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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the sixth 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

In most areas of the Prairie Provinces warmer weather during the past week has promoted rapid development of early-seeded spring grains, forage and fall-sown crops. With some exceptions, good progress was made with late seeding. It is evident, however, that due to unusually wet weather in many districts during the normal seeding season there will be some shift in acreage from wheat to other grains and summerfallow. Weed growth has been generally heavy but no serious insect infestations have been reported. Some hail damage has already occurred in southern Alberta.

High temperatures have prevailed over most of Manitoba during the past week and have aided greatly in drying land that had previously been too wet to work. Excellent progress is now being made with late seeding of barley and flax. Early-seeded crops are growing rapidly with fall rye and hay crops in above-average condition for this time of year. Showers have delayed field work in a few localities and some seeding still remains to be done in the Dauphin area of the northwest. Summerfallowing is just getting under way. Weeds are a serious problem in many districts but no important insect outbreaks have been reported.

Warmer weather during the past week in Saskatchewan promoted rapid growth of all crops. Although some progress was made with seeding last week, much land remains waterlogged, particularly in the Regina-Weyburn area, and it is evident that some acreage intended for spring grain will not be seeded. Some early-sown wheat is ten inches high, with the average about five inches. About 70 per cent of the seeded coarse grain acreage is showing green and averages about four inches in height. Fall rye is heading and growth has been so heavy that there is danger of lodging in some districts. Pastures and hay crops are in generally excellent condition. The first operation on summerfallows is about 25 to 65 per cent completed in central and northern districts but less than 10 per cent in the south. With the exception of the northwestern part of the province where rain is needed, moisture reserves are adequate.

Crops have made good growth throughout most of Alberta in the past few days. In central and northern areas seeding has been completed. From Drumheller south, however, only from 75 to 90 per cent of the intended wheat acreage has been sown and it is estimated that even less of the coarse grains

is in the ground. It is anticipated that more land will be summerfallowed in this area than previously intended and that there may also be some increase in barley acreage. Moisture conditions are excellent in the Peace River District as far north as Manning and fair north of a line from Whitecourt through Vermilion. Some districts in northern and central areas will require rain within the next ten days. In the south and west of the province, however, moisture supplies are excessive. Slight frost damage occurred early in June in the Lac la Biche and Rivercourse districts. Sugar beet thinning began in the Taber area at the week-end. Only half of the canning pea crop has been seeded at Brooks. Several hail storms have occurred in southern districts.

Manitoba In southeastern Manitoba crops, though somewhat patchy, are in generally good condition. It is estimated that about 80 per cent of the intended coarse grain acreage and 30 per cent of the flaxseed have been sown. Our correspondent in this district expects that summerfallow acreage will be increased. Pasture and hay crops are excellent. Some damage from sweet clover weevils is reported. Warm, sunny weather has favoured rapid growth of most crops in the Morden area of southern Manitoba. Seeding has been completed and corn and sunflowers are making satisfactory growth. Pastures and hay crops are in top condition and, although weed growth is heavy, crop prospects are generally excellent. Conditions are also satisfactory farther west at Melita where summerfallowing is in full swing.

In the Selkirk area east of Winnipeg hot weather during the past week has caused some scorching of grain in the low-lying areas. Seeding is completed here except for flax. The hay crop is exceptionally good and potatoes are growing well and showing no damage from wet weather. In the area immediately around Winnipeg coarse grains are still being seeded. Some fields with heavy weed growth will now be fallowed instead of being seeded as originally intended. Early-sown crops are making excellent progress except where water is still standing in low spots. Seeding has made rapid progress in the Portage area during the past ten days and should be almost completed by the 20th. Early-seeded grain is in fairly good condition, some reseeding having been necessary in low spots. Peas are doing well and sugar beet cultivation has begun. Brome grass is heading and hay and pasture prospects are excellent. No insect damage is evident. Similar conditions prevail in the Brandon area where only some 5 per cent of the coarse grains and 15 per cent of the flax crop remain to be sown. Corn and gardens are making good growth.

In the Interlake area at Teulon seeding is practically completed. Growing conditions are excellent and weed spraying has commenced on some earlier seeded crops. At Arborg early-seeded grain is now up six inches. Some losses have occurred due to flooding followed by very hot weather. Late seeding has been completed and weed spraying will start next week.

