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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the eighth 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

Crop prospects throughout the Prairie Provinces are generally good to excellent. Timely rains have improved conditions in many areas where the threat of drought was present. Further rains will be needed, however, in much of the west to satisfy heavy moisture requirements of the thick stands of grain. Compared with the last two years crops are well advanced for this date. Damage from insects and other causes has been generally light this season although moderate to severe hail losses have already occurred in some localities.

Conditions were nearly ideal for crops of all kinds in Manitoba during the past week and the general outlook has improved greatly. Apart from lack of rainfall in the Dauphin area moisture is in ample supply for another week or longer. Early cereal crops are well headed and later-sown ones are growing rapidly. Field peas are generally promising, corn shows a marked improvement and other special crops are doing better. Pastures have also improved. Haying operations are now under way. Scattered hail damage occurred in the Reston district on July 5. A sprinkling of stem rust is reported from the Morden area.

Appearance and growth of crops in Saskatchewan continues to be very satisfactory. Wheat averages 19 inches in height and coarse grains 16 inches. About 80 per cent of the crops are in the shot blade and 33 per cent headed out. Although moisture conditions are generally good, further rains are needed to replenish reserves being rapidly depleted by the heavy stands of grain. Little insect damage has been reported to date. Scattered hail damage occurred on July 5 in the southeastern and northwestern parts of the province.

Rain was received over much of Alberta last week and moisture conditions remain good to excellent with the exception of the extreme north where rain is needed. Growth and development of all crops is generally very good although lower than normal temperatures have retarded growth, especially in west-central areas. Percentage of wheat in head varies from about 5 per cent in the western areas to 10 per cent in central areas and up to 50 per

cent in the Medicine Hat and Lethbridge districts. While haying has been delayed by rains it is estimated that the first cutting of alfalfa will yield from one to one and a half tons per acre. Sugar beets and canning crops in the irrigated areas are doing well. Scattered hail storms have caused light to severe damage in several sections of the province.

Manitoba Crop conditions have generally improved in southern Manitoba due to recent rains. In the Altona district all the wheat and most of the oats and barley are headed and some fields of flax are blooming. Rye is turning colour but will be a poor crop. Haying operations are under way. In the Morden area crops are showing steady improvement, especially those which were sown late. Row crops are now making good progress and late-seeded flax is looking well. The grass hay crop is light and the alfalfa crop short. Weed growth is heavy especially in late-sown crops. Considerable leaf rust is present in crops and some stem rust is showing. Farther west at Pilot Mound crop prospects are also decidedly improved and moisture conditions are good. Wheat is 70 per cent in head and coarse grains 25 to 30 per cent headed. Haying is now becoming general but yields are low. Pastures are now good. In the southwest corner of the province at Melita the two and a half inches of rain received at the end of June have made a big improvement in crop conditions. Early-sown grain on summer-fallow is doing well but late-sown grain is thin and patchy owing to poor germination. Flax looks good in all stages from blooming to just appearing through the ground. The rye crop is poor and pastures and hay crops short.

North of Winnipeg rains have occurred nearly every day during the past week or two and moisture is now in ample supply and in some cases excess quantities are causing yellowing. Early-headed wheat is now filling and coarse grains are partially headed. Weed spraying operations are now completed. Pasture conditions are excellent and the alfalfa hay crop has improved greatly. Summerfallow operations are being held back due to rains. In the Portage area all crops are making good progress with moisture supplies satisfactory. Early wheat was headed out on July 1 and 50 per cent of the barley is heading. Peas are a good crop in this area but flax is uneven. A medium crop of hay is now being harvested. Potatoes are good while the beet crop is only medium.

In the Brandon area moisture is ample for present requirements and crops are progressing satisfactorily. No damage has been reported from insects or disease, although some soil drifting occurred in isolated areas south and west of this centre. Early wheat is headed and filling well. Corn and potatoes are good. Haying has commenced but yields are light. A report from Woodnorth states that moisture is in sufficient supply and crop growth is excellent.

In the Interlake area at Teulon all crops are growing very satisfactorily and about 90 per cent of the wheat and 60 per cent of the coarse grains are headed. Some fields are heading in a patchy condition due to the spring drought. Farther north at Arborg early-sown grain is beginning to head and the first cutting of hay has started. Hay yields are light but pastures are improving. Weed spraying was general during the past week. Moisture conditions are now very good in this area and dry weather is needed for haying.

