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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the fourth 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

Heavy rains over wide areas of the Prairie Provinces, particularly in southern districts, continue to hold up seeding operations. Substantial acreages still remain to be seeded to coarse grains while an estimated 10 to 20 per cent of the intended wheat acreage has not yet been sown. In view of the lateness of the season it is anticipated by many correspondents that some of the acreage previously intended for wheat will now almost certainly be shifted to coarse grains. An increase in summerfallow acreage is also considered probable. Weeds are a serious problem in many areas. In general, spring-sown crops are in good condition although growth in many areas is slow due to cool, wet weather. Fall-sown crops and hay and pasture are making excellent progress in all three provinces.

Heavy general rains have further delayed completion of seeding in Manitoba. Except in Dauphin and Swan River areas little work will be done on the land until the middle of next week. At least 40 per cent of the oats and barley, 70 per cent of the flax, 10 per cent of the beets and most of the corn are yet to be planted. Some crop area will not be seeded and acreage for fallow will undoubtedly increase. Considerable flooding has occurred in the lower parts of the Red River Valley and soon it will be a problem to till beets and other row crops. Planted crops are generally in satisfactory condition, however, but warmer, drier weather is needed. Hay crops and pastures are in excellent condition.

Seeding progress in Saskatchewan has been slow, with frequent rains delaying field work, particularly in southern areas. For the province as a whole, an estimated 82 per cent of the wheat, half the coarse grains and 40 per cent of the flaxseed acreages have been sown. Wheat seeding is furthest advanced in the central and northwestern areas where more than 90 per cent is completed while an estimated 70 per cent is seeded in the northeast. In the southern part of the province, about 90 per cent of the wheat is seeded in the south-central area, 75 per cent in the southeast and southwest, and 55 per cent in the Regina-Weyburn area. In many regions wheat seeding may be discontinued due to the lateness of the season. Moisture conditions are good to excellent but germination and growth have been slow. About 40 per cent of the wheat is showing green.

Good progress has been made with seeding in central and northern areas of Alberta and in the Peace River District. Wheat seeding is completed or

nearly completed at many points in these regions and sowing of coarse grains is well advanced. However, rains have hampered completion of field work in most southern and western sections of the province and reports from many correspondents state seeding is very backward. Recent copious rains in some of these areas may retard operations to such an extent that no further wheat can be sown. Immediate rain would now be welcome only in areas north of the C.P.R. line between Camrose and Hardisty and in the district north of Edmonton. Weather has remained cool and crops are growing well only on light soils.

Manitoba Crop land is well soaked in the Morden area southwest of Winnipeg.

Germination of cereals has been good and some wheat is six inches in height. Wet weather has delayed seeding this past week and warmer, brighter weather is required to permit completion of seeding of coarse grains, corn and sunflowers. Pastures are excellent and crop prospects are good. No seeding has been done at Pilot Mound since May 19. About 90 per cent of the wheat is in the ground but only 10 per cent of the coarse grains and flax has been sown. Moisture supplies are ample and prospects are good for forage crops. Rains during the past week have improved the condition of all crops at Melita in southwestern Manitoba.

North of Winnipeg at Selkirk, frequent showers have prevented seeding during the past week and operations are not expected to be resumed until this week-end. There is some evidence of damage due to standing water in early-seeded crops and potato growers are worried about rot in their early-planted fields. No change is expected in the acreages seeded to various crops in this district. Around Winnipeg seeding may be resumed this week if no more rain occurs. Early-sown crops and pastures are doing well and a good hay crop is in prospect. A number of farmers will seed flax or rapeseed instead of coarse grains as planned. Wild oats are a problem in this district. It has not been possible to seed in the Portage area for the past week, and two days of drying weather are needed before operations can begin again. It is estimated that 75 per cent of the coarse grains remain to be sown with some reseeded of wheat land because of wild oats. This weed may prove serious to peas.

At Brandon four inches of rain fell on Coronation Day and flood conditions have developed at some points along the Assiniboine River. Little seeding has occurred at Brandon during the past week and operations will be held up for several more days. Many farmers who have delayed seeding on account of wild oats are now placed in a difficult position. A late shift to seeding of barley and flax is expected. Some land may not be seeded, with a consequent increase in summerfallow.

