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1951

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Ottawa, June 19, 1951, 3 p.m. - The sixth 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

With minor exceptions, moisture conditions are good throughout the Prairie Provinces, and with warmer weather, crops generally made satisfactory to excellent progress during the past week. Damage from grasshoppers has been light to date but heavy infestations are developing in some districts. Baiting operations are under way in affected areas. Cutworm damage has been quite severe in local areas of western Saskatchewan and southern Alberta. Wireworms have been very active in parts of west-central and south-western Saskatchewan.

Crops made satisfactory progress in Manitoba this past week. Late-seeded crops have benefited by rainfall and warmer weather and have germinated well. Early-seeded wheat is eight to ten inches in height. Very little crop is suffering but general rains would be helpful, especially in south-central areas and the Brandon district. Special crops are progressing favourably. Grasshoppers are unlikely to cause serious damage this year. Where necessary, control measures are under way and weed spraying has started.

Growth was good though not rapid in Saskatchewan last week. Late seedings made favourable progress after recent rains but cool weather in early June retarded growth considerably. Surface and subsoil moisture supplies are generally good but rain is needed in west-central areas and northeast Saskatchewan around Melfort. In the province as a whole wheat averages six inches and coarse grains four inches in height. Good progress has been made in summerfallow operations. Grasshopper damage has been light to date but cutworms have caused considerable damage in central and west-central districts and wireworms in the Scott, Unity, Swift Current and Stewart Valley districts.

Excellent growing weather has prevailed in most of Alberta during the past week and crops have made rapid progress. Moisture conditions

Data for Newfoundland not available.

are good in all sections with the exception of the southern part of the Peace River district and the area from Edmonton north to Athabasca. Rain is needed immediately at the latter point where crops are suffering from drought. The grasshopper control campaign in the south is well under way and damage so far has been limited for the most part to field margins.

Manitoba - Warmer weather following the rainfall in Manitoba has promoted crop growth in all districts. Late-seeded crops have benefited particularly and now show good germination. Early-seeded wheat is eight to ten inches in height. Special crops are making satisfactory progress but pastures and hay crops are only fair. Very little crop is now suffering from lack of moisture but general rains are needed in south-central and parts of west-central areas. Grasshopper activity has been mostly confined to roadsides and where necessary control measures are under way. No serious damage is anticipated. Weed spraying has started.

Growing conditions are excellent in the south-eastern part of the province at Vita. Pastures and gardens and all crops are doing well. Some damage has occurred from cutworms but few grasshoppers are in evidence. Around Morden the weather continues dry and crop growth has been slow. Rain is needed for all crops and pastures. In the southwest early-sown wheat is in the shot blade and all crops are progressing favourably. Late-sown grains would benefit from more moisture. Pastures are good and no crop damage has occurred.

In the Selkirk area heavy rains were received last week and the crop situation has improved markedly. Weed spraying has started in this district and summerfallow operations are well under way. Grain crops are growing well around Winnipeg. Early-sown grain is six to eight inches in height while late-sown crops are now covering the ground. More rain would help gardens around Winnipeg where cutworm damage is heavy. Local grasshopper damage has occurred. Moisture supplies are adequate for ten days in the Portage area. Wheat is eight to ten inches in height and all crops are growing rapidly. Condition of sugar beets is excellent and the flax crop looks good. Farther west at Brandon warm weather is causing rapid growth but rain would be beneficial particularly for pastures and hay lands. No insect damage is in evidence. All crops are progressing favourably in the Woodnorth area and growing conditions during the past week were excellent.

In crop districts 9 and 10, west-central area, moisture supplies are adequate and all crops are making rapid progress under ideal weather conditions. At Neepawa some early crop is twelve inches high and hay and legume crops are excellent. Similar conditions prevail at Minnedosa. Some hail damage occurred in this district during the past week. At Shoal Lake conditions are also excellent with grain five inches in height and freer from weeds than usual. Weed spraying operations are in full swing in all three of these areas.

In northern Manitoba seeding is completed except for scattered low areas around Swan River. Growth conditions have been ideal with fall rye headed and the wheat crop stooling nicely. Some chemical weed control is being applied and DDT is being used in legume fields to reduce weevil infestations. Cutworms have destroyed some garden crops.

The Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Brandon reports that the good growth of vegetation is holding grasshoppers on roadsides and little crop damage has occurred to date. Precipitation for the province as a whole since April 1 has been 35 per cent below normal, as compared with 29 per cent below normal last week and 39 per cent above normal at the same time last year. Mean temperature for the week ending June 18 was 5 degrees above normal as compared with 5 degrees below normal last week and 0.2 degrees below normal a year ago.

Saskatchewan - Crops made favourable progress in Saskatchewan during the past week. Late seedings benefited particularly from the rains and where germination had been patchy before a larger proportion is now showing above ground. In the province as a whole wheat averages six inches and coarse grains four inches in height. The first operation on summerfallowing is 60 per cent completed. Heavy, though scattered, wireworm damage has occurred in west-central and south-western districts while cutworms have caused considerable damage in the west-central region. Surface and subsoil moisture conditions are generally good but more rain will be needed soon especially in west-central and north-eastern Saskatchewan around Melfort.

In the Fillmore district crops are in need of rain to promote growth. Germination has been quite patchy in late-sown crops with a good proportion only starting after the rains a week ago. In the Indian Head area early-sown crops are doing well and since the rains last week late-sown patchy crops are now coming along better. Pastures have improved and little insect damage to crops has been reported. At Swift Current late-seeded crops have also emerged well following the early June rains. Growth has been good during the past two weeks and scattered showers have helped in some places but many localities are dependent on subsoil reserves to keep the crops growing. Fall rye prospects are better than average. Cutworm damage has been severe in isolated cases and wireworms have caused slight damage in many fields. South of Swift Current at Eastend two and one-half inches of rainfall were received in the past two weeks. Although cool weather in the first part of June slowed crop growth, crops have germinated well and prospects are good. Subsoil moisture is the best since 1942. At Leader crops are also growing well. Some thinning by wireworms has occurred and grasshoppers have broken out in patches but are being held in check by control measures.

In east-central Saskatchewan at Willowbrook recent rains and warm weather have promoted rapid crop growth. Some fields are up six to ten inches in height and moisture supplies are adequate to carry crops for two weeks. In the central region at Drake although no rain was received last week moisture conditions are fair to good. With warmer weather grains are progressing favourably and the sweet clover crop is particularly good. Most summerfallows have been worked once already. Grasshoppers are hatching and baiting and spraying operations have started. Some cutworm damage occurred in this area. At Rosetown germination has been uneven in some fields due to the hard surface but subsoil moisture remains good. General crop prospects are also good. Considerable cutworm damage occurred in this area. Farther north at Scott grain crops made good progress during the week but rain will be needed in west-central Saskatchewan to maintain generally good stands of grain.

In north-eastern Saskatchewan around Melfort only local showers have been received since the last report. Surface moisture is low in the Melfort area and rain will be needed soon to maintain good growth of crops, particularly hay and pastures. Primarily due to cool weather and lack of moisture crops are not as far advanced as normally would be expected.

The Entomological Laboratory at Saskatoon reports that several thousand acres of crops were destroyed by the pale western cutworm in the following districts: Zealandia, Rosetown, Herschel, Elrose, Wartime, Greenan, Wiseton, Milden and Hazlet. Some damage occurred in Bradwell, Colonsay, Hanley and Saskatoon districts. Occasional fields have been severely damaged by the red backed cutworm around Saskatoon. Severe wireworm damage has occurred in Landis, Scott, Unity, Swift Current and Stewart Valley districts but damage is light in most of central Saskatchewan. Very little grasshopper damage has occurred to date although severe infestations are developing in some districts.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 14 per cent below normal as compared with 2 per cent below normal last week and 16 per cent below normal at the same time a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 19 was 4.6 degrees above normal as compared with 5.1 degrees below normal last week and 2.1 degrees above normal a year ago. It is pointed out that the current precipitation and temperature data are subject to revision since many points were unable to report yesterday owing to Monday closing of many telegraph stations.

