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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT — PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the second of the 1956 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.

S U M M A R Y

Progress of spring work has been slow in most sections of the Prairie Provinces this year to date. Cool, showery weather last week hampered operations throughout southern districts and further delayed commencement of seeding in some northern areas. With a warming trend developing in the weather our correspondents anticipate that rapid progress could be made during the next two weeks. Seeding is becoming general in most sections of Alberta and in Saskatchewan except for the northeast part. Some progress has been made in southern areas of Manitoba and seeding could be general in most parts of the province by this week end if weather permits. Although rains are benefiting pastures and hay crops, growth has been very slow to date throughout the three provinces.

Cool, damp weather has been holding up seeding operations in most parts of Manitoba. Weather permitting, however, seeding will likely be fairly general by this coming week end. Exceptions are the heavier, poorly drained soils in the Red River Valley and areas flooded by the Assiniboine River. In southwest Manitoba nearly 50 per cent of the seeding has been completed but elsewhere little has been done. There has been no soil drifting and moisture reserves were well restored by the heavy snows. Wintered-over crops appear satisfactory. Farmers are showing a keen interest in flaxseed, oats and special crops, particularly rapeseed, sunflowers, corn and buckwheat. Wheat acreage may not reach the 1955 level. Warm weather is needed to bring growth along especially in pastures.

Prepared in the Crops Section, Agriculture Division

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EDMOND CLOUTIER, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.P., Queen's Printer and Controller of Stationery, Ottawa, 1955.

Wheat seeding is general in southwestern and south-central parts of Saskatchewan and from fifteen to thirty-five per cent is completed. In the north-east and north-central parts seeding is not expected to get under way for another ten days due to cold showery weather. Throughout the rest of the province from five to ten per cent of the seeding has been done. Fall rye suffered heavy winter damage. Increased plantings of flaxseed, rapeseed and durum wheat are in prospect for the western sections of the province. Moisture conditions are generally adequate but warm weather is needed in many areas to dry up the land and speed germination and the growth of pastures.

Seeding is becoming general in most parts of Alberta, although showers have hampered operations in some districts, particularly in the south. Given dry weather, progress should be rapid in all areas by this week end. Moisture conditions, with few exceptions, are considered satisfactory despite the fact that spring rains have been somewhat below normal. Correspondents at many points anticipate a reduction in the acreage seeded to ordinary spring wheat, with offsetting increases in durum wheat, coarse grains, flaxseed and rapeseed.

MANITOBA

Our correspondent from the southeast corner of Manitoba reports that only a trace of seeding has occurred since last week. Weather permitting, seeding may be resumed towards the latter part of the present week. Around Altona seeding has just started up again after the rain. Pastures are coming slowly but appear to have wintered well. Cattle are showing the effect of a long winter. The Experimental Farm at Morden reports that .76 inches of rain fell in the past week. Seeding will be resumed this week but the heavier soils are too wet to work. Although the rains helped pastures, growth has been slow. Wild oat growth is making little progress. Seeding is later than first anticipated and possibly will not be general until the week of the twenty-first. Hot, dry weather is urgently needed.

Seeding is also being held up by wet weather at Pilot Mound in the south-central part of the province. Moisture conditions are very good in this district but warm weather is needed to bring on growth and allow seeding to proceed. At Melita moisture conditions are also satisfactory. There has been little flooding this year as compared with what happened last year. Seeding operations are almost general in the district but progressing slowly. During the past two weeks 2 inches of rain have been received. The condition of rye crops is fair to poor. Flax and wheat appear to be the major crops in the Melita district this year.

The land is still too wet in the Winnipeg area for seeding. Temperatures have been cold and warmer drying weather is needed. Seeding will not likely be general until May 28. In the Portage la Prairie area many farmers have not yet started field work and only a very small amount of seeding has been done. Good seed barley is very limited in supply and there is a tendency to increase oats and reduce barley this year. Sugar beet planting is just starting. Feed supplies are short in the district and pastures are very poor.