In the Interlake area at Teulon, further rain has increased moisture supplies to a high level and brought seeding to a standstill. Some spots are drowning. Wild oat growth is bad in places and some wheat land has been cultivated for reseeded. Pastures are excellent. Rains have delayed seeding at Minnedosa for the past eleven days and no seeding will be done this week even if drying weather occurs. In this district wheat acreage will be down 10 to 15 per cent from original intentions and a shift to coarse grains will occur. About 70 per cent of the coarse grains and flax remain to be seeded. Early crops are making poor progress due to cool, wet weather.

Only 60 per cent of the wheat and 10 per cent of the coarse grains have been sown in the Dauphin area. Wet weather has held spring operations at a standstill for the past three weeks and heavy rains so far this week will delay seeding still more. Growth of early-sown crops, pastures and gardens has been slow due to cold, wet weather. Rain has prevented seeding at Swan River since the last report. The land is saturated with moisture preventing any field work

for the next few days. Wild oat growth has been heavy and some wheat land will be reseeded. Wheat seeding has been completed with a reduction in the intended area. Only 20 per cent of the coarse grain seeding has been completed. An infestation of cutworms is reported in alfalfa fields.

The Entomological Laboratory at Brandon reports insect activity in the province has been retarded by cool, wet weather. No important damage has occurred during the past week. The Souris River has been treated to control black flies. The average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 45 per cent above normal as compared with 18 per cent above normal a week ago and in contrast to 58 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 1 was 0.9 degrees below normal as compared with 1.3 degrees below normal last week and 6.9 degrees below normal at the same time a year ago.

Saskatchewan Frequent rains continue to hamper seeding progress in the south-eastern part of the province. In the Yellow Grass district about 65 per cent of the intended wheat acreage has been seeded. Heavy rains have caused some flood damage and it is expected that a shift to coarse grain acreage will result from farmers' inability to sow all the acreage originally intended for wheat. Around Fillmore practically no seeding has been done during the past week as a result of frequent heavy rains. Many farmers on low-lying heavy land have hardly any seeding completed. Wild oats and French weed are particularly troublesome and the absence of warm, dry weather has made weed control impossible. Sunny weather is needed to stimulate the growth of spring-sown crops.

In the Indian Head district 1.52 inches of rain on June 2 further delayed seeding operations. During the past week fields have not been dry enough to be worked satisfactorily. Seeded crops in the district are making good growth. Wild oat infestations are serious and stinkweed growth is also severe but can be controlled by spraying. Further seeding will likely be entirely oats, barley or flaxseed.

Around Gravelbourg, in the south-central part of the province, no seeding has been done during the past ten days owing to continuous rains. Moisture conditions are extremely good but warm weather and sunshine are needed to promote growth. Further west, seeding progress in the Eastend district has been very uneven with about 30 per cent of the intended acreage seeded north of this point and about 80 per cent to the south. Wheat acreage in the district is expected to be about 10 per cent below that of 1952 while barley acreage may increase by as much as 35 per cent. A relatively small acreage is being seeded to oats. Winter wheat and early-sown spring grains are making good growth.

In the east-central part of the province around Willowbrook 80 per cent of the wheat and some oats and barley have been seeded. Early-seeded wheat has made good progress. Seeding in the area is expected to be delayed for several days as a result of recent rains. Pastures are excellent and moisture supplies are adequate for three weeks' growth. Around Drake in the central part of the province seeding is almost completed, with 75 per cent of the fields showing green. The outlook for both fall rye and hay crops is good. However, warm weather is necessary to promote growth of these crops and spring-sown grains. The Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Saskatoon states that wireworm damage is beginning to show in early-seeded wheat but reports of losses to date have been few. Moisture supplies in the Saskatoon area are adequate but warmer weather is needed to promote growth.

Stands of spring grains are good around Scott in the west-central part of the province but growth has been backward due to cool weather. Fall rye,

on the other hand, is well advanced and hay and pastures are above normal. Most districts have received sufficient rain to maintain growth of grain and precipitation has been particularly heavy in the district commencing some 40 miles east and south of this point.

An estimated 80 per cent of the wheat and 50 per cent of the coarse grains have been seeded in the Melfort district in the northeastern part of the province. Moisture conditions are good and germination has been uniform, with wheat now beginning to show above ground. Pastures and hay crops are making satisfactory progress. Many farmers are seeding Olli barley in place of Montcalm due to lateness of the season. In the Carrot River district about 75 per cent of the wheat and 60 per cent of the total intended area for all crops have been seeded. Fall rye wintered in excellent condition and pasture and hay crops are making good growth. Infestations of both wild oats and French weed are evident. In the district around Prince in the northwestern part of the province no rains have been received since May 26 and rainfall for the season has been below average. The weather has been cold and growth has been slow.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 58 per cent above normal as compared with 46 per cent above normal a week ago and 30 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 1 has been 0.4 degrees above normal in contrast to 2.1 degrees below normal for the preceding week and 5.2 degrees below normal for the corresponding week last year.