Alberta - Warmer weather during the past week provided almost ideal growing conditions over the greater part of the province. Moisture conditions are good as far north as Edmonton. Winds have dried surface soil in some northern areas particularly around Athabasca and in the southern part of the Peace River district. Rains are needed in these areas to assure even germination of late-sown cereals and to maintain growth. Grasshoppers are hatching rapidly in southern areas and the control campaign is in operation from Drumheller south. Damage so far has been mostly limited to field margins. Severe infestations of pale western cutworms have occurred around Milk River, Armada and Enchant in the south of the province. A heavy infestation of flea beetles has been noted on commercial mustard seedings around MacLeod and Nobleford.

Crops in south-eastern Alberta are in very good condition, with fall rye headed out. Moisture reserves are good and pasture and range grasses are making excellent growth.

Scattered showers occurred in south-western Alberta and with weather remaining cool during the past week the growth has been slow. Special crops including canning peas, corn, beans, cucumbers and also mustard, suffered limited damage from the recent snow storm and cool weather. Warmer weather is now needed to promote growth. In the extreme southwest at Cardston, crops generally are ten days later than normal. Pastures, however, are excellent here and the hay crop is assured. Warmer weather would improve prospects for all crops. Moisture conditions are excellent and crops, while late, are making excellent progress in the Claresholm area.

Crops are in good condition in the large wheat growing area around Vulcan in south-central Alberta. At Hanna in the east-central part of the province, pastures are said to be the best in years. Moisture conditions are good and growth satisfactory although early-seeded fields are very weedy. At Olds in western Alberta, warmer weather has promoted growth of all crops and moisture supplies are ample for the next ten days at least.

Crops are late in central sections of the province but moisture reserves, with local exceptions, remain quite good. Generally satisfactory growth was made during the past week. Wheat is up from four to six inches and coarse grains are showing above ground in most central districts. In the Red Deer-Lacombe section of west-central Alberta, excellent growing weather has prevailed for the past few days and growth of all crops is rapid. Prospects are very good. Farther west at Eckville moisture conditions are less satisfactory and hay and pasture crops are only fair.

Crops are now doing very well in the Vermilion area of east-central Alberta and a heavy hay crop is in prospect. Rain, however, will soon be needed. Crops remain in good condition in the Edmonton area but surface soil is lacking in moisture and rains would be welcome. West of Edmonton, at Evansburg, grain and forage crops are making rapid growth as a result of warmer weather. Moisture supplies are good here. At Bonnyville crops are now doing well with alfalfa starting to bloom. Hay crop prospects are good but rain will be needed soon to maintain growth of other crops. At Athabasca, north of Edmonton, crops are failing owing to lack of moisture but rain could still change the outlook considerably. Pastures have held up well. Growth has been slow in the Peace River area and moisture is required to relieve dry surface soil conditions.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 24 per cent above normal as compared with 45 per cent above normal a week ago, and 50 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 18 was 2.6 degrees above normal compared with 5.8 degrees below normal a week ago and 3.3 degrees above normal a year ago. It is pointed out that current precipitation and temperature data are subject to revision since many points were unable to report yesterday owing to Monday closing of a number of telegraph stations.