At Shoal Lake, in the northwest, warm weather during the past five days has enabled farmers to finish seeding and make a good start on summerfallow. Crop growth and pasture conditions are excellent. At Dauphin very little seeding has been done since the last report due to wet weather. However, seeding on high ground started on the 15th and, with good drying weather, should become general by the end of the week. Our correspondent at this point reports a 40 per cent reduction in wheat acreage, with 80 per cent of the coarse grains and flax yet to be sown. Weed growth is very heavy in this area. In the Swan River district early-seeded crops are up and stooling nicely. Ninety per cent of the late seeding has been completed and summerfallows are now being worked. Hot weather is promoting rapid growth. Chemical weed sprays are being used in some fields to

control mustard and frenchweed.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 43 per cent above normal as compared with 66 per cent above normal a week ago and in contrast to 41 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 15 was 9.1 degrees above normal in contrast to 1.6 degrees below normal a week ago and 2.5 degrees above normal a year ago.

Saskatchewan In the southeastern part of the province around Parkman heavy rains are delaying seeding. Although some progress was made last week, about 25 per cent of the intended acreage remains to be seeded and it is evident that some of this will not be sown due to lateness of the season and excessive moisture. Some early-seeded crops are patchy and very weedy. Pastures are excellent and prospects are for a good hay crop. In the Yellow Grass district about 65 per cent of the wheat is seeded and it is expected that the remaining acreage will be diverted to coarse grains, flaxseed or summerfallow. Over ten inches of rain have fallen since April 1 and from 10 to 25 per cent of the spring-sown grains have suffered some flood damage. Around Fillmore ideal conditions during the past week have brought rapid growth. Some coarse grains and flaxseed are still being seeded. Wild oat growth is quite prevalent. Fall rye is heading and stands are good to excellent. Summerfallowing has been delayed because of wet spots in fields.

Around Swift Current, in the southwestern part of the province, warm weather and ample moisture reserves have hastened growth of all spring grains. Stands of these crops are generally excellent. Fall rye is in head and promises a very heavy crop if additional rain is received for filling. Pasture growth has been excellent. In the Eastend district rain during the week ending June 13 will likely prevent any further seeding. No summerfallowing has been done yet as the land is too wet to work. A reduction of about 30 per cent from last year's overall acreage is expected in the district. About 90 per cent of the intended acreage has been seeded south and east of this point while to the north and west the proportion ranges from 20 to 70 per cent. Hay and pasture crops were never better. All crops are making good growth but weeds are expected to prove troublesome. In the district around Leader grain crops are growing fast, with early-seeded fields stooling heavily and late-seeded fields being well covered. Moisture conditions continue to be very good. Fall rye is now completely headed out and the stand is so heavy that some lodging is occurring. Pastures are in excellent condition.

Crops are progressing favourably in the Togo area in the east-central part of the province where moisture conditions are good. Wild oat infestations are currently the only major drawback to crop development. Both pasture and hay crops are in excellent condition. Little change has occurred in this area from acreages originally intended for the various grains. Seeding is finished in the Willowbrook district where all grains are now well above ground and prospects are promising. Pastures are in excellent condition. No crop damage of any kind has been reported although infestations of wild oats are fairly heavy.

In the central part of the province around Drake late-seeded grain is now showing green. Seeding in the area has been completed with the exception of low spots. Most of the fall rye crop is out in head. Weed spraying and summerfallowing operations are under way. Pastures are good and prospects are for a heavy hay crop. Some wireworm damage has been reported in the district.

In the Guernsey district over three inches of rain on June 13, accompanied by wind and hail, caused some damage to the fall rye which is now out in head. Grass and alfalfa are in the early bloom stage. Plant development has been rapid and most spring-seeded crops are now covering the ground. Crops are making favourable growth in the Saskatoon area but more rain is needed in districts to the north of this point.

In contrast to most of the remainder of the province, rain is needed in the west-central section around Scott where practically no precipitation has been recorded during June. Crops in parts of this district are beginning to show the effects of drought and rain will be needed very soon. With the exception of these areas, crops are about normal for this date.

Around Melfort in the northeastern part of the province warm weather last week promoted rapid growth of all crops. Wheat is four to six inches high with excellent stands. Barley and oats are progressing favourably and there is sufficient moisture for continued good growth. Brome grass is heading.

A report from the Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Saskatoon indicates that wireworm damage is continuing in central and west-central Saskatchewan. There have also been several reports of severe damage to sweet clover by weevils in the Saskatoon district.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 48 per cent above normal compared with 66 per cent above normal a week ago and 18 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 15 was 7.9 degrees above normal in contrast to 1.7 degrees below normal for the preceding week and 1.2 degrees above normal for the corresponding week a year ago.

