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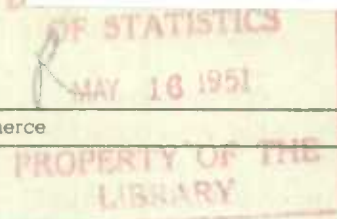
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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Ottawa, May 15, 1951, 3 p.m. - The second 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.

SUMMARY

Warm, dry weather prevailed over the Prairies during the past week with good progress made in seeding, particularly in Manitoba, southern Alberta and parts of Saskatchewan and westcentral Alberta. Given suitable weather, seeding will proceed at a rapid pace in nearly all districts during the current week. Moisture supplies are generally good to excellent and pastures and range land are in very good condition.

Excellent headway was made under ideal conditions in Manitoba during the past week. Wheat seeding is mostly completed and a good start made in other grains in the southern part west to Souris. Elsewhere 50 per cent of the wheat is seeded and seeding of other grains started. In some cases seeding is being deliberately held up to obtain a kill in wild oats. About one-third of the expected 22,000 acres of sugar beets is planted. Moisture conditions are excellent and growth of pastures is good. Early seeded wheat is up about 1 inch. A few grasshoppers commenced hatching in the Red River area about May 10.

The amount of seeding done in Saskatchewan varies considerably throughout the province. On the whole about 12 per cent has been seeded and rapid progress is expected this week as seeding is under way in all parts of the province. The most advanced region is north of Battleford where seeding commenced April 28 and 60 per cent of the wheat and 20 per cent of the coarse grains are seeded. Satisfactory progress has also been made at Young and Regina where up to 40 per cent has been sown. In other districts the amount varies from 5 to 15 per cent completed. Soil moisture conditions are good to excellent. Favourable progress has been made in spring harvesting with yield and quality outturns satisfactory.

Data for Newfoundland not available.

In Alberta, warm weather promoted drying during the past week and seeding is now general in southern and some westcentral sections of the province. Further rains have again delayed work in eastcentral parts of the province, in the Lacombe-Drumheller-Calgary region and in the Peace River area. Seeding is late in much of the province but given dry weather is expected to be general in nearly all districts by the 16th. Last week's warm weather permitted resumption of threshing operations on wintered-over crops with good yields reported from stook threshing. Losses due to spring rains may, however, be heavy in some districts. Weekend rains again delayed threshing in some areas. Moisture reserves are considered excellent in nearly all parts of the province and pastures are in exceptionally good condition.

Manitoba - In Manitoba during the past week a large area was seeded under excellent conditions. Wheat seeding is now mostly finished in southern parts and up to 50 per cent completed elsewhere. A good start has been made on coarse grains with the south more advanced than other areas. Moisture reserves are excellent and early-planted fields are well up. One-third of the 22,000 expected acreage of sugar beets has been planted under excellent conditions. Planting of sunflowers and other special crops has started. Some soil drifting is occurring in finely worked fields. The Entomological Division at Brandon reports that roadside grasshoppers are commencing to hatch in the Red River Valley. No damage has occurred yet.

Seeding of crops including sunflowers is well advanced in the Altona area southwest of Winnipeg. Some farmers are deliberately delaying seeding because of the heavy germination of wild oats. Around Pilot Mound 75 per cent of the wheat seeding has been completed under ideal conditions and seeding of coarse grains will be general this week. In southwestern Manitoba rapid progress was also made in seeding during the past week. The lowlands are still very wet. The condition of fall rye and pastures is good.

Wheat seeding around Winnipeg is practically completed and early-sown wheat is above ground showing fairly uniform germination. In the east Selkirk area low lying fields are still wet but higher ground has been worked. Some are holding back in seeding because of the wild oats. Potato planting has started in this area and some transplanting of early garden crops has commenced. Over 80 per cent of the wheat has been seeded in the Portage area and about half the coarse grains. Surface soil is dry but reserve moisture is good.