The Experimental Farm at Brandon reports that showery, cool weather continues to plague the district. Seeding has commenced at many points but it will not be general until the end of this week. Pastures are improving but growth is slow because of the cool weather. No insect activity is apparent yet.

Our correspondent from the Interlake area at Arborg reports that fields remain damp and the weather cold. Three hot days will be needed before seeding can become general. No seeding has been done to date. Pasture growth has not yet started. Moisture supplies range from fair to good in the district.

In the west-central part of the province at Neepawa further rains and cold weather have delayed spring operations. Feed supplies are extremely low in this district. Continuous cool weather with some light rain has also further delayed seeding in the Minnedosa district. Pasture development is also retarded and feed is very short. Several days of warm weather will be required before seeding can become general. The late season may cause a reduction in wheat acreage. At Shoal Lake from one week to ten days will be required before seeding operations are general. Cold, wet weather has delayed work on the land. Grasses and mixed hay crops are just now beginning to show some signs of development.

Recent rains have held up all field work in the Dauphin area. With warm, dry weather, however, operations should be general by this week end. Rains have improved pastures but growth is still slow due to cold weather. Cool weather with showers have been delaying spring work in the Swan River area. Some spring work and seeding has begun but operations are not general throughout the area. Pastures are very slow in developing and feed is scarce on many farms. With warmer weather spring seeding could be general by next week.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 34 per cent below normal as compared with 75 per cent below normal a week ago and in contrast to 40 per cent above normal at May 9, 1955. Mean temperature for the week ending May 14 was 3.5 degrees below normal as compared with 5.7 degrees below normal a week ago and in contrast to 1.5 degrees above normal for the week ending May 9, 1955.

SASKATCHEWAN

Weather remains cool and wet in the Manor District in southeastern Saskatchewan and practically no field work can be done. The grass is showing green but warm weather is urgently needed for all growth. If the weather does not improve wheat acreage will likely be reduced. Fall rye looks patchy. At Fillmore cool showery weather last week hindered all field work, with yesterday being the first day of general seeding. However, the land is still too moist for good seeding and grass has made very little growth.

At Indian Head nearly two inches of precipitation with some snow last week has further delayed any work on the land. The weather has been cool and poor for drying. Pasture growth has just started, but there is still insufficient pasture for grazing. With favourable weather seeding could be general by the end of this week.

Cool, wet weather in the Swift Current district of southwestern Saskatchewan held up seeding operations most of the past week. Some farmers are nearly through seeding while many are just starting. Growth of weeds and grass has been slow. A considerable acreage of fall rye was winterkilled and is being re-seeded to spring rye. At Val Marie seeding is in full swing and wheat seeding is about

sixty per cent completed, with the first area to be seeded now showing above the ground. No coarse grains have been seeded yet. The seed bed is in good condition and grass is making good growth. Seeding of flaxseed is expected to start soon. In the Leader district seeding is progressing favourably and moisture and weather conditions are considered fair.

In the Togo district of east-central Saskatchewan, showery cold weather continues to keep the land wet and practically no field work has been done. Four hot dry days are needed before any start can be made. Pastures show no growth and weeds have not yet germinated. Around Willowbrook field work could commence in three or four days if weather permits. Moisture supplies are adequate.

Although seeding operations were stopped by rain on Friday and Saturday seeding is now general in the Drake district in central Saskatchewan. Moisture conditions are good although a large acreage is under water. Fall rye is in doubtful condition. Spring work in the Saskatoon district is very slow with probably not more than fifteen per cent of the fallow cultivated and five per cent of the wheat seeded.

Our correspondent at Rosetown in the west-central section reports that seeding has started and will be general this week. Moisture conditions are good. The acreage sown to wheat will be reduced sharply and offset by increases in durum, flax and coarse grains. Seeding is now general around Scott except for some districts where showers have delayed operations. A considerable increase in durum wheat acreage is expected because of the late spring and there is an increased demand for flax and barley seed. Warm weather is generally needed to speed up germination and growth.

