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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the second of the 1953 series of fourteen 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

General rains and snow over the week-end have delayed seeding operations throughout the Prairie Provinces. Earlier last week considerable progress had been made with seeding, particularly in central and southern Manitoba, where from 40 to 80 per cent of the wheat had been sown. In Saskatchewan some 12 per cent of the wheat was in the ground while seeding had become fairly general in Alberta prior to the week-end precipitation. Despite the delay in spring work, the additional moisture is welcome in most areas, particularly in southern Manitoba.

Snow and rain over the week-end in Manitoba will delay seeding until the latter part of this week. The moisture was most opportune, however, especially in the south where high temperatures of the past week had drawn heavily on limited moisture reserves. Wheat seeding is 80 per cent or better completed in the south, 40 per cent done in central sections while only a start has been made in the north in the Swan River Valley. About one-third to one-quarter of the coarse grains has been sown in the south with little done elsewhere. About 60 per cent of the sugar beets has been planted. Early-seeded grain fields are showing green. Precipitation will aid pastures, meadows and market gardens.

Rain and snow throughout Saskatchewan at the end of last week brought seeding to a standstill and work on the land is not expected to be resumed for several days. Fairly good progress had been made with seeding operations in southern and central areas, with an estimated 30 per cent of the wheat sown in the Estevan and Regina-Weyburn districts. An estimated 15 per cent of the wheat acreage has been sown in the area between Moose Jaw and Swift Current and about 10 per cent in the southwestern, Lumsden, Saskatoon and North Battleford regions. In the remainder of the northern part of the province only a small acreage has been sown. For the province as a whole, an estimated 12 per cent of the wheat and 4 per cent of the coarse grain acreage have been sown as compared with 60 and 35 per cent, respectively, a year ago. Recent precipitation has improved moisture supplies considerably.

Warm weather in Alberta during the early part of last week facilitated seeding and other field work in many areas as far north as the Peace River District. However, snow, rain and unseasonably cold weather over the week-end have again stopped operations. Seeding is not likely to become general again until next week

even should the weather turn favourable. Moisture conditions are now good to excellent in all areas and pastures are making excellent growth.

Manitoba Rains over the week-end have improved the outlook at Altona in south-eastern Manitoba. Half of the wheat, barley and sugar beets have been seeded in this district with about half of this showing above ground. Dense weed growth will necessitate much reseeding. Seeding of peas is one-half completed with one-fifth showing above ground. There is a severe infestation of sweet clover weevil in this district. At Morden the one and a half inches of rainfall received over the week-end will greatly benefit seeded crops and pastures. Seeding is well advanced with most of the wheat in and half the coarse grains. Considerable soil drifting has occurred in this district. In south-central Manitoba at Pilot Mound 75 per cent of the wheat has been sown and 10 per cent of the coarse grains. Fall rye has wintered well. Feed is short in the district but pastures are improving after the recent rains. Surface moisture has been increased to a desirable level but subsoil reserves vary from good to poor. At Melita in the southwest about one-quarter inch of rainfall was received over the week-end. Fifty per cent of the wheat has been seeded and some coarse grains. Fall rye is six inches high while some early-sown wheat is four inches above ground. Pastures have improved greatly this past week.

In the Winnipeg area seeding has been delayed due to wet areas in the fields. Seventy-five per cent of the wheat has been seeded and odd fields of barley and oats have been completed. Rain and snow on May 10 will hold up seeding for a few days. Market gardens have been seeded but only about 10 per cent of the potatoes has been planted for the early market. Pastures are poor. Heavy snow at Portage la Prairie has restored surface moisture but halted seeding operations which are 95 per cent completed for wheat and 30 per cent for oats and barley. Much of the coarse-grain seeding will be delayed for wild oat growth. Sugar beet planting is well advanced. A report from the Brandon Experimental Farm states that almost 60 per cent of the wheat seeding has been completed and 15 per cent of the coarse grains. Seeding is now held up because of cold, wet weather. Farmers will intentionally delay seeding in this district because of wild oat growth. Recent moisture has helped surface conditions but there is little improvement in subsoil moisture reserves.