In the west-central area a report from Neepawa states that crops are the best in more than six years. Wheat is all headed and coarse grains are 60 per cent in head. Pastures and hay crops are improving as the result of recent rains and moisture conditions are excellent. In the Dauphin area 50 per

cent of the wheat is in head and weed spraying is well advanced. Early crops are in good condition but late-sown crops are poor south and east of Dauphin. Very little rain has been received in this area and germination was very poor. Some fields are being ploughed in this area. North and west of Dauphin crop conditions are good except for hay which is light. In the Swan River area early wheat is starting to fill and fall rye is in the soft dough stage. There is plenty of moisture in this area except on peat lands. Haying is in full swing and yields are not as heavy as expected but the quality is good. No insect damage has occurred to field crops but many farms are heavily infested with hemp nettle which is choking out the crop.

The Entomological Laboratory at Brandon reports general cutworm damage has practically ceased. The onion maggot has caused excessive damage to market gardens in the Winnipeg area. The sunflower beetle and painted lady butterfly are threatening stands of sunflowers in the Altona district. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 13 per cent below normal as compared with 12 per cent below normal a week ago and in contrast to 35 per cent below normal a year ago. The mean temperature for the week ending July 7 was 3.6 degrees above normal in contrast to 2.6 degrees below normal last week and .3 degrees below normal a year ago.

Saskatchewan - In the Manor district in the southeastern part of the province about 75 per cent of the wheat and 25 per cent of the coarse grains are headed. Moisture supplies are adequate for present needs and pastures are good. Scattered hail damage occurred during the past week. In the Fillmore area all crops are making good progress, with 15 per cent of the wheat and 5 per cent of the coarse grains in head. Stands of all cereals are of medium height. Good moisture conditions have improved crop prospects in this district. The outlook also continues to be quite favourable around Indian Head where moisture conditions are satisfactory for the present. Half of the wheat is either heading or has already headed, with the balance in the shot blade. Oats and barley are about 40 per cent headed. Pastures are holding up well although the hay crop will be light.

A report from the Experimental Station at Swift Current in the southwestern part of the province states that all crops are making excellent growth. Over 50 per cent of the wheat is now in head. Moisture conditions are good but use of moisture will be very rapid due to heavy stands and yields could still be severely reduced by hot, dry weather. Given favourable conditions, however, yields will be considerably above average. June rains have also promoted excellent growth in the Leader area. Early wheat is headed out and later-sown grain is just starting to head. Crop damage has been very slight to date and prospects appear above average.

In the east-central part of the province, around Togo, crop conditions are variable. Heat and drought are retarding development and a general rain is needed. Prospects are still for a good crop, however, if sufficient moisture is received. About 75 per cent of the wheat is headed. Barley is well advanced with some of the crop already in head. Haying operations are earlier than usual although the crop is somewhat spotty. Localized hail damage occurred during the past week. In the Willowbrook district crops are 50 to 60 per cent headed. Late crops are short and rain is needed to promote further development. Pastures are generally good and no damage of any kind has occurred to crops to date.

Growth of crops in west-central Saskatchewan has been quite vigorous and early-sown grains are either headed or in the shot blade.

Thunder showers during the past week were accompanied by narrow streaks of hail. Rain will be needed during July to bring to maturity the potentially heavy crops.

Crops in the Carrot River district in the northeastern part of the province are late but making excellent growth. Over 8 inches of rain have been received since May 1 and some crops on low land are showing the effects of excessive moisture. Harvesting of a heavy hay crop has started. Around Melfort no effective rainfall was received during the past week. Due to heavy stands of crops, moisture will soon be needed in this area for continued good growth. Wheat and barley are heading and prospects are for average yields. Pastures are generally fair to good.

A report from the Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Saskatoon indicates that no insect damage to cereal crops has been reported during the past week. Light to medium hail damage occurred on July 1 in the Leader and Prelate districts. On July 5 severe hail damage occurred in the Buzzard to Maidstone, St. Walburg, Hamlin, and Macklin areas. Medium damage occurred in the Senlac to Vera, Unity to Scott, Salvador and Wilkie areas while severe damage was reported in the area extending from Estevan to Glen Ewen to Fertile.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 16 per cent below normal as compared with 11 per cent below normal a week ago and 6 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending July 7 was 0.2 degrees below normal as compared with 4.6 degrees below normal a week ago and 0.3 degrees below normal a year ago.

