2.47	4.18	50	54
	Vulcan	.28	1.81 2/	3.03	N.R.	N.R.
5	Drumheller	Nil	.67	3.06	58	57
	Hanna	.06	.55 2/	3.40	53	57
	Naco	Nil	1.57	3.55	55	57
	Oyen	Nil	.64 2/	2.05	N.R.	N.R.
6	Olds	Nil	1.26	3.67	54	53
	Calgary	Trace	1.77	3.51	54	54
	Three Hills	Nil	1.02	2.73	54	52
	Strathmore	Nil	.54	3.18	52	52
	Gleichen	Nil	1.43	2.95	56	54
	Hussar	.14	.71 2/	3.23	N.R.	N.R.
	Sedgewick	.18	1.04 2/	2.27	54	54
	Hardisty	2.00	2.92 2/	2.30	N.R.	N.R.
7	Coronation	.27	1.20	2.72	54	54
	Hughenden	.16	1.33	2.86	56	57
	Red Deer	.01	1.41	4.03	53	53
	Lacombe	.01	1.80 2/	3.19	55	53
	Wetaskiwin	.02	1.60	2.81	56	53
	Camrose	Nil	1.20	3.29	55	52
	Stettler	.16	.89	4.02	55	53
	Jasper	.22	3.18	1.90	48	53
9	Rocky Mountain House	Trace	1.43	3.73	53	51
	Springdale	.12	2.22	3.84	53	52
	Vegreville	.03	.41	3.44	57	54
	Vermilion	.45	1.57	2.98	54	53
11	Lloydminster	.24	1.98	2.45	55	53
	Edmonton	.25	1.95	2.96	56	55
12	Edson	.18	1.66 2/	2.70	50	53
	Whitecourt	.12	1.48	3.34	53	54
13	Elk Point	N.R.	1.02 2/	2.65	N.R.	53
14	Campsie	.08	.98	2.96	54	53
	Athabaska	.14	1.86	3.01	54	54
	Lac la Biche	.10	1.63	2.80	54	53
	High Prairie	.28	3.16	2.52	N.R.	53
15	Wagner	.11	3.14	2.97	54	55
	Beaverlodge	.26	3.40	2.52	53	53
16	Rycroft	N.R.	2.82 2/	1.69	N.R.	53
	Grand Prairie	.14	3.09	2.86	54	55
	Fairview	.17	2.73	1.97	53	54
	Fort St. John	.12	2.96	2.64	53	54
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.16	1.72	3.08	54.3	54.7

N.R. No report

1/ Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

2/ Incomplete: Not included in average.