In the westcentral part of the province good progress has been made with seeding under favourable weather conditions. Some are delaying seeding in this part of the province in order to remove the heavy growth of wild oats. In the Brandon area 75 per cent of the wheat has been seeded, 25 per cent of the coarse grains and 5 per cent of the flax. Surface soil is drying rapidly and some drifting has occurred. Rain would benefit pastures, hay fields and garden crops. A good start has been made in the Woodnorth and Virden areas where excessive moisture held up seeding. Samples of spring threshed grain at Virden are fair with moisture content low. Losses were not excessive in wintered over flax.

At Neepawa 50 per cent of the wheat has been seeded and 5 per cent of the oats and barley. Early-sown crops are showing above ground. Farther west at Shoal Lake 70 per cent of the wheat has been seeded and 20 per cent of the coarse grains. Correspondents at these two areas and also at Minnedosa

report heavy growth of wild oats and some delay of seeding on this account. Harvesting of the balance of last year's crop is under way at Minnedosa and about one-third of the combining has been done at Shoal Lake. Over-wintered flax is yielding poorly but most other grains show little damage.

In the northwest part of the province at Dauphin seeding will be general this week. An increase in flax acreage is looked for in this area. Spring combining of grain is general and barley and flax in the swath wintered better than standing crops. At Swan River harvesting operations are practically completed and work on the land is now general. Moisture conditions are generally good and fall rye crops, pastures and hay meadows are doing well.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 17 per cent below normal in comparison with 2 per cent below normal last week and 83 per cent above normal at the same time last year. Mean temperature for the week ending May 14 was 3.4 degrees above normal compared with 7.2 degrees above normal last week and 3.9 degrees below normal a year ago.

Saskatchewan -

Rapid progress is expected in seeding operations in Saskatchewan this week. Progress to date has been slow and shows considerable variation. In the North Battleford region 60 per cent of the wheat and 20 per cent of the coarse grains have been seeded, and satisfactory progress has also been made in the Young and Regina areas. In most districts, however, only 5 to 15 per cent of the wheat seeding has been completed. Many of the low spots and sloughs are filled with water and moisture conditions generally are good to excellent with subsoil reserves sufficient for an excellent start. Favourable progress was made during the past week in spring harvesting with yield and quality outturns satisfactory.

In the southeast part of the province at Manor some work was done during the past week on well drained lands but most fields are still too wet. A heavy rain Monday night will further delay seeding. Pastures and hay crops are making excellent progress. Seeding is now general in the Fillmore, Indian Head and Yellow Grass areas. Fields are in good condition at Fillmore and excellent growth has occurred in pastures. At Indian Head early-sown crops are beginning to show and growth of pastures in this and the Yellow Grass area is excellent.

In the southwest part of the province at Swift Current progress was slow during the week as many are waiting for low spots to dry. Some farmers have about half their seeding done while others are just starting. Seeding is now general in the Gravelbourg area with approximately 40 per cent of the wheat seeded. Weather permitting, seeding of all grains should be completed by the 25th. Moisture conditions are good and grain sown on the 5th is now above ground. At Eastend surface moisture conditions are the best in years and subsoil moisture is fair to good. Seeding is about 30 per cent done.

In the eastcentral part of the province seeding is general and the land is in good shape with plentiful moisture. Wild oat growth has been heavy in this district. Pastures are from 7 to 10 days earlier than last year. Farther west at Drake good progress in seeding has occurred due to warm, dry weather. A half inch of rain fell on Monday and moisture conditions are good.

At Scott seeding has been delayed by rains and only 15 per cent has been completed to date. Considerable threshing remains to be done north and west of Scott. The soil is working up well and moisture conditions are excellent with wheat emerging a week after drilling. Hay and pasture crops are unusually good. At Leader only 15 per cent of the seeding has been done. Surface and subsoil moisture conditions are fair in this area.

In the northern part of the province at Melfort wheat seeding is general and there is adequate moisture on both summerfallow and stubble land to ensure good germination. Combining of last year's crop is still in progress. Harvesting is also in full swing at Parkside in the Prince Albert area. Fields are still wet and soft in spots thus seeding operations are just beginning. Seedling stands of forage crops and clovers have wintered well and are making excellent growth.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 8 per cent above normal in comparison with 26 per cent above normal last week and 23 per cent below normal at the same time last year. Mean temperature for the week ending May 14 was 6.8 degrees above normal compared with 7.3 degrees above normal last week and 2.4 degrees above normal a year ago.