Alberta At Manyberries in southeastern Alberta wheat is up 14 inches and about 10 per cent of the crop is in the shot blade. Coarse grains average 10 inches in height. Recent hot, dry winds have depleted moisture supplies and rain is now needed here. Crop conditions are good in Medicine Hat area with fall rye in the hard dough stage. Half of the wheat and 60 per cent of the barley crops are in head. Moisture supplies are satisfactory for the present.

Hot weather is promoting rapid growth of all crops in the Lethbridge area south of Calgary. Dense stands will draw heavily on soil moisture but reserves are generally satisfactory. Winter wheat is an excellent crop although the acreage is small. Barley is well headed and promises a good yield while flax is beginning to flower. An average crop of hay has been harvested in good condition. Crop prospects in the Cardston district continue to look very bright with 50 per cent of all grains in head. Moisture conditions are good and no insect infestations are reported. Early wheat is heading at Claresholm and all grains are in the shot blade. Haying is under way and pastures are good. Prospects are for a better than average grain crop.

With warmer weather the wheat crop in the Hanna area has been making good progress. Eighty-five per cent of the crop is in shot blade and 10 per cent headed. General conditions are good with pasture growth the best in years. Very favourable growing conditions are reported from Calgary with wheat averaging 18 inches in height, oats 11 inches, barley 14 inches and rye 36 inches. The rye crop is all headed and other grains are starting to head. Moisture supplies are very good and general conditions are termed excellent. Similar conditions prevail at Olds where crops are said to be 10 days earlier than last season.

Growth has been rapid in the Red Deer and Lacombe districts of west-central Alberta with early-seeded grains beginning to head. Summerfallows are weedy due to intermittent rains. Haying has commenced with yields somewhat above average. Our Lacombe correspondent travelled east through Castor, Provost and Wainwright and reports excellent prospects throughout the entire area. Moisture supplies in central Alberta are considered sufficient to last crops for three weeks.

Crops in the Vermilion section of east-central Alberta have made wonderful recovery and good yields are anticipated. Warmer weather has promoted more rapid growth in the Edmonton area although some uneven stands are reported due to excessive moisture and cool weather earlier in the season. Similar conditions prevail west of Edmonton but heavy rains have delayed field work and only 40 per cent of the summerfallowing operations has been completed.

North of Edmonton at Athabasca all crops are in excellent condition with 40 per cent of the wheat headed. Sixty per cent of the barley and 40 per cent of the oats are in head. Grain crops in the Peace River District are developing well following general rains. Ten per cent of the wheat, 50 per cent of the barley, and 5 per cent of the oat crops are in head. Flax is in the late bud and early bloom stage. Fall rye crops are spotty due to winterkilling. Hay crop prospects are very good with alfalfa and sweet clover coming into bloom. Localized outbreaks of grasshoppers are causing damage in alfalfa fields and some control spraying is being done in the B.C. Block. Light aphid infestations are reported in the Falher—McLennan district.

