

22-002
no. 11
1952
July 23
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July 23, 1952, 3 p.m. (E.D.S.T.)

Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce

C. R. No. 14, 1952

Price: \$2.00 for series of 23 reports.

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the tenth of the 1952 series of thirteen telegraphic reports, issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, covering crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces. A selected list of crop correspondents chosen from the Federal 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

Heavy rains over the greater part of the Prairie Provinces have assured moisture supplies sufficient to carry the heavy stands of grain for some time to come and, in a number of areas, to maturity. Warm, sunny weather is now needed to promote filling and to diminish the threat of stem rust which has appeared in some southern sections of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Light to severe local hail damage has occurred in all three provinces while insect damage to date has been slight. Crop development is generally ahead of last year but the current wet, cool weather may retard maturity, particularly in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Swathing of fall rye has commenced in some southern areas. Cutting of early-sown spring grains should get under way in central and southern Manitoba in a week to ten days time.

The crop outlook in Manitoba continues to be good after the general rains of last week. Heavy rains in some areas have caused some damage but the acreage affected is small. Crops generally are variable in growth due to uneven germination. Wheat and barley in the south-central part of the province are beginning to turn. Fields of rye and occasional fields of barley and wheat have been cut or swathed in the Altona district. Recent cool, wet weather has favoured the growth and spread of wheat stem rust, traces of which have been reported from the Morden and Brandon districts.

Rainfall varying in intensity from light to very heavy showers was received over large sections of Saskatchewan during the past week. With minor exceptions, moisture conditions throughout the province are considered adequate despite extremely heavy growth. Wheat averages 27 inches in height, with about 85 per cent in head, while coarse grains average about 25 inches in height. Some areas report danger of lodging as a result of the unusually heavy growth of crops. Rains have interfered with haying and swathing of fall rye which is now ready for cutting in southern districts. Evidence of stem rust has been reported in some districts in the south-central and southeastern parts of the province and wheat stem maggots have been reported in the Yorkton,

1947-48 Season

Melville and Davidson areas. Medium damage from hail on July 11 and 15 and light to medium damage on July 17 occurred at scattered points in central, south-central, and southwestern districts.

Moisture conditions are good to excellent throughout Alberta with the exception of a small area in the north of the Peace River country. Crop conditions are good in all districts with 70 to 90 per cent of the wheat headed except in Districts 5, 6 and 12 where the proportion headed averages from 55 to 65 per cent. Oats and barley are heading and developing well. Hail experience has been about normal to date and insect damage negligible. Most correspondents, however, report that warm, sunny weather is needed to promote more rapid crop development. Swathing of fall rye has begun in the south and special crops, gardens and pastures are in excellent condition. Haying has been delayed by wet weather but it is anticipated that ample quantities can still be put up in good condition.

Manitoba Moisture supplies are good in southern Manitoba and crop prospects have improved greatly. Our correspondent from Vita in southeastern Manitoba states that crop prospects are excellent in that district. Swathing of oats and barley commenced last Thursday and should be general by the end of this week. At Morden early-seeded wheat fields are maturing evenly and some fields of oats and barley are nearing maturity. Recent wet weather has delayed completion of haying. Late crops are making excellent growth. Stem rust development in this district is becoming a threat to late-sown crops. Corn and sunflowers are showing continued improvement and pastures are excellent. Wheat crop prospects at Pilot Mound continue to be good with expected yields above average. Average outturns of coarse grains are anticipated while the outlook for flax is fair to good and for fall rye below average. No stem rust has been detected in this district. In the southwestern part of the province at Melita all crops are making a big recovery and prospects are definitely more favourable. Fall rye cutting is general this week. No stem rust is in evidence.

In the Selkirk area rains have held up haying operations this past week but crops are progressing favourably. Some leaf rust is present but no stem rust has been reported. Early-sown crops of barley and wheat are beginning to turn and swathing of fall rye is expected to start at the end of this week. In the Winnipeg area all cereal crops are making good progress. East of Winnipeg harvesting will commence by the end of this week in a few fields. Pastures are good, potatoes and vegetables excellent but the weather has been bad for haying. Leaf rust is present in wheat fields but no stem rust has been found.