In the Interlake area at Arborg rain, snow and cold weather will delay seeding for several days. There has been no **pasture growth yet but the** extra moisture will improve the situation. In west-central Manitoba at Neepawa seeding commenced on April 20 and was general by May 4. Seventy-five per cent of the wheat has been seeded to date, 10 per cent of the coarse grains and 2 per cent of the flax. Wheat is showing half an inch of growth. Pasture conditions are only average in this district. Heavy snow falls over the week-end will delay seeding one week. At Minnedosa seeding operations are also held up. About 50 per cent of the wheat has been sown but very little coarse grains have been seeded. Pasture and hay crops are good and moisture conditions are satisfactory at present. In the western part of the province at Shoal Lake seeding has just started and heavy rains over the week-end will delay operations until mid-week. Heavy frosts occurred in this district over the week-end.

In the northwest part of Manitoba at Dauphin 25 per cent of the wheat has been seeded but no coarse grains have been planted as yet. Operations are now at a standstill due to wet weather. Surface and subsoil moisture supplies are satisfactory in this district. Fall-sown crops are in good condition but feed supplies are low and pasture growth has been slow to date. Sleet and snow blanketed the entire valley in the Swan River area over the week-

end. Spring work on the land has been stopped. The previous hot weather caused rapid development and fall rye and pastures are now doing well. Seeding will likely be resumed by the end of this week.

A report from the Entomological Laboratory at Brandon states that wireworm damage to wheat is commencing to show up in the Brandon area. Cold weather and snow over the last two days have retarded insect activity. Average precipitation since April 1 has been one per cent below normal as compared with 29 per cent below normal a week ago and 80 per cent below normal at the same time a year ago. The mean temperature for the week ending May 11 was 13.1 degrees above normal in contrast with 0.4 degrees below normal a week ago and 1.1 degrees below normal a year ago.

Saskatchewan Relatively little progress had been made with seeding operations in the extreme southeastern part of Saskatchewan before the unseasonable snowfall of last week-end. Around Manor over one inch of rain has fallen since Saturday and seeding will be delayed for some days. Temperatures last week ranged from a high of 90 to a low of 23 over the week-end. Pasture conditions are greatly improved. In the Fillmore district all field work has been halted for a week because of rain and snow. About 5 per cent of the wheat and oat acreage in the district has been seeded. Fall rye is making good growth.

About 25 per cent of the seeding has been finished in the area around Gravelbourg in the southwestern part of the province. Almost an inch of rain and snow has fallen since May 9, delaying work on the land for at least five or six days. Heavy snow over the week-end will prevent work in most fields around Swift Current for the remainder of the week. Many farmers who were waiting for low spots to dry had not started field work before the storm while others had about 100 acres planted. Stubble fields now have excellent moisture but lack of time will prevent any great change in seeding plans. Around Leader where about one-quarter of the acreage has been seeded work has also been delayed due to snow and rain. Moisture supplies are excellent for germination.

About one-third of the wheat seeding is completed in the district around Togo in the east-central part of the province. The weather has been cold but good rains were received over the week-end. Although general conditions are fairly good, there has been some soil drifting. Wild oat growth is well advanced. Grass and pasture conditions are good for this time of year. Warm weather is needed to permit completion of seeding operations. Very little seeding has been done in the Willowbrook district where recent rains and snow are expected to delay seeding for four or five days. Moisture supplies are now plentiful and grass is showing well above ground. Seeding in the district is from seven to ten days late.

Seeding operations around Drake in the central part of the province had just begun when halted by rain and snow over the week-end. Weeds were sprouting in the latter part of last week following unusually warm weather. The acreage in grain should be about the same as last year providing no further delays in seeding occur. Condition of fall rye in the district is good. Cattle are now out on pasture. Rain and four to seven inches of snow over the week-end in the Saskatoon area will delay the already late seeding until the end of this week. However, insufficient crop had emerged to be seriously affected by last week's freezing temperatures.

Field work in northeastern Saskatchewan was brought to a standstill on May 9 by one and a half inches of precipitation in the form of rain and snow often reaching blizzard proportions. Seeding of wheat had started in the Parkside,

Hafford and Guernsey districts during the week of May 4. Moisture conditions are fair. Around Melfort rain, snow and low temperatures also stopped all field work on May 9. Seeding operations are not expected to get under way again until the week-end. Recent precipitation will provide more normal conditions for germination and assist pastures in making early growth. Legumes and grasses wintered over in excellent condition.

The Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Saskatoon states that numerous reports of beetle infestations in farm-stored grain were received following the high temperatures of last week.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 76 per cent above normal compared with 37 per cent above normal a week ago and 36 per cent below normal at this time last year. Mean temperature for the week ending May 11 was 8.3 degrees above normal compared with 1.9 degrees below normal for the preceding week and 1.1 degrees above normal for the corresponding week last year.

Alberta Seeding of wheat commenced May 6 in southeastern Alberta but progress has been delayed by late spring rains. No coarse grains have been sown as yet. Cool, showery weather has stopped seeding in the area south of Calgary but with warmer weather it should resume in a day or two. At Cardston in the extreme southwest cold weather and snow will delay spring work for a few days. Fall seeded wheat and rye crops are in excellent condition. Moisture conditions are good in the Claresholm area but the cold, wet weather has been delaying seeding.

Recent heavy precipitation has left fields too wet for seeding in the Brooks area. Some 25 per cent of the wheat acreage was seeded in the Rolling Hills district prior to the week-end rain and snow. At Vulcan about 5 per cent of the wheat has been seeded and surface moisture conditions are good in this area. In east-central Alberta around Hanna about 5 per cent of the seeding has been completed but wet weather has stopped progress for the time being. Similar conditions prevail farther west in the Calgary district.

Rain and snow in the Donalda-Stettler sector of central Alberta have delayed spring work. Moisture supplies are now good but warm weather is required to facilitate seeding operations. Cool, wet weather has also delayed field work in the Red Deer-Lacombe-Eckville areas of west-central Alberta. A report from the Lacombe Experimental Farm indicates that seeding is already about a week later than normal and that another heavy rain during the next two weeks would seriously hamper seeding operations. Hay and pasture crops, however, are growing well. Barring further precipitation, seeding should be general by Thursday in the Red Deer district.

In the Vermilion area of eastern Alberta about 5 per cent of the wheat crop is in, and surface moisture supplies are ample for germination. Subsoil moisture reserves are fair to good and hay crops are doing well. Moisture conditions are above normal in the Edmonton district. With dry weather, seeding may get under way by the end of this week. Pasture growth has been slow.

Due to wet weather little seeding has yet been accomplished in the Athabasca area. Our correspondent at this point anticipates a decrease of some 20 per cent in wheat acreage and a corresponding increase in coarse grains. In the Peace River District rain and cool weather have delayed field operations but

have improved the moisture situation. While some spring work has been completed in parts of the district, seeding is not expected to become general until about May 20. Fall-seeded crops are in excellent condition.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 68 per cent above normal compared with 72 per cent above normal last week and in contrast to 66 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 11 was 6.1 degrees above normal in contrast to 3.8 degrees below normal last week and 2.3 degrees above normal a year ago.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces 1/

Province and Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. May 11	since April 1	since April 1	May 11 1953	Normal
			- inches -		- degrees F. -	
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Pierson	.33	1.10	1.92	58	48
	Melita	.15	1.11	1.84	59	48
	Waskada	.34	1.26	1.42	60	48
	Deloraine	.44	1.10	1.76	N.R.	48
2	Boissevain	.13	1.57	2.08	60	48
	Ninette	.49	1.32	2.11	61	47
3	Portage la Prairie	.83	1.59	1.82	66	48
	Graysville	1.38	2.37	1.40	62	47
	Morden	.93	2.41	1.84	64	48
	Altona	.87	3.06	1.81	63	48
	Morris	1.05	3.08	1.63	64	48
	Roland	1.05	2.15	1.59	63	48
	Emerson	1.52	3.14	.99	62	49
4	Winnipeg	.85	2.46	1.92	62	49
6	Sprague	1.23	2.08	1.84	60	46
	Seven Sisters Falls	.34	.94	1.20	58	47
7	Virden	.03	.30	1.14	58	47
	Reston	.61	1.49	1.52	60	47
	Rivers	.22	.62	1.65	59	48
8	Brandon	.14	1.56	1.65	60	49
	Cypress River	.41	.97	1.54	63	47
9	Neepawa	.29	.71	1.65	60	48
	Plumas	1.15	2.12	1.70	62	48
10	Russell	N.R.	.25 2/	1.37	N.R.	46
	Birtle	.81	1.16	1.44	58	45
11	Dauphin	.53	.91	1.01	58	46
12	Gimli	1.02	1.96	1.68	61	45
13	Swan River	.53	.76	1.16	55	43
	The Pas	.18	.47	1.04	51	44
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.64	1.56	1.58	60.3	47.2