Some hail damage occurred during the past week at Vauxhall and Fincastle through Wrentham to Warner and at Burdett, Nemiscam and Etzikom. Varying damage also occurred in a two mile wide strip ten miles long in the Medicine Hat—Irvine area. Light storms are also reported from Rumsey, Scapa and Fenn. Small storms with more severe local damage passed through a strip from Stettler through Red Willow, Donalda, Ankerton to Rosalind and a severe storm covered a strip 8 to 10 miles wide and 30 miles long through Cadogan, Provost and Hayter to the Saskatchewan border.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 1 per cent below normal as compared with 1.5 per cent below normal a week ago and in contrast to 34 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending July 7 was 3.4 degrees below normal compared with 2.7 degrees below normal a week ago and 1.0 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 7/52	since April 1	since April 1	Mean	July 17/52 Normal
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Pierson	.49	4.83	6.29	N.R.	65
	Melita	.25	4.63	8.05	69	66
	Waskada	N.R.	3.78 2/	7.04	N.R.	66
2	Boissevain	.28	4.59	6.32	68	65
	Deerwood	.15	10.06	6.59	68	65
	Ninette	.21	5.34	6.93	67	66
3	Portage la Prairie	.53	4.87	6.50	61	65
	Graysville	.13	6.92	7.15	N.R.	65
	Morden	.80	5.10	6.89	70	66
	Altona	.88	4.72	6.78	72	66
	Morris	1.05	5.70	6.51	70	66
	Roland	.34	6.00	6.44	70	66
	Emerson	.72	3.45	6.04	72	66
4	Winnipeg	2.09	7.75	7.23	70	66
6	Sprague	.93	5.00	7.16	68	64
	Seven Sisters Falls	.44	5.63	5.15	71	64
7	Virden	1.06	6.27	5.79	67	63
	Rivers	.09	4.26	6.54	67	64
8	Brandon	.18	5.47	6.55	67	64
	Cypress River	.21	4.57	6.40	68	65
9	Neepawa	.36	6.90	6.46	67	64
	Flumas	.29	9.46	6.50	69	64
10	Russell	.15	3.85	6.18	65	62
11	Dauphin	.14	2.45	5.37	69	63
12	Gimli	.70	6.64	7.10	69	65
13	Swan River	.02	5.82	6.33	N.R.	62
	The Pas	.07	6.88	4.74	66	64
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.48	5.66	6.48	68.3	64.7
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
1A	Estevan	N.R.	3.84 2/	6.44	N.R.	65
	Carlyle	1.00	5.90	6.69	62	63
	Oxbow	1.21	5.61	6.47	64	64
	Redvers	.64	5.65	5.95	65	63
	Willmar	.71	6.89	6.18	N.R.	N.R.
1B	Broadview	.32	6.98	5.70	64	63
	Moosomin	.33	5.91	5.75	66	64
2A	Yellow Grass	N.R.	6.27 2/	6.23	N.R.	64
2B	Moose Jaw	.07	4.79	6.28	63	66
	Regina	.04	4.50	6.19	63	63
	Qu'Appelle	.19	4.88	7.32	63	64
	Indian Head	.08	4.67	7.15	64	63
	Francis	.13	4.53	5.33	63	63
3AS	Assiniboia	.24	5.31	5.42	63	65
	Ormiston	.38	5.20	5.65	64	65
	Ceylon	.15	6.03	7.72	64	65
3AN	Chaplin	.04	3.40	6.62	65	65
	Gravelbourg	.04	3.72	5.78	63	64
	Coderre	.06	3.88	5.66	62	64
	Bishopric	.26	4.79	5.63	63	65
3BS	Shaunavon	.17	5.95	5.27	61	63
	Cadillac	.07	5.60	7.72	60	63
	Aneroid	Nil	3.35	6.51	62	63

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Crop District and Province	Station	Precipitation			Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week Ending	8 a.m.
		8 a.m. July 7/52	since April 1	since April 1	July 7/52 Mean	Normal
<u>SASKATCHEWAN (concluded)</u>						
3BN	Pennant	.02	6.46	6.83	62	64
	Swift Current	.10	5.98	6.23	61	64
	Hughton	.54	6.55	5.75	62	62
4A	Maple Creek	.31	4.65	6.03	62	63
	Consul	.06	3.35	5.25	N.R.	61
4B	Roadene	.05	5.62	5.76	61	62
5A	Leross	N.R.	3.46 2/	6.32	N.R.	61
	Lipton	.12	3.98	5.48	62	61
	Yorkton	.16	2.90	5.89	65	62
5B	Dafoe	.04	3.00	5.57	62	61
	Foam Lake	.28	3.07	5.91	64	61
	Lintlaw	.04	3.21	5.90	61	61
	Kamsack	.04	5.19	5.15	66	62
	Pelly	.01	4.22	5.90	62	62
6A	Davidson	.35	5.16	5.13	63	64
	Dilke	Trace	3.81	5.59	N.R.	N.R.
	Imperial	.08	3.62	5.27	62	63
	Semans	.32	3.12	4.03	62	62
	Strasbourg	.25	5.04	5.88	61	62
	Harris	N.R.	4.77 2/	5.56	N.R.	63
6B	Outlook	.17	4.53	3.96	64	63
	Saskatoon	.11	3.68	5.20	64	62
	Elbow	.22	4.74	5.23	63	63
	Tugaske	.05	3.73	5.21	61	63
	Dundurn	.22	4.18	6.30	64	63
	Eston	.69	6.03	4.95	61	62
	Kindersley	.25	4.57	4.71	63	61
7A	Rosetown	.53	5.84	5.76	61	61
	Macklin	.50	4.88	5.86	60	60
7B	Scott	.30	6.46	5.09	61	61
	Biggar	.21	6.13	5.70	62	63
	Mistatim	Trace	5.61	5.68	59	63
8A	Hudson Bay	.02	4.71	5.79	64	63
8B	Humboldt	.03	2.61	4.88	64	62
	Melfort	.09	4.15	5.30	64	62
9A	North Battleford	1.04	6.87	5.60	61	64
	Rabbit Lake	N.R.	6.27 2/	5.54	N.R.	62
	Prince Albert	.25	5.92	5.63	64	63
	Island Falls	1.02	6.51	5.54	61	63
9B	Waseca	N.R.	4.76 2/	5.60	N.R.	60
<u>SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE</u>		.26	4.87	5.79	62.6	62.8
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
1	Taber	.06	4.10	5.23	62	64
	Foremost	Nil	5.19	7.29	60	68
	Winnifred	.05	4.87	4.93	N.R.	N.R.
	Medicine Hat	.16	5.57	5.25	62	66
	Manyberries	.23	3.57	5.43	60	67
2	Cowley	Trace	3.63	7.03	56	60
	Macleod	.04	4.90	5.91	60	65
	Cardston	Trace	5.90	9.23	58	64
	Lethbridge	.11	3.93	6.21	61	64
	Del Bonita	.02	4.52	6.79	54	64