Our correspondent from Portage la Prairie states that moisture supplies are now adequate to carry crops to maturity. Cutting of barley will commence in one week's time and early wheat in about ten days. Except for some very late barley all crops look very good with indications of average yields or better. Sugar beets are fair and corn and potatoes good. No stem rust has been located in this district. At Brandon harvesting of some early-sown barley will commence this week. Prospects continue favourable with no extensive crop damage from any source. Dry, warm weather would be beneficial now, however, as showery conditions favour stem rust development on wheat. Crop conditions continue favourable at Woodnorth and moisture reserves are ample. Some leaf rust is in evidence but crops on summerfallow are now too far advanced to be affected.

In the Interlake area at Arborg heavy rains over the week end will provide plenty of moisture to finish the crop. Wheat is all headed and

coarse grains 80 to 90 per cent in head. The flax crop is mostly poor, the hay crop light and prospects for alfalfa seed poor. Leaf rust is present on all grain but no stem rust has been observed. Cutting of grain will not commence before August 10 to 15. In the west-central part of the province at Neepawa crops are in the late milk stage and cutting will start during the first week in August. There is ample moisture in this district to carry crops to maturity and prospects are excellent. Hail damage has been the most severe in this district in the last six years. Wheat is all headed and filling rapidly in the Minnedosa district. About 80 per cent of the coarse grains is headed. Rainfall has been adequate for rapid development of crops and prospects are good. Some leaf rust has been found on wheat but no stem rust has been observed.

In northern Manitoba at Swan River week-end rains covered the entire valley and sufficient moisture is assured for crop maturity. Haying was well advanced before the rain and summerfallows are in fairly good condition. Fall rye is beginning to harden while wheat is filling nicely as are early coarse grains. Flax is well advanced in the bud stage.

The Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Brandon states that damage to sunflowers by beetle and painted lady butterfly is continuing. Grasshoppers are numerous in the vicinity of La Salle but no damage has occurred. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 9 per cent below normal as compared with 15 per cent below normal a week ago and 37 per cent below normal a year ago. The mean temperature for the week ending July 21 was 0.4 degrees below normal compared with 3.3 degrees below normal last week and 2.2 degrees below normal a year ago.

Saskatchewan Heavy rains were received over the week-end around Parkman in the southeastern part of the province. Growth of all crops is unusually heavy and there is already danger of lodging. Most grain in the district is now headed. Some fields of barley are infested with smut and there is also some leaf rust on wheat. Haying in the district is at a standstill on account of the rain. Dry, warm weather is now needed to bring crops to maturity. In the Fillmore area all crops are making good progress and moisture supplies are ample. Seventy per cent of all crops are headed with stands varying from average to excellent. Hot, dry weather is needed to reduce the potential rust threat. Heavy week-end rains around Indian Head have assured ample moisture supplies. Grain crops in the district are doing well, with wheat 80 per cent, oats 60, and barley 90 per cent headed. The barley crop is particularly good. Probable yields for the district are 25 bushels for wheat and 40 bushels per acre for oats and barley, with some fields giving indications of much higher yields. Traces of leaf and stem rust are evident on Thatcher wheat but the situation is not yet serious.

Recent heavy rains in the southwestern part of the province in the Gravelbourg district should ensure the harvest of an unusually good crop. Around Swift Current rains varying from 1 to 3 inches have replenished moisture supplies, which are now fair to excellent. Early wheat is filling and development of all crops is rapid. Swathing of fall rye will begin as soon as weather conditions permit. Yields of this crop are expected to average over 20 bushels per acre. In the Eastend district four inches of rain have been received since July 18. The weather has been cool and higher temperatures are now the main requirement for maturing the crop. Growth of all grains is above average. About 75 per cent of the wheat, 70 per cent of the barley and 45 per cent of the oats are now in head. Fall rye is turning colour. No evidence of rust has been reported from the district. Unusually cool, dry weather around Leader has prevented crops from burning. Early kernels are well formed and are almost in the dough stage. Wheat is 30 to 36 inches in height. The rye harvest will be

later than usual but prospects are about average. Flaxseed is now flowering.

All crops are headed in the Willowbrook district in east-central Saskatchewan and recent rainfall should carry them through to maturity. Pastures are good in the district and no damage of any kind has occurred to cereals. Around Drake in the central part of the province one inch of rainfall, the first in July, was received on Saturday. Late-seeded grain is short. Wheat prospects are average but coarse grains are somewhat below average. The hay crop in the district is poor to fair. Fall rye will be ready to swath next week.