SASKATCHEWAN

1A	Estevan	1.80	3.35	1.44	57	47
	Carlyle	1.75	2.54	1.93	56	46
	Oxbow	2.16	2.96	1.73	58	47
	Redvers	.70	1.71	1.47	58	46
	Willmar	.73	1.50	1.71	N.R.	N.R.
1B	Broadview	1.13	2.14	1.45	55	47
	Moosomin	.51	1.38	1.15	56	47
2A	Yellow Grass	2.19	3.46	1.46	56	46
	Weyburn	1.77	2.85	1.62	56	47
	Midale	2.71	4.04	1.77	56	47
2B	Moose Jaw	1.18	2.48	1.22	57	49
	Regina	1.83	2.76	1.25	54	47
	Rowatt	1.34	2.21	1.24	N.R.	47
	Qu'Appelle	1.13	1.13 2/	1.71	54	47
	Indian Head	.93	1.69	1.39	54	47
	Wilcox	1.40	1.40 2/	1.34	52	47

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		- inches -			- degrees F. -	
SASKATCHEWAN (continued)						
3AS	Assiniboia	1.03	3.10	1.13	54	47
	Ormiston	.71	2.51	1.25	52	47
	Ceylon	1.09	2.53	2.20	54	47
3AN	Chaplin	.55	2.42	1.53	54	48
	Gravelbourg	.83	2.71	1.11	54	47
	Coderre	.58	2.64	1.12	52	47
3BS	Shaunavon	.43	2.18	1.24	53	45
	Cadillac	Trace	2.56	1.75	54	45
	Aneroid	.18	2.15	1.30	53	46
3BN	Pennant	.96	3.78	1.67	54	49
	Swift Current	.61	2.37	1.29	55	49
	Hughton	N.R.	1.99 2/	1.74	N.R.	46
4A	Maple Creek	.01	2.02	1.31	55	48
	Consul	.06	2.19	1.43	51	46
4B	Roadene	N.R.	3.22 2/	1.75	N.R.	46
5A	Leross	1.35	2.33	1.39	52	45
	Lipton	N.R.	.72 2/	1.19	N.R.	45
	Yorkton	1.14	1.86	1.17	54	46
5B	Bangor	1.02	1.68	1.31	58	46
	Dafoe	1.46	2.57	.98	54	42
	Foam Lake	1.85	2.57	1.19	55	43
6A	Lintlaw	1.49	2.64	1.37	53	43
	Kamsack	.64	1.94	1.03	55	43
	Pelly	N.R.	1.07 2/	1.11	N.R.	43
6B	Davidson	.65	2.08	1.11	54	47
	Dilke	1.29	2.13	1.18	N.R.	N.R.
	Imperial	N.R.	1.23 2/	1.07	N.R.	46
7A	Semans	1.40	1.66	.92	54	45
	Strasbourg	1.86	3.02	1.16	52	46
	Harris	1.59	3.09	1.00	54	46
7B	Outlook	.72	2.12	.90	53	47
	Saskatoon	1.36	2.20	1.04	56	47
	Elbow	.84	2.09	.92	54	48
8A	Tugaske	1.12	3.10	.88	51	47
	Dundurn	1.24	2.17	1.22	54	46
	Eston	.50	2.95	1.20	55	46
8B	Kindersley	.21	2.03	1.10	55	46
	Rosetown	.40	2.34	1.42	55	45
	Macklin	.07	1.57	2.08	55	44
9A	Scott	.46	2.08	1.35	57	46
	Biggar	.68	2.53	.95	55	46
	Mistatim	1.19	1.67	1.20	52	45
9B	Hudson Bay	.85	1.84	1.26	57	45
	Humboldt	.79	1.50	1.02	55	46
	Melfort	1.51	1.89	1.20	55	46