-8-

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 7/52	since April 1	since April 1	July 7/52 Mean	Normal
<u>ALBERTA</u> (concluded)						
3	Vauxhall	Trace	4.17	5.84	63	66
	Brooks	.36	5.07	4.96	N.R.	67
	Bindloss	1.23	5.09	5.07	60	66
	Empress	.59	5.06	5.65	64	67
4	High River	.05	9.30	7.59	56	60
	Vulcan	.30	5.76	6.38	N.R.	N.R.
5	Drumheller	.27	4.20	6.37	62	66
	Naco	N.R.	2.33 2/	5.98	N.R.	62
	Oyen	N.R.	4.41 2/	4.59	N.R.	N.R.
6	Olds	.70	6.77	6.50	57	59
	Calgary	.17	8.60	6.88	58	61
	Three Hills	.70	6.11	5.94	58	60
	Strathmore	.10	6.84	6.28	58	61
	Gleichen	.09	4.74	5.53	58	61
	Hussar	N.R.	5.65 2/	5.75	N.R.	N.R.
7	Sedgewick	N.R.	4.14 2/	5.57	N.R.	59
	Hardisty	1.39	5.45	5.54	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	.68	3.95	5.06	58	62
	Hughenden	.76	5.16	5.47	58	65
8	Red Deer	.81	6.74	7.99	56	59
	Lacombe	.08	8.49	6.85	58	60
	Wetaskiwin	2.33	10.76	6.28	57	60
	Camrose	.80	7.31	6.07	58	61
	Stettler	.92	9.15	6.97	58	59
9	Jasper	1.35	7.52	3.25	54	58
	Rocky Mountain House	1.09	9.46	7.21	55	58
	Springdale	N.R.	8.71 2/	7.77	N.R.	59
10	Vegreville	.85	6.11	6.88	59	59
	Vermilion	1.57	5.47	6.33	59	60
	Lloydminster	1.43	6.21	5.05	60	60
11	Edmonton	.64	6.79	6.35	58	61
12	Edson	.18	8.86	5.98	54	58
	Whitecourt	.37	5.88	6.26	55	60
13	Elk Point	3.50	6.62	5.58	58	60
	Lac la Biche	1.54	7.60	5.78	59	60
14	Campsie	.47	7.45	6.35	56	60
	Athabaska	.51	6.44	5.62	58	60
15	High Prairie	1.16	4.32	5.56	56	60
	Wagner	.38	4.14	5.74	58	60
16	Beaverlodge	.18	2.89	4.68	56	59
	Rycroft	.91	5.48	4.01	57	59
	Grand Prairie	.57	4.26	5.58	57	59
	Fairview	N.R.	3.38 2/	4.27	N.R.	59
	Berwyn	1.01	3.66	5.15	57	60
	Fort St. John	.33	2.79	5.60	57	61
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.63	5.87	5.93	58.1	61.5

N.R. No report

1/ Source: Meteorological Service of Canada

2/ Incomplete: not included in average