Alberta Ninety-five per cent of the spring seeding has now been completed in the Medicine Hat area of southeastern Alberta. Fall rye is headed, with early wheat being up about one foot. Pastures are in excellent condition and live stock are doing well. From 20 to 30 per cent of the summer-fallow acreage has been covered once. Crop prospects south of Calgary are generally satisfactory although development is somewhat later than normal. Spring wheat averages about four inches in height. Crops east of Lethbridge are a little further advanced than those to the west and southwest. Some damage occurred from the heavy rains early this month, with flax suffering rather more than other grains. Waterlogging in low spots will also cause some crop loss. Seeding has resumed and should be completed in the next few days. It is anticipated that more land will be in barley and summerfallow than was originally intended. Winter wheat and rye are heading and prospects are promising. Sugar beet thinning is well under way.

At Cardston in the extreme southwest the return of warmer weather has improved the crop outlook on many farms. Fall rye has headed thickly and is three feet high. Winter wheat is up 18 inches and is in the shot blade. Spring crops suffered from the earlier unseasonable weather and their development is some three weeks later than normal. Pastures, however, are excellent and a splendid crop of hay is assured. Five inches of rain fell in the Claresholm area last week resulting in an estimated five per cent damage to crops from erosion and waterlogging. Hay and pasture crops are doing well but hot, dry weather is needed to prevent further deterioration to cereals.

At Brooks in south-central Alberta most fields are now dry enough for cultivation. High winds on Saturday damaged crops in the light soil areas. Some coarse grains and flax still remain to be seeded in this district. Good growing weather with local showers has promoted crop development in the Hanna area. Wheat is up from 5 to 6 inches but some fields are very weedy. Pastures are good. Farther west at Calgary heavy rains have again held up all field work and only barley will now be sown. Germination is good but warm weather is needed to promote growth. Spring wheat in this district averages only from 2 to 5 inches in height.

Our correspondents at Sedgewick, Donalda and Stettler in central Alberta all report good moisture conditions. Seeding has been completed in these districts and warm weather is now needed to speed crop development. Pastures and hay crops are generally good and fall rye is heading out on long straw. Moisture conditions remain excellent in the Lacombe and Eckville areas of west-central Alberta. At Lacombe early wheat, oats and barley are reported to be up 8, 6 and 8 inches respectively. Pasture and hay crops are doing very well but warmer weather would benefit development of all crops. Seeding has just been completed at Eckville and 60 per cent of the summerfallow acreage has been gone over once. Weed spraying is beginning. Crops are doing well but are 7 to 10 days behind normal.

Seeding has been completed in the Edmonton and Vermilion areas with crops generally doing quite well. Rains, however, would be welcome as topsoil is drying rapidly. The situation is somewhat better in the area west of Edmonton where early-sown grain is up from 4 to 8 inches and forage crops, pastures and live stock are all in good condition. Moisture conditions are excellent in the Peace River District where seeding of cereal crops is now completed. Fall rye has headed and forage crops are making excellent progress. No grasshopper or frost damage is reported.

Several hail storms have been reported from various points in southern Alberta with Barons and Purple Springs reporting the heaviest damage. Spring grains were not injured seriously but losses up to 100 per cent have been reported in fall-sown crops. Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 58 per cent above normal as compared with 62 per cent above normal a week ago and in contrast to 18 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending June 15 was 4.1 degrees above normal in contrast to 1.6 degrees below normal a week ago and 3.0 degrees below normal a year ago.