Alberta At Manyberries, in the extreme southeast of the Province, seeding of coarse grains is almost finished although rain is hindering final completion of spring work. The early wheat crop is up four inches and subsoil and surface soil moisture conditions are excellent. Grass is making rapid growth, and range land and live stock are in good condition. Two and a half inches of rain fell in the Medicine Hat area on June 2 further delaying seeding. From 10 to 20 per cent of the wheat and about 40 per cent of coarse grains and flax remain to be seeded in this district. Early-seeded wheat is up about three inches and fall rye is in the shot blade. Pastures and live stock are in good condition.

From two to four inches of rain have fallen in the district south of Calgary over the past few days thus assuring adequate moisture supplies for the immediate future. Seeding is nearly completed south of Calgary except in the foothills and Milk River Ridge areas. Hail has caused some damage to garden crops and perhaps sugar beets around Lethbridge. At Cardston in the extreme southwest only 65 per cent of the grain has been seeded to date. Continued rains have left the ground so wet that only a slight possibility exists of any further seeding. Streak mosaic in winter wheat is causing concern about this crop.

Heavy rains occurred at Brooks in south-central Alberta on June 2 and 3. As a result of the late, wet spring only 65 per cent of the coarse grains and 45 per cent of the flax have been seeded so far. About 95 per cent of the wheat crop is in the ground but it is estimated that wheat acreage will be down 10 to 15 per cent from earlier intentions. The season is somewhat further advanced in the Hanna district where germination has been good and growth rapid. Heavy rains have again delayed seeding in the Calgary area and a substantial shift from wheat to coarse grains is anticipated in this district. Pastures are showing heavy growth in this area.

Wheat seeding is completed in the Sedgewick and Donalda districts of central Alberta. Heavy rains, however, have delayed completion of coarse grains seeding. Fall rye is fifteen inches in height and in good condition. Forage crops are also making good progress but warmer weather is needed to promote growth generally. At Lacombe in west-central Alberta moisture supplies are adequate but warm weather is required to allow completion of seeding and to promote growth. Early-seeded wheat averages four inches in height and oats two inches. Most farmers in this area are well advanced with their seeding operations. The wild oat infestation is heavy. Similar conditions prevail farther west at Eckville although the delay in seeding caused by heavy rains is somewhat more serious in this district.

Rain continues to delay field work in the Edmonton area but all of the wheat and 75 per cent of the coarse grains are now seeded. The season is rather less advanced in the area west of Edmonton but with warmer weather growth will be rapid. In the northeast around Bonnyville seeding is nearly completed with all grain growing well. Early crops are up about six inches. Moisture conditions are still good but more rain would be welcome here. Hay and pasture crops are doing well.

North of Edmonton at Athabasca all seeding is completed. Moisture supplies are good and crops are doing well. Our correspondent at Falher in the Peace River district reports completion of wheat seeding while about 65 to 70 per cent of the coarse grains is in the ground. Moisture supplies are very good and pasture and hay stands are excellent.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 35 per cent above normal as compared with 33 per cent above normal a week ago and in contrast to 40 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 1 was 0.3 degrees above normal compared with 2.3 degrees below normal a week ago and 2.5 degrees below 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. June 1	since April 1	since April 1	June 1 1953	Normal
			- inches -		- degrees F. -	
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Pierson	1.75	3.61	3.27	55	55
	Melita	.65	3.35	3.52	57	56
	Waskada	1.59	3.50	2.64	58	54
	Deloraine	1.79	4.10	3.02	54	54
2	Boissevain	2.19	5.12	3.37	54	53
	Ninette	1.46	4.26	3.60	55	55
3	Portage la Prairie	1.59	4.51	3.11	55	56
	Graysville	N.R.	3.76 2/	3.15	N.R.	54
	Morden	N.R.	3.87 2/	3.22	N.R.	55
	Altona	2.37	6.47	3.28	54	55
	Morris	2.63	6.94	2.94	56	56
	Roland	1.64	5.10	2.91	55	55
	Emerson	2.79	7.04	2.70	56	56
4	Winnipeg	2.00	6.31	3.53	54	56
6	Sprague	1.38	4.38	3.44	55	54
	Seven Sisters Falls	2.17	4.84	2.27	54	54
7	Virden	.66	2.01	2.43	54	54
	Reston	.74	3.20	3.01	54	55
	Rivers	1.02	2.84	2.92	53	55
8	Brandon	.81	3.97	2.91	53	55
	Cypress River	1.59	3.69	3.07	53	55
9	Neepawa	1.26	4.09	2.94	50	55
	Flumas	2.02	5.86	2.96	51	55
10	Russell	1.16	3.02	2.61	52	53
	Birtle	1.25	3.42	2.62	53	53
11	Dauphin	1.45	4.59	2.36	50	53
12	Gimli	1.02	5.19	3.64	51	53
13	Swan River	1.15	2.94	2.31	50	52
	The Pas	1.13	1.78	2.06	48	53
MANITOBA AVERAGE		1.53	4.30	2.96	53.5	54.4