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces 1/

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		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.		
		8 a.m. May 11	since April 1	since April 1	May 11 1953	Normal	
		- inches -			- degrees F. -		
<u>SASKATCHEWAN (concluded)</u>							
9A	North Battleford	.50	1.83	.99	58	50	
	Rabbit Lake	.20	1.35	1.10	52	46	
	Prince Albert	.76	1.30	1.30	53	48	
	Island Falls	Trace	.90	1.23	N.R.	41	
9B	Waseca	.32	2.42	1.29	55	46	
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.98	2.30	1.31	54.5	46.2	
<u>ALBERTA</u>							
1	Taber	.09	2.89	1.60	56	48	
	Foremost	.15	2.25	2.54	55	52	
	Winnifred	Nil	2.90	1.87	N.R.	N.R.	
	Medicine Hat	.15	2.78	1.16	59	52	
	Manyberries	.10	2.60	1.64	54	50	
2	Cowley	Nil	4.86	2.12	51	48	
	Macleod	.02	4.89	1.20	56	50	
	Cardston	.05	3.29	2.34	50	49	
	Lethbridge	.10	2.91	1.59	55	49	
	Del Bonita	Nil	2.83	1.98	51	49	
3	Magrath	Nil	2.65	2.26	54	50	
	Vauxhall	N.R.	1.90 2/	1.33	N.R.	49	
	Hays	.15	2.08	1.26	54	49	
	Brooks	1.00	2.85	1.47	54	50	
	Bindloss	.10	3.42	1.49	54	49	
4	Empress	.03	.36	1.40	56	50	
	High River	.01	3.73	2.22	51	46	
	Vulcan	1.09	1.09 2/	1.66	N.R.	N.R.	
	Drumheller	.25	1.61	1.36	N.R.	47	
	Hanna	.52	2.93	1.72	54	49	
5	Naco	.20	2.54	1.84	54	48	
	Oyen	.22	2.42	1.13	N.R.	N.R.	
	6	Olds	.95	3.28	1.90	52	46
		Calgary	.25	3.31	1.49	52	47
		Three Hills	.44	2.34	1.03	N.R.	46
Strathmore		.50	2.58	1.39	57	45	
Gleichen		.68	2.66	1.39	54	47	
7	Hussar	.42	2.23	1.76	N.R.	N.R.	
	Sedgewick	N.R.	2.12 2/	1.40	N.R.	46	
	Hardisty	.40	2.29	1.00	N.R.	N.R.	
	Coronation	.27	1.79	1.57	56	47	
	Hughenden	.30	2.53	1.54	56	47	
8	Red Deer	.39	2.12	1.76	53	45	
	Lacombe	1.08	3.08	1.39	52	48	
	Wetaskiwin	.51	2.69	1.18	54	47	
	Camrose	.34	1.96	1.75	54	46	
	Stettler	.75	2.55	2.23	55	46	

Precipitation and Temperature, Prairie Provinces 1/

Province and Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. May 11	since April 1	since April 1	May 11 1953	Normal
		- inches -	- degrees F. -			
<u>ALBERTA</u> (concluded)						
9	Jasper	.11	.39	1.01	49	44
	Rocky Mountain House	.98	3.33	2.15	52	44
	Springdale	.59	3.15	1.90	51	44
10	Vegreville	.40	2.38	1.59	55	46
	Vermilion	.05	2.03	1.26	57	45
	Lloydminster	.10	2.02	1.00	55	45
11	Edmonton	.94	2.85	1.34	55	49
12	Edson	.51	2.29	1.25	51	46
	Whitecourt	1.10	3.33	1.64	53	45
13	Elk Point	.18	1.61	1.17	53	45
	Lac La Biche	.27	1.00	1.45	48	46
14	Campsie	1.16	2.78	1.11	52	48
	Athabaska	.79	3.11	1.16	N.R.	46
15	High Prairie	1.86	2.03	.98	52	46
	Wagner	1.19	2.23	1.31	52	45
16	Beaverlodge	.69	1.49	.97	51	46
	Rycroft	1.44	1.69	.87	51	45
	Grand Prairie	1.42	2.16	1.22	52	47
	Fairview	2.25	2.78	.74	51	46
	Berwyn	1.26	1.53	1.16	52	46
	Fort St. John	1.70	1.85	1.08	51	47
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.54	2.51	1.49	53.2	47.1

N.R. No report

1/ Source: Meteorological Service of Canada

2/ Incomplete; not included in average

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