Showers of varying intensity have been received in the west-central section of the province. Grain crops are generally promising but bright, hot weather will be required to bring them to maturity. Growth on fertilized fields is particularly heavy. Crops on light land are turning in colour but otherwise grains are still green. No rust has been reported to date in this region.

Numerous light showers in the immediate area around Melfort in the north-eastern part of the province have temporarily halted deterioration of crops. Yield prospects are about average although stubble crops are extremely patchy. Early wheat is filling and barley is about 75 per cent headed. Crops in the Humboldt-Guernsey area were saved from serious burning by good rains during the past few days. Wheat is 85 per cent headed and coarse grains are about 45 per cent in head. Pastures will benefit particularly from the recent rains. Around Prince in northwestern Saskatchewan all crops are good and moisture supplies are ample. Warmer weather is needed to promote ripening. Some lodging has already occurred. A few fields of barley have started to ripen.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 4 per cent below normal as compared with 18 per cent below normal a week ago and 4 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending July 21 was 3.4 degrees below normal as compared with 2.9 degrees below normal a week ago and 1.9 degrees below normal a year ago.

Alberta Moisture conditions are good in southern sections of the province.

Wheat is practically all headed and swathing of fall rye has commenced. Ranges are in good condition. At Claresholm heavy rains have caused some lodging of grain but damage is not extensive. General conditions are very good but hot, dry weather is needed to promote more rapid maturity.

In the Hanna district of east-central Alberta good rains during the past week have provided satisfactory moisture conditions. Early-sown wheat is well-headed and with good weather could average 25 bushels per acre. Crops in the Calgary area are in excellent condition following last week's heavy rains. Warm, dry weather, however, is needed for filling and maturing and for bringing in an above normal hay crop.

In the Sedgwick-Donalda-Stettler area of central Alberta hot, dry weather is urgently needed to mature crops. Rainfall has been heavy particularly in the Donalda district where some crops have yellowed due to excessive moisture. Given satisfactory weather conditions, however, this section of the province should harvest above-average crops. Farther west in the Lacombe-Red Deer-Eckville area moisture conditions are also excellent and the principal requirement is warm, dry weather which is required to complete haying and to bring on the heavy stands of grain. Some lodging has occurred in barley fields in this part of the province and our Red Deer correspondent reports that some fields of Vantage barley are heavily infested with loose smut. No other crop damage is reported.

Excellent crop prospects are reported from Vermilion in eastern Alberta through to Edmonton and west to Evansburgh. Rains have delayed haying but no serious losses are anticipated. Odd reports have been received of excessive moisture damaging crops in low-lying fields. At Athabasca, north of Edmonton, all crops are in good condition and moisture supplies are plentiful. Warm weather, however, is needed. Moisture supplies are now ample in the Falher section of the Peace River District. Most crops are headed and forage seed crops are doing well, although cool, wet weather is retarding development to some extent.

Hail storms during the past week caused damage varying from light to complete loss at various points in the south. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 8 per cent above normal in contrast to 6 per cent below normal a week ago and 29 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending July 21 was 4.1 degrees below normal as compared with 1.7 degrees below normal a week ago and 0.6 degrees below normal a year ago.