SASKATCHEWAN

1A	Estevan	.44	4.60	2.93	57	54
	Carlyle	.77	3.90	3.19	55	53
	Oxbow	.46	4.13	3.13	54	54
	Redvers	1.50	3.41 2/	2.65	54	53
	Willmar	1.03	5.20	2.94	N.R.	N.R.
1B	Broadview	.63	4.19	2.81	52	54
	Moosomin	1.37	4.34	2.53	53	54
2A	Yellow Grass	.71	5.95	2.79	56	54
	Weyburn	.56	4.78	3.04	56	53
	Midale	.33	5.38	3.28	53	53

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. June 1	since April 1	since April 1	June 1 1953	Normal
			- inches -			- degrees F. -
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u> (continued)						
2B	Moose Jaw	1.04	4.16	2.74	54	56
	Regina	.70	4.32	2.51	55	54
	Rowatt	.96	4.64	2.56	N.R.	54
	St. Appelle	1.08	3.15 2/	3.25	54	54
	Indian Head	.89	3.49	2.86	53	54
	Wilcox	1.28	4.16 2/	2.66	56	54
3AS	Assiniboia	1.27	5.77	2.15	56	54
	Ormiston	1.12	4.88	2.38	56	53
	Ceylon	1.19	4.86	3.68	55	55
3AN	Chaplin	1.03	4.47	3.13	55	55
	Gravelbourg	1.35	5.42	2.16	54	54
	Coderre	1.10	4.52	2.40	53	55
3BS	Shaunavon	1.13	4.78	2.29	53	52
	Cadillac	1.98	6.32	3.73	54	52
	Aneroid	1.40	4.66	2.59	54	53
3BN	Fennant	1.54	5.76	2.90	55	54
	Swift Current	.99	4.27	2.73	53	55
	Hughton	1.17	4.10	3.14	54	53
4A	Maple Creek	1.12	4.63	2.66	57	54
	Consul	.69	4.09	2.65	53	52
4B	Roadene	1.43	5.55	3.14	56	53
5A	Leross	.90	3.69	2.57	50	51
	Lipton	.94	2.63	2.36	53	51
	Yorkton	1.48	4.38	2.67	51	53
	Bangor	1.96	4.67	2.73	51	53
	Dafoe	1.17	4.02	2.18	51	51
5B	Foam Lake	1.30	4.87	2.57	51	51
	Lintlaw	1.39	4.80	2.93	49	50
	Kamsack	1.01	3.67	1.96	52	51
	Pelly	N.R.	2.10 2/	2.19	N.R.	51
	Davidson	1.13	3.70	2.42	52	53
6A	Dilke	1.18	3.66	2.62	N.R.	N.R.
	Imperial	1.30	4.03	2.16	53	53
	Semans	1.27	4.45	1.91	53	52
	Strasbourg	1.47	4.91	2.73	53	53
	Harris	.73	3.82 2/	1.83	52	53
6B	Outlook	N.R.	2.50 2/	2.01	N.R.	54
	Saskatoon	.62	3.10	2.17	53	54
	Elbow	.73	3.21	2.28	54	55
	Tugaske	1.14	4.98	2.28	54	54
	Dundurn	1.00	3.88	2.37	53	53
7A	Eston	.85	3.82	2.13	55	53
	Kindersley	.75	2.95	2.21	55	51
	Rosetown	.88	3.53	2.61	54	52