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. June 18/51	since April 1	since April 1	June 18, 1951 Mean	Normal
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Pierson	N.R.	3.81 2/	4.74	N.R.	60
	Melita	.02	3.29	5.71	67	60
	Waskada	.50	3.05	4.63	66	61
2	Boissevain	.16	2.96	4.80	66	61
	Ninette	.14	2.91	5.24	64	61
3	Portage la Prairie	.11	3.63	4.66	N.R.	61
	Graysville	.18	2.34	5.11	65	61
	Morden	.08	2.86	4.98	68	61
	Altona	N.R.	1.98 2/	4.95	N.R.	62
	Morris	.18	2.55	4.68	66	62
	Emerson	.14	2.86	4.28	64	62
4	Winnipeg	.17	3.52	5.28	65	62
6	Sprague	.26	3.14	5.22	62	60
	Pinawa	N.R.	2.88 2/	3.63	N.R.	60
7	Virden	Nil	2.99	4.06	66	60
	Rivers	.58	3.52	4.58	66	60
8	Brandon	.07	2.45	4.65	N.R.	60
	Cypress River	Nil	1.48	4.66	65	61
9	Neepawa	.12	4.28	4.63	66	60
10	Russell	.10	2.46	4.35	N.R.	58
11	Dauphin	.24	2.64	3.78	67	59
12	Gimli	.03	2.96	5.40	64	60
13	Swan River	.06	3.45	4.25	66	58
	The Pas	.46	4.09	3.26	64	59
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.17	3.02	4.65	65.4	60.4
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Estevan	.14	3.68	4.66	66	60
	Carlyle	.22	3.81	4.87	63	58
	Oxbow	N.R.	3.33 2/	4.74	N.R.	59
1B	Broadview	.71	3.89	4.10	64	59
	Kipling	N.R.	N.R.	4.15	N.R.	59
	Moosomin	.14	3.84	4.14	66	59
2A	Yellow Grass	N.R.	2.95 2/	4.47	N.R.	60
	Midale	N.R.	3.72 2/	4.94	N.R.	59
2B	Moose Jaw	.08	4.69	4.46	65	62
	Regina	.45	4.08	4.28	64	59
	Qu'Appelle	N.R.	3.18 2/	5.22	N.R.	59
	Indian Head	.05	2.61	4.97	64	58
3AS	Assiniboia	.69	4.54	3.76	63	62
	Ceylon	.62	4.51	5.66	N.R.	60
3AN	Chaplin	N.R.	3.17 2/	4.85	N.R.	60
	Gravelbourg	N.R.	2.25 2/	3.91	N.R.	60
	Coderre	.20	3.04	4.09	63	60
	Bishopric	N.R.	4.26 2/	3.92	N.R.	59
3BS	Shaunavon	.42	3.95	3.72	62	59
	Cadillac	N.R.	3.29 2/	5.88	N.R.	58
	Val Marie	N.R.	N.R.	4.21	N.R.	59
	Aneroid	N.R.	1.56 2/	4.56	N.R.	59
3BN	Pennant	.14	3.21	4.89	64	59
	Swift Current	.02	2.31	4.42	63	59
	Hughton	Nil	2.40 2/	4.40	63	58

Weekly Precipitation and Temperature in the Prairie Provinces, 1951 1/ (continued)

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. June 18/51	since April 1	since April 1	June 18/51 Mean	Normal
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
4A	Maple Creek	N.R.	2.09 2/	4.31	N.R.	60
	Consul	.60	3.22	3.93	58	58
	Roadene	N.R.	3.25 2/	4.40	N.R.	58
5A	Leross	N.R.	2.78 2/	4.40	N.R.	57
	Lipton	Trace	2.49	3.80	62	58
	Yorkton	.07	4.58	4.20	65	58
5B	Dafoe	.01	3.66	3.84	64	58
	Foam Lake	Nil	4.25	4.15	64	57
	Lintlaw	N.R.	4.15 2/	4.26	N.R.	56
6A	Kamsack	Nil	3.02	3.38	66	57
	Davidson	N.R.	3.82 2/	3.74	N.R.	59
	Dilke	N.R.	4.24 2/	4.12	N.R.	N.R.
	Semans	.10	3.88	2.87	65	57
	Strasbourg	.02	5.56	4.15	62	59
	6B	Harris	N.R.	3.31 2/	3.38	N.R.
Outlook		Trace	2.66	2.92	65	59
Saskatoon		Trace	2.18	3.54	63	59
	Elbow	N.R.	3.21 2/	3.72	N.R.	59
	Dundurn	Nil	2.95	4.29	58	59
	7A	Kindersley	Trace	2.81	3.31	63
Rosetown		.01	3.22	4.13	65	56
7B	Macklin	Nil	2.91	4.39	62	56
	Scott	.04	3.89	3.58	60	58
	Ruthilda	Trace	.84 2/	4.03	N.R.	N.R.
8A	Biggar	Nil	3.53	3.91	62	58
	Mistatim	N.R.	1.31 2/	3.96	N.R.	59
	Hudson Bay	.17	4.92	3.94	63	59
8B	Humboldt	.18	3.60	3.47	65	59
	Melfort	Trace	2.32	3.75	66	59
9A	North Battleford	Trace	3.03	3.85	64	62
	Rabbit Lake	.22	3.34	3.71	62	58
	Prince Albert	.05	3.18	3.92	63	59
9B	Island Falls	.28	4.70	3.76	60	58
	Waseca	N.R.	4.91 2/	3.90	N.R.	57
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.15	3.56	4.14	63.2	58.6
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
1	Taber	N.R.	7.40 2/	3.99	N.R.	59
	Foremost	.54	6.80	5.67	62	62
	Winnifred	.30	6.91	3.97	N.R.	N.R.
	Medicine Hat	.27	3.83	3.77	64	61
	Manyberries	N.R.	4.01 2/	4.12	N.R.	61
2	Cowley	Trace	6.19	5.28	57	56
	Macleod	.02	6.34 2/	4.23	64	60
	Cardston	.02	12.10	7.08	59	57
	Lethbridge	.02	8.45	4.55	63	60
	Magrath	Nil	8.25	5.81	62	58
3	Vauxhall	N.R.	7.14 2/	3.60	N.R.	58
	Brooks	.02	7.17	3.71	N.R.	59
	Bindloss	Nil	3.46	3.77	60	61
	Empress	.04	2.30	4.02	66	61