Alberta - Seeding is now general in southern and some westcentral areas of the province but excess moisture is still retarding operations in the eastcentral section and in the Lacombe-Drumheller-Calgary region. Some work has been done in parts of the Peace River country but seeding will not be general until the 16th. Good weather last week permitted resumption of threshing operations in all areas where harvest was incomplete last fall. Good yields have been recovered from stook threshing although damage owing to spring rains may be heavy in some districts. Combine harvesting was under way by the weekend but rain on Sunday in the area most affected again delayed operations.

Moisture and growing conditions are excellent in the Medicine Hat-Manyberries areas and seeding should be nearly completed by the weekend. Range lands are in good condition. Weekend showers at Brooks delayed seeding. Pastures are good in this area. Farther west at Vulcan wheat seeding is 50 per cent completed with some 90 per cent of the coarse grains in the ground. Conditions are good.

In the southwest part of the province from Calgary through Lethbridge prospects are generally good. Soil moisture reserves are rather light in the eastern part of this area while along the Foothills seeding is delayed by wet soil. Seeding of all crops is late but early-sown wheat is already showing a good stand. Stands of winter wheat and fall rye vary from good to spotty. Range grass is good but late. The Dominion Experimental Farm at Lethbridge reports 37,000 acres of sugar beets contracted with 60 per cent seeded while 8,000 acres of canning crops are under contract with 25 per cent seeded. It is reported that the mustard seed acreage may reach 40,000. Some wireworm damage is becoming evident but it is still too early to determine the full extent of the infestation. At Claresholm seeding is 40 per cent completed and pastures are making rapid growth. Moisture conditions are satisfactory and no soil drifting is apparent.

In the Stettler district of central Alberta seeding is expected to become general this week with about 3 per cent of the wheat seeded so far. Moisture supplies are good with fields still too wet to work in low places.

General weekend rains delayed seeding and harvesting operations from Lacombe through Red Deer and Olds. Lacombe reports excellent prospects for hay and pasture crops and with no further rain seeding of grains should be general by May 20. Wheat acreage will be down here with corresponding increases in barley and flax. At Red Deer wheat seeding is general but no coarse grains have gone in as yet. At Olds wheat is about 35 per cent seeded with planting of oats and barley just getting under way. Threshing of wintered over crops is about completed. In the Calgary district seeding will be about 10 days later than last year although wheat seeding was under way the latter part of last week. Pastures are benefiting greatly from recent heavy rains.

In the Edmonton area seeding should be fairly general by the end of the week but continued dry, warm weather will be required for the next 10 days to two weeks. West of Edmonton at Evansburg seeding was expected to be general by today. Grass is making rapid growth. Excellent moisture conditions are reported in the Vermilion area east of Edmonton but heavy rains have further delayed threshing and spring operations. No seeding has been done as yet.

In the Athabasca district no grain had been seeded up to last weekend but with continued warm weather seeding will be general this week. At Beaverlodge in the Peace River area showers and cool weather have further delayed field work although some seeding has been completed in the northwest part of the district. Seeding should be general by the 16th. At Falher moisture conditions are good although some grey soils were baked by the hot sun. Work is proceeding slowly with a small amount of wheat in the ground.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 94 per cent above normal as compared with 38 per cent below normal a year ago and 119 per cent above normal a week ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 14 was 6.3 degrees above normal compared with 2.5 degrees above normal last week and 4.5 degrees above normal a year ago.