Weekly Precipitation and Temperature in the Prairie Provinces, 1952 1

Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week Ending	Total	Normal	Week Ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. July 21/52	Since April 1	Since April 1	July 21/52 Mean	Normal
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Pierson	.43	5.30	7.26	62	67
	Melita	.48	5.33	9.26	65	68
	Waskada	1.16	5.70	8.24	62	68
2	Boissevain	1.37	6.34	7.28	65	66
	Deerwood	.86	10.96	7.71	68	66
	Ninette	1.60	7.83	7.88	65	67
3	Fortage la Prairie	2.73	7.60	7.67	69	66
	Graysville	1.95	9.06	8.33	66	67
	Morden	.72	5.82	8.03	70	67
	Altona	.41	5.33	7.92	69	67
	Morris	.75	6.57	7.67	67	67
	Roland	.41	6.43	7.66	68	67
	Emerson	.96	4.41	7.26	69	67
4	Winnipeg	.88	8.93	8.65	68	68
6	Sprague	.64	6.05	8.48	66	66
	Seven Sisters Falls	1.36	7.20	6.25	67	65
7	Virden	.22	7.01	6.71	64	64
	Rivers	.28	6.06	7.66	64	66
8	Brandon	.68	6.83	7.71	64	66
	Cypress River	.65	5.41	7.59	66	66
9	Neepawa	1.07	8.63	7.60	65	65
	Plumas	.79	10.70	7.64	66	65
10	Russell	.57	4.91	7.28	62	64
11	Dauphin	.69	3.57	6.54	64	65
12	Gimli	1.72	8.92	8.21	66	66
13	Swan River	1.25	7.60	7.61	63	64
	The Pas	.74	8.34	5.81	63	65
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.94	6.92	7.63	65.7	66.1
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Estevan	1.47	6.39	7.26	64	66
	Carlyle	.80	6.98	7.84	59	64
	Oxbow	.72	6.42	7.45	62	66
	Redvers	.90	6.60	6.93	62	64
	Willmar	1.93	9.00	7.25	N.R.	N.R.
1B	Braodview	1.49	9.13	6.93	60	64
	Moosomin	.85	7.11	6.55	62	66
2A	Yellow Grass	2.44	8.94	7.15	60	65
2B	Moose Jaw	1.80	6.74	7.24	62	67
	Regina	1.98	6.63	7.27	61	64
	Qu'Appelle	N.R.	5.21 <u>2/</u>	8.54	N.R.	65
	Indian Head	2.05	7.07	8.31	61	64
	Francis	N.R.	4.76 <u>2/</u>	6.11	N.R.	65
3AS	Assiniboia	1.92	7.31	6.20	62	66
	Ormiston	.96	6.09	6.50	62	66
	Ceylon	1.62	7.81	8.88	61	66
3AN	Chaplin	1.59	4.99	7.57	63	66
	Gravelbourg	3.55	7.29	6.22	62	66
	Coderre	2.66	6.67	6.26	61	65
	Bishopric	N.R.	4.81 <u>2/</u>	6.46	N.R.	66
3BS	Shaunavon	2.36	9.02	6.26	60	64
	Cadillac	3.72	10.19	8.35	60	64
	Aneroid	2.75	6.29	7.28	61	64

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		Week Ending	Total	Normal	Week Ending	8 a.m.
		8 a.m. July 21/52	Since April 1	Since April 1	July 21/52 Mean	July 21/52 Normal
<u>SASKATCHEWAN (concluded)</u>						
3BN	Pennant	.98	7.56	7.54	62	65
	Swift Current	1.68	7.75	7.30	60	65
	Hughton	.38	7.00	6.57	61	64
4A	Maple Creek	2.07	7.49	7.04	61	65
	Consul	1.57	5.03	5.93	N.R.	62
4B	Roadene	1.25	6.97	6.58	60	64
5A	Leross	1.11	5.40	7.35	58	64
	Lipton	1.20	5.58	6.50	60	63
	Yorkton	1.49	5.04	7.13	61	63
5B	Dafoe	.59	4.67	6.42	60	63
	Foam Lake	.79	4.05	6.98	61	63
	Lintlaw	.89	4.33	7.16	58	63
	Kamsack	.69	6.12	6.45	61	64
6A	Pelly	.73	5.18	7.15	58	64
	Davidson	1.14	6.37	5.94	61	65
	Dilke	.99	4.81	6.45	N.R.	N.R.
	Imperial	.69	4.31	6.02	60	64
	Semans	.80	4.22	4.76	60	64
	Strasbourg	1.15	6.22	6.76	59	63
	Harris	N.R.	4.77 2/	6.54	N.R.	64
6B	Outlook	.77	5.50	4.75	63	64
	Saskatoon	.69	4.73	6.38	62	64
	Elbow	.56	5.39	6.02	61	65
	Tugaske	1.51	5.41	5.99	61	65
	Dundurn	.62	5.17	7.22	61	64
	Eston	.69	6.72	5.73	62	64
	Kindersley	.43	5.02	5.77	61	64
7A	Rosetown	1.08	7.12	6.81	60	63
	Macklin	N.R.	5.42 2/	6.89	N.R.	61
	Scott	1.19	8.01	6.20	58	62
8A	Biggar	.81	7.07	6.93	61	64
	Mistatim	N.R.	6.71 2/	6.90	N.R.	64
	Hudson Bay	1.24	7.06	7.01	61	64
8B	Humboldt	.68	3.39	5.86	62	63
	Melfort	1.11	5.18	6.66	62	64
9A	North Battleford	.89	8.14	6.60	60	65
	Rabbit Lake	.44	8.71	6.80	59	63
	Prince Albert	1.23	7.63	6.66	62	64
	Island Falls	.62	7.84	6.73	61	65
9B	Waseca	N.R.	4.97 2/	6.59	N.R.	61
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		1.29	6.48	6.76	60.8	64.2
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
1	Taber	2.40	6.59	5.88	62	66
	Foremost	2.17	7.39	8.11	61	69
	Winnifred	1.40	6.46	5.35	N.R.	N.R.
	Medicine Hat	1.21	7.08	6.09	63	69
	Manyberries	1.34	4.81	6.17	60	69
2	Cowley	1.01	4.68	7.61	58	62
	Macleod	1.68	6.60	6.84	61	67
	Cardston	1.71	8.04	10.22	59	66
	Lethbridge	1.58	5.65	7.01	61	66
	Del Bonita	.85	5.63	7.64	55	66