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Province and Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m.	since	since	June 1	
		June 1	April 1	April 1	1953	Normal
			- inches -	- degrees F. -		
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u> (concluded)						
7B	Macklin	.31	2.28	2.17	56	51
	Scott	.43	3.14	2.31	56	53
	Biggar	.64	3.46	2.27	54	53
8A	Nistatin	1.31	3.80	2.41	50	52
	Hudson Bay	1.44	3.71	2.35	49	53
8B	Humboldt	.66	2.89	2.19	51	53
	Nelfort	.37	2.38	2.60	52	54
9A	North Battleford	.16	2.39	2.24	54	56
	Rabbit Lake	.36	1.89	2.06	56	53
	Prince Albert	.35	1.91	2.35	52	55
	Island Falls	.24	1.19	2.34	49	51
9B	Waseca	N.R.	2.98 <u>2/</u>	2.33	N.R.	52
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.98	4.09	2.58	53.5	53.1

ALBERTA

1	Taber	.11	3.07	2.77	55	54
	Foremost	.97	4.27	4.08	55	59
	Winnifred	1.09	5.48	2.97	N.R.	N.R.
	Medicine Hat	1.33	5.91	2.37	58	57
	Manyberries	.73	4.99	2.90	53	57
2	Cowley	1.64	6.86	3.41	48	52
	Macleod	.45	5.72	2.63	52	56
	Cardston	1.84	6.25	4.91	N.R.	55
	Lethbridge	.26	3.38	2.96	52	55
	Del Bonita	1.44	5.52	3.53	48	55
	Magrath	.44	3.19	3.72	50	55
3	Vauxhall	.10	2.52	2.45	56	55
	Hays	.17	3.23	2.36	55	55
	Brooks	.27	3.91	2.57	54	56
	Bindloss	1.48	5.48	2.56	55	55
	Empress	1.15	1.90	2.52	57	57
4	High River	1.32	5.79	3.75	49	52
	Vulcan	.57	5.54	2.74	N.R.	N.R.
5	Drumheller	.22	2.50	2.68	N.R.	54
	Hanna	.26	3.50	3.00	55	55
	Naco	.24	2.83	3.26	56	55
	Oyen	.64	3.18	1.79	N.R.	N.R.
6	Olds	.48	4.59	3.33	52	52
	Calgary	.66	4.77	3.12	51	53
	Three Hills	.68	4.31	2.34	54	51
	Strathmore	.59	3.76	2.79	51	50

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.	since	since	June 1	
		June 1	April 1	April 1	1953	Normal
		- inches -			- degrees F. -	
<u>ALBERTA</u> (concluded)						
6	Gleichen	.40	3.65	2.65	52	53
	Husbar	.60	3.89	2.96	N.R.	N.R.
7	Sedgewick	N.R.	2.63 2/	1.95	N.R.	52
	Hardisty	N.R.	2.45 2/	2.05	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	.15	2.03	2.47	55	53
	Hughenden	.82	3.56	2.56	54	55
8	Red Deer	.66	3.33	3.56	52	51
	Lacombe	1.15	4.48	2.79	54	53
	Wetaskiwin	.43	3.27	2.40	56	53
	Camrose	.65	2.73	3.02	56	51
	Stettler	.20	2.99	3.70	54	52
9	Jasper	.60	2.18	1.74	52	52
	Rocky Mountain House	1.18	5.28	3.43	52	50
	Springdale	.76	4.26	3.46	52	50
10	Vegreville	.12	2.72	3.05	55	52
	Vermilion	.02	2.24	2.63	55	51
	Lloydminster	.05	2.54	2.15	55	50
11	Edmonton	.10	3.03	2.62	58	54
12	Edson	1.51	4.14	2.36	51	52
	Whitecourt	.18	3.86	3.02	53	52
13	Elk Point	.16	2.11	2.31	56	51
	Lac La Biche	.12	1.37	2.51	58	52
14	Campsie	N.R.	2.69 2/	2.56	N.R.	52
	Athabaska	.33	3.44	2.71	52	52
15	High Prairie	.62	3.80	2.18	53	50
	Wagner	.25	2.51	2.68	53	53
16	Beaverlodge	1.21	2.82	2.25	52	52
	Rycroft	N.R.	1.94 2/	1.51	N.R.	52
	Grand Prairie	.96	3.34	2.53	54	54
	Fairview	.89	3.98	1.69	54	53
	Berwyn	.35	2.01	2.20	52	52
	Fort St. John	.21	2.22	2.34	53	53
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.63	3.71	2.75	53.5	53.2

N.R. - No report

1/ - Source: Meteorological Service of Canada

2/ - Incomplete; not included in average

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