Weekly Precipitation and Temperature in the Prairie Provinces 1951 1/

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week Ending	Total	Normal	Week Ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. May 14/51	Since April 1	Since April 1	May 14, 1951 Mean	Normal
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Pierson	.28	2.88	2.10	54	49
	Melita	Nil	1.90	2.05	52	49
	Waskada	N.R.	1.41 2/	1.59	N.R.	50
2	Boissevain	.06	1.43	2.23	52	49
	Ninette	.02	1.60	2.30	52	48
3	Portage la Prairie	Nil	1.48	1.98	54	49
	Graysville	Trace	1.30	1.61	54	49
	Morden	Nil	1.29	2.02	55	50
	Altona	N.R.	.54 2/	2.01	N.R.	49
	Morris	Trace	1.22	1.78	55	49
	Emerson	Trace	1.38	1.20	53	50
4	Winnipeg	.04	1.22	2.12	54	50
6	Sprague	.06	1.90	2.05	51	48
	Pinawa	.06	1.33	1.32	52	48
7	Virden	.02	1.86	1.26	51	49
	Rivers	Trace	1.09	1.81	52	49
8	Brandon	.06	.87	1.80	N.R.	50
	Cypress River	.02	.88	1.76	52	49
9	Neepawa	.02	1.53	1.80	52	48
10	Russell	.16	1.14	1.52	N.R.	47
11	Dauphin	.06	1.62	1.17	49	48
12	Gimli	.11	1.47	1.94	50	47
13	Swan River	.30	1.45	1.28	50	45
	The Pas	.46	1.12	1.15	47	47
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.08	1.45	1.74	52.0	48.6
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Estevan	.09	1.34	1.62	55	48
	Carlyle	Nil	2.38	2.08	52	47
	Oxbow	.18	2.00	1.91	50	48
1B	Broadview	.08	1.10	1.62	52	48
	Kipling	N.R.	N.R.	1.52	N.R.	48
	Moosomin	.20	2.35	1.30	52	48
2A	Yellow Grass	Nil	1.90	1.61	54	47
	Midale	Nil	.74	1.95	54	48
2B	Moose Jaw	.06	2.08	1.39	57	51
	Regina	Trace	1.42	1.40	56	49
	Qu'Appelle	.06	1.27	1.88	54	47
	Indian Head	.08	.96	1.56	52	48
3AS	Assiniboia	.02	1.99	1.23	56	49
	Ceylon	Trace	2.01	2.39	52	48
3AN	Chaplin	.06	1.27	1.72	60	50
	Gravelbourg	Nil	.74	1.24	55	48
	Coderre	.08	.88	1.25	55	48
	Bishopric	.08	1.85	1.30	58	47
3ES	Shaunavon	.20	1.20	1.36	56	46
	Cadillac	.04	1.69	1.99	56	46
	Val Marie	N.R.	N.R.	1.39	N.R.	47
	Aneroid	Nil	.42	1.45	57	47
3BN	Pennant	.12	1.47	1.81	58	50
	Swift Current	.15	.96	1.46	56	49
	Hughton	Trace	1.30	1.92	58	48

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<u>SASKATCHEWAN (cont'd)</u>						
4A	Maple Creek	.32	1.50	1.46	58	50
	Consul	.04	1.34	1.59	53	47
	Roadene	.22	1.52	1.93	58	48
5A	Leross	.18	1.17	1.53	52	46
	Lipton	.01	1.25	1.34	54	47
	Yorkton	.70	1.27	1.35	54	47
5B	Dafoe	.13	1.02	1.12	53	46
	Foam Lake	.02	2.03	1.33	52	44
	Lintlaw	.06	1.61	1.57	50	44
6A	Kamsack	1.22	1.83	1.12	52	46
	Davidson	.38	2.03	1.25	56	48
	Dilke	.28	1.77	1.36	N.R.	N.R.
6B	Semans	.44	2.09	1.03	54	46
	Strasbourg	.72	2.99	1.35	53	48
	Harris	Nil	2.19	1.11	54	47
7A	Outlook	Nil	1.32	1.05	57	48
	Saskatoon	.07	1.02	1.18	55	48
	Elbow	Nil	1.82	1.08	57	49
7B	Dundurn	.16	1.95	1.34	56	48
	Kindersley	.06	1.84	1.22	57	47
	Rosetown	Trace	1.84	1.56	58	47
8A	Macklin	Trace	.97	2.22	57	46
	Scott	.24	2.62	1.48	54	48
	Ruthilda	.04	.04 2/	1.28	N.R.	N.R.
8B	Biggar	.02	2.09	1.09	56	48
	Mistatim	.01	1.09	1.34	49	47
	Hudson Bay	.04	1.79	1.41	50	47
9A	Humboldt	.38	2.11	1.15	54	48
	Melfort	.04	1.06	1.38	52	48
	North Battleford	.32	1.58	1.12	56	50
9B	Rabbit Lake	.02	.24 2/	1.22	52	47
	Prince Albert	.12	1.03	1.42	52	48
	Island Falls	.11	.16	1.38	45	45
Waseca		.06	3.25	1.41	56	48
<u>SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE</u>		.14	1.57	1.46	54.4	47.6
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
1	Taber	.14	3.73	1.75	58	50
	Foremost	Nil	2.76	2.75	58	52
	Winnifred	.04	2.79	2.03	N.R.	N.R.
2	Medicine Hat	.01	1.31	1.30	61	52
	Manyberries	.02	1.61	1.80	56	52
	Cowley	.70	3.66	2.29	51	48
3	Macleod	.36	4.98	1.38	56	51
	Cardston	3.00	8.48	2.70	55	47
	Lethbridge	.29	4.07	1.74	56	50
4	Magrath	.06	3.61	2.44	54	51
	Vauxhall	.50	2.68	1.46	57	51
	Brooks	.10	2.33	1.61	59	52
5	Bindloss	Nil	2.14	1.64	56	51
	Empress	.04	1.16	1.52	58	51
	High River	.76	4.13	2.41	51	48
Vulcan		.52	3.92	1.78	N.R.	N.R.