Predipitation 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 15	
		June 15	April 1	April 1	1953	Normal
		- inches -	- degrees F. -			
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Pierson	.16	4.85	4.47	67	59
	Melita	.17	4.74	5.23	68	60
	Waskada	.02	4.56	4.14	67	59
	Deloraine	.03	5.05	4.35	67	59
2	Boissevain	.02	6.11	4.54	67	59
	Ninette	.16	7.22	4.95	67	59
3	Portage la Prairie	Trace	5.39	4.36	72	60
	Graysville	.03	8.53	4.76	69	59
	Morden	Nil	6.47	4.66	71	60
	Altona	Nil	8.22	4.61	71	60
	Morris	Nil	9.01	4.36	68	60
	Roland	Nil	6.94	4.27	69	60
	Emerson	Trace	8.32	4.00	71	61
4	Winnipeg	.02	7.69	4.96	70	61
6	Sprague	.50	5.74	4.89	66	58
	Seven Sisters Falls	.03	5.36	3.39	68	59
7	Virden	.26	4.98	3.76	66	59
	Reston	.29	5.10	4.54	68	59
	Rivers	.32	6.19	4.22	68	59
8	Brandon	.15	9.65	4.32	68	59
	Cypress River	Trace	6.40	4.37	69	60
9	Neepawa	.02	5.45	4.32	68	59
	Plumas	.11	6.90	4.29	69	59
10	Russell	.66	4.41	4.02	68	57
	Birtle	.42	4.71	4.04	67	57
11	Dauphin	1.48	9.34	3.52	68	58
12	Gimli	.01	5.64	5.09	68	59
13	Swan River	.06	3.81	3.90	68	57
	The Pas	.32	2.10	3.03	64	58
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.18	6.17	4.32	68.2	59.1

SASKATCHEWAN

1A	Estevan	1.57	7.80	4.34	67	58
	Carlyle	.56	5.77	4.56	64	57
	Oxbow	.80	8.06	4.39	69	58
	Redvers	.55	5.88	3.95	67	57
	Willmar	1.07	8.67	4.19	N.R.	N.R.
1B	Broadview	.29	8.53	3.86	65	57
	Moosomin	.22	8.08	3.84	67	58

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 15	
		June 15	April 1	April 1	1953	Normal
		- inches -			- degrees F. -	
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u> (continued)						
2A	Yellow Grass	1.00	10.06	4.16	66	58
	Weyburn	.96	7.19	4.40	68	58
	Midale	1.14	9.14	4.64	67	58
2B	Moose Jaw	.15	6.72	4.14	68	59
	Regina	.45	5.82	3.95	66	58
	Rowatt	.23	6.05	3.96	N.R.	58
	Qu'Appelle	.54	5.32 2/	4.85	67	59
	Indian Head	.63	5.70	4.57	66	58
	Wilcox	.36	6.41 2/	4.06	66	58
	Assiniboia	.36	7.78	3.46	66	60
3AS	Ormiston	.57	7.44	3.69	65	59
	Ceylon	.24	7.61	5.23	66	59
	Chaplin	.49	6.92	4.54	66	59
3AN	Gravelbourg	.45	7.27	3.50	66	57
	Coderre	.32	6.74	3.76	64	59
	Shaunavon	.52	6.84	3.46	61	57
3ES	Cadillac	.32	8.41	5.46	63	57
	Aneroid	.35	6.05	4.21	63	57
	Pennant	.07	9.23	4.50	64	58
	Swift Current	.76	6.72	4.11	63	58
	Hughton	.13	4.53	4.17	65	57
4A	Maple Creek	.21	6.01	4.00	64	58
	Consul	.51	5.47	3.69	60	57
4B	Roadene	.14	8.98	4.18	63	57
5A	Leross	.88	6.48	4.00	63	55
	Lipton	.36	4.08	3.48	64	55
	Yorkton	.58	5.95	3.92	67	57
	Bangor	.49	6.42	3.88	66	58
	Dafoe	.36	4.70	3.48	65	55
5B	Foam Lake	N.R.	5.51 2/	3.82	N.R.	55
	Lintlaw	Trace	5.23	4.02	64	55
	Kamsack	.86	4.88	3.10	67	56
	Pelly	.08	4.27	3.57	64	56
	Davidson	.31	4.39	3.50	N.R.	58
6A	Dilke	1.36	6.17	3.82	N.R.	N.R.
	Imperial	.51	4.70	3.35	66	57
	Semans	.65	5.22	2.67	67	55
	Strasbourg	1.34	7.25	3.98	64	57
	Harris	Nil	4.07 2/	3.00	64	57
6B	Outlook	.30	3.66	2.76	64	58
	Saskatoon	.01	3.15	3.28	67	57
	Elbow	.35	4.15	3.46	65	58
	Tugaske	.40	6.74	3.46	65	58
	Dundurn	.22	4.10	3.94	66	57