Weekly Precipitation and Temperature in the Prairie Provinces, 1951 1/ (continued)

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. June 18/51	since April 1	since April 1	June 18/51 Mean	Normal
ALBERTA						
4	High River	.10	8.62	5.70	56	57
	Vulcan	N.R.	10.39 2/	4.42	N.R.	N.R.
5	Drumheller	.52	6.33	4.48	N.R.	61
	Hanna	.06	3.62	4.85	57	57
	Naco	Nil	3.23	4.54	60	57
	Oyen	N.R.	4.15 2/	2.98	N.R.	N.R.
6	Olds	.16	7.22	4.88	59	55
	Calgary	.21	7.10	4.93	59	57
	Three Hills	N.R.	6.43 2/	4.17	N.R.	55
	Strathmore	N.R.	8.43 2/	4.56	N.R.	54
	Gleichen	.10	9.23	4.02	N.R.	57
	Hussar	.32	5.14 2/	4.30	N.R.	N.R.
7	Sedgewick	Nil	3.95	3.68	59	57
	Hardisty	Trace	3.61	3.45	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	.04	4.97	3.70	61	55
	Hughenden	N.R.	3.86 2/	3.95	N.R.	55
8	Red Deer	.03	5.75	5.71	58	56
	Lacombe	N.R.	5.62 2/	4.74	N.R.	56
	Wetaskiwin	Trace	7.03	4.28	60	57
	Camrose	Nil	4.76	4.33	57	56
	Stettler	.01	5.26	5.24	N.R.	56
9	Jasper	.03	2.09	2.42	57	56
	Rocky Mountain House	.12	6.31	5.16	59	54
	Springdale	N.R.	3.47 2/	5.35	N.R.	55
10	Vegreville	.24	4.24	4.86	61	56
	Vermilion	Trace	4.87	4.22	60	56
	Lloydminster	Nil	4.53	3.52	62	56
11	Edmonton	Nil	5.02	4.29	62	58
12	Edson	Nil	3.95	3.97	58	55
	Whitecourt	.06	4.59	4.48	56	57
13	Elk Point	N.R.	5.00 2/	3.87	N.R.	56
14	Campsie	N.R.	4.27 2/	4.33	N.R.	56
	Athabaska	.04	3.26	4.01	N.R.	57
	Lac la Biche	.13	5.10	4.01	62	57
15	High Prairie	Nil	4.12	3.75	59	57
	Wagner	.01	4.82	4.02	60	57
16	Beaverlodge	Nil	3.28	3.40	58	56
	Rycroft	.02	3.82	2.58	61	56
	Grand Prairie	Nil	2.80	3.97	59	56
	Fairview	Nil	4.93	2.94	57	57
17	Fort St. John	Trace	3.79	3.78	57	58
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.08	5.31	4.28	59.7	57.1

N.R. No report

1/ Source: Meteorological Service of Canada

2/ Incomplete: not included in average

Note: The unusually large number of missing reports is due to Monday closing of the telegraph stations at the points concerned.