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		Week Ending	Total	Normal	Week Ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. May 14/51	Since April 1	Since April 1	May 14, 1951 Mean	Normal
<u>ALBERTA (cont'd)</u>						
5	Drumheller	.86	4.46	1.51	59	50
	Hanna	.24	2.21	1.87	58	49
	Naco	.30	1.68	2.02	58	48
	Oyen	.26	2.52	1.23	N.R.	N.R.
6	Olds	N.R.	.93 2/	2.08	N.R.	48
	Calgary	.90	3.91	1.67	54	49
	Three Mills	.96	4.48	1.16	55	48
	Strathmore	1.40	5.00	1.54	56	46
7	Gleichen	.66	4.06	1.54	56	48
	Hussar	.74	3.61	1.93	N.R.	N.R.
	Sedgewick	.14	.14	1.46	55	47
	Hardisty	.16	2.31	1.12	N.R.	N.R.
8	Coronation	.81	3.51	1.69	57	46
	Hughenden	.04	1.38	1.66	57	46
	Red Deer	.83	4.21	1.97	55	47
	Lacombe	.79	3.62	1.56	55	48
9	Wetaskiwin	.18	4.58	1.30	56	48
	Camrose	.16	2.86	1.91	56	47
	Stettler	.56	4.08	2.41	58	47
	Jasper	.66	.88	1.10	53	48
10	Rocky Mountain House	.62	4.81	2.32	53	46
	Springdale	N.R.	2.36 2/	2.09	N.R.	46
	Vegreville	.10	1.96	1.75	55	48
	Vermilion	.50	3.35	1.41	56	47
11	Lloydminster	.08	2.82	1.12	N.R.	46
	Edmonton	.04	3.74	1.49	56	50
	Edson	.26	2.97	1.36	50	48
	Whitecourt	.04	3.11	1.82	52	47
12	Elk Point	Trace	3.02	1.30	55	46
	Campsie	Trace	3.36	1.28	53	48
	Athabaska	Nil	2.69	1.35	56	48
	Lac la Biche	Trace	3.20	1.35	54	48
13	High Prairie	.08	3.49	1.10	52	49
	Wagner	Trace	3.40	1.48	50	47
	Beaverlodge	.16	2.40	1.13	49	47
	Rycroft	.30	3.09	.96	48	47
14	Grand Prairie	.12	2.43	1.34	50	47
	Fairview	.45	3.30	.83	48	48
	Fort St. John	.46	2.65	1.22	51	49
	ALBERTA AVERAGE		.38	3.18	1.64	54.7

N.R. No report

^{1/} Source: Meteorological Service of Canada

^{2/} Incomplete: not included in average