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 15	
		June 15	April 1	April 1	1953	Normal
		- inches -			- degrees F. -	
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u> (concluded)						
7A	Eston	N.R.	4.33 2/	3.15	N.R.	57
	Kindersley	.20	4.05	3.10	64	54
	Rosetown	.39	4.19	3.85	65	55
7B	Macklin	Trace	2.32	4.16	66	55
	Scott	.04	3.20	3.34	64	57
	Biggar	.30	3.83	3.61	66	57
8A	Mistatim	.18	3.98	3.65	63	56
	Hudson Bay	.03	4.01	3.61	66	57
8B	Humboldt	Trace	2.92	3.23	66	57
	Melfort	.14	2.64	3.54	67	58
9A	North Battleford	.13	2.52	3.55	66	59
	Rabbit Lake	N.R.	1.89 2/	3.40	N.R.	58
	Prince Albert	.11	2.03	3.63	64	58
	Island Falls	.63	1.94	3.49	62	56
9B	Waseca	.36	3.55	3.60	62	56
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.44	5.70	3.84	65.1	57.2

ALBERTA

1	Taber	.67	8.87	3.75	62	58
	Foremost	1.05	7.86	5.38	61	63
	Winnifred	.71	8.64	3.79	N.R.	N.R.
	Medicine Hat	.36	8.73	3.51	64	60
	Manyberries	N.R.	5.93 2/	3.89	N.R.	60
2	Cowley	2.21	11.98	4.85	54	54
	Macleod	4.44	14.91	3.94	58	60
	Cardston	1.53	12.58	6.69	66	59
	Lethbridge	1.00	8.27	4.25	59	58
	Del Bonita	.97	10.49	4.87	56	59
	Magrath	N.R.	7.57 2/	5.43	N.R.	59
3	Vauxhall	N.R.	7.29 2/	3.38	N.R.	59
	Hays	1.57	8.33	3.29	63	59
	Brooks	.37	9.30	3.49	61	60
	Bindloss	.59	8.42	3.53	62	59
	Empress	.31	3.23	3.74	67	61
4	High River	1.01	9.11	5.35	56	55
	Vulcan	1.23	9.35	4.03	N.R.	N.R.
5	Drumheller	1.06	5.42	4.14	N.R.	59
	Hanna	.16	4.69	4.51	64	59
	Naco	.29	4.34	4.31	62	58
	Oyen	N.R.	5.16 2/	2.75	N.R.	N.R.

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 15	
		June 15	April 1	April 1	1953	Normal
		- inches -			- degrees F. -	
ALBERTA (concluded)						
6	Olds	1.31	7.46	4.59	58	54
	Calgary	1.24	8.31	4.60	58	56
	Three Hills	.76	7.11	3.83	60	53
	Strathmore	1.80	7.41	4.23	59	54
	Gleichen	1.14	7.18	3.76	60	56
	Hussar	.49	8.83	4.03	N.R.	N.R.
7	Sedgewick	N.R.	3.18 <u>2/</u>	3.35	N.R.	56
	Hardisty	N.R.	2.45 <u>2/</u>	3.13	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	.14	2.48	3.47	63	56
	Hughenden	.59	4.10	3.69	63	59
8	Red Deer	1.01	5.51	5.32	60	54
	Lacombe	.89	6.52	4.37	60	56
	Wetaskiwin	.23	4.40	3.93	61	56
	Camrose	.86	3.68	4.06	62	54
	Stettler	.60	4.81	4.95	62	55
9	Jasper	.41	3.01	2.32	57	54
	Rocky Mountain House	1.27	8.69	4.79	57	53
	Springdale	.52	5.70	4.92	57	53
10	Vegreville	.39	3.26	4.53	63	55
	Vermilion	1.30	3.54	3.91	61	55
	Lloydminster	.48	3.02	3.27	62	55
11	Edmonton	.34	3.96	3.97	64	57
12	Edson	.34	5.20	3.66	58	54
	Whitecourt	.62	5.82	4.21	58	55
13	Elk Point	.51	2.62	3.58	63	55
	Lac La Biche	.47	1.84	3.67	64	55
14	Campsie	.05	2.74 <u>2/</u>	4.01	58	55
	Athabaska	.90	4.38	3.77	59	55
15	High Prairie	1.80	6.02	3.46	60	54
	Wagner	.26	2.89	3.78	61	56
16	Beaverlodge	.51	4.04	3.20	59	54
	Rycroft	.93	4.43	2.35	59	56
	Grand Prairie	1.17	5.24	3.71	60	51
	Fairview	.98	5.41	2.72	61	55
	Berwyn	1.66	4.04	3.23	60	56
	Fort St. John	1.28	4.26	3.47	60	56
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.90	6.27	3.98	60.5	56.4

N.R. No report

1/ Source: Meteorological Service of Canada

2/ Incomplete; not included in average

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