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		Week Ending	Total	Normal	Week Ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. July 21/52	Since April 1	Since April 1	July 21/52 Mean	Normal
<u>ALBERTA</u> (concluded)						
3	Vauxhall	1.75	6.29	5.67	62	68
	Brooks	.79	6.75	5.81	61	69
	Bindloss	.55	6.14	5.83	62	68
	Empress	.72	6.17	6.52	64	70
4	High River	3.06	12.57	8.30	56	62
	Vulcan	N.R.	5.78 <u>2/</u>	7.29	N.R.	N.R.
5	Drumheller	.93	4.54	7.34	61	69
	Naco	.60	2.93 <u>2/</u>	7.02	58	63
	Oyen	.84	5.52	5.72	N.R.	N.R.
6	Olds	.46	7.70	7.50	58	61
	Calgary	2.18	10.95	8.05	58	63
	Three Hills	.59	7.11	6.78	55	61
	Strathmore	2.25	9.89	7.07	60	62
	Gleichen	1.68	7.20	6.55	59	63
	Hussar	.48	6.45	6.60	N.R.	N.R.
7	Sedgewick	.64	6.29	6.75	59	60
	Hardisty	.79	6.27	6.98	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	1.51	5.54	5.93	59	63
	Hughenden	1.29	6.51	6.58	60	67
8	Red Deer	.27	7.58	9.31	59	60
	Lacombe	.54	10.52	8.00	59	61
	Wetaskiwin	1.05	12.06	7.47	59	62
	Camrose	1.09	8.45	7.26	58	61
	Stettler	.62	10.14	8.24	59	61
9	Jasper	.50	8.03	3.85	59	59
	Rocky Mountain House	1.55	11.11	8.16	56	60
	Springdale	1.28	10.74	9.29	56	60
10	Vegreville	2.48	9.09	8.35	60	60
	Vermilion	1.61	7.40	7.97	58	61
	Lloydminster	.94	7.74	6.16	59	62
11	Edmonton	1.44	8.28	7.85	60	62
12	Edson	1.27	10.45	7.43	57	58
	Whitecourt	2.65	8.69	7.99	58	61
13	Elk Point	2.15	9.58	6.73	59	62
	Lac La Biche	1.35	9.23	6.92	60	61
14	Campsie	2.26	9.78	7.82	58	61
	Athabaska	.39	7.24	6.95	56	61
15	High Prairie	2.78	7.60	6.90	58	61
	Wagner	2.22	6.54	7.25	58	62
16	Beaverlodge	1.41	4.62	5.65	58	61
	Rycroft	1.18	6.91	4.90	56	61
	Grand Prairie	.87	5.48	6.73	58	61
	Fairview	1.23	6.35	4.91	57	61
	Berwyn	.87	4.81	6.41	60	61
	Fort St. John	1.86	5.74	6.72	58	62
ALBERTA AVERAGE		1.34	7.53	6.99	58.9	63.0

N.R. No report

1/ Source - Meteorological Service of Canada

2/ Incomplete - not included in average