At Melfort in northeastern Saskatchewan the cool weather of the past week has caused further delay of spring work. A few fields have been harrowed but seeding will not start until the end of the week at the earliest. Weed growth is very slow although grass is making a good recovery. Low-lying land is drying rapidly and seeding of high land is under way in the St. Louis-Prince Albert area. Pastures are greening up relieving feed shortages on many farms. Severe winter-killing of fall rye is reported and some wind erosion is apparent on the lighter soils of the Prince Albert district.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 13 per cent below normal as compared with 45 per cent below normal a week ago and in contrast to 221 per cent above normal at May 9, 1955. The mean temperature for the week ending May 14 was 0.5 degrees below normal as compared with 7.4 degrees below normal a week ago and 2.0 degrees below normal for the week ending May 9 last year.

ALBERTA

Frequent showers in the Manyberries district of southeastern Alberta have improved prospects for forage and cereal crops. Seeding, however, has progressed slowly with many farmers just getting started.

Wet, unsettled weather has continued to delay seeding in the Lethbridge area. Early-sown sugar beets are showing above ground at Taber but some

re-seeding will be necessary due to poor growing conditions. The weather has upset planting schedules for canning crops. Hay and pasture growth is slow. At Cardston in the extreme southwest of the province moisture supplies are ample and seeding will shortly be general if favourable weather continues. Cold, stormy weather has prevailed in the Claresholm district during the past week and very little field work has been done. Sharp increases in the acreages seeded to durum and flaxseed are anticipated in this area. Hot, dry weather is needed.

After a good week-end rain the weather is warming up in the Brooks district and growth conditions should now improve rapidly. A heavy rain at Vulcan will favour a good hay crop. However, only 5 per cent of spring seeding has been completed and operations will now be delayed for a few more days. Larger acreages of coarse grains may be expected in this area.

Seeding is general in the Calgary district although showers have held up progress in some parts. Our correspondent estimates that less than 5 per cent of the seeding has been completed and that two weeks of warm dry weather are now needed. Similar conditions prevail at Olds where several good showers have benefited hay and pastures. Farther east at Hanna seeding and cultivation are general throughout the district although fields are very soft following a half inch of rain last week. The weather is now turning warm and pastures are in good condition.

Seeding is now general in the Sedgewick and Donalda areas of central Alberta. Showers have fallen in some parts of this area but pastures are fairly short. About 40 per cent of the wheat has been seeded in the Donalda area and 10 per cent of the oats and barley. Moisture supplies are generally good with warm drying winds conditioning the soil for seeding.

Cool, cloudy weather has prevailed in the Red Deer area for the past week. Spring cultivation is well under way but seeding is just started in most parts of the district. Pasture growth is very slow. Seeding is general throughout the Lacombe area, with 80 per cent of the limited wheat acreage now in the ground. Some oats and barley have also been seeded. Steady winds during the past few days have been drying the soil rapidly. Pasture and hay fields are just starting growth. Most of the fall rye and all the winter wheat was winterkilled. West of Lacombe at Eckville seeding commenced on May 12 and will be general by May 17. Pasture growth has been very slow. Forage supplies have diminished and a 15 per cent increase in oat acreage over that of last year is anticipated.

At Vermilion in the eastern part of the province dry weather is facilitating seeding but pastures are very poor. Seeding is general in the districts around Edmonton. Seeding operations have commenced at Bonnyville in northeastern Alberta and should be general by this week end. Good drying weather now prevails, but rain and higher temperatures are needed to develop hay and pasture crops. Farming operations are now general in the Athabaska and Colinton districts. A considerable reduction in wheat acreage with a corresponding increase in barley acreage is anticipated in this area. Moisture supplies are good so far. Seeding should be completed in three weeks.

Seeding is now general at Falher in the eastern part of the Peace River district, with 20 per cent of the wheat in the ground. Severe winterkilling is reported in legume seed crops and pasture. Moisture conditions remain good.

The Experimental Station at Beaverlodge reports seeding general, with surface moisture improved by light rains. Winterkilling of alsike and red clover was extensive over the entire area, with light to considerable injury to sweet clover. Alfalfa appears to have suffered only slight damage.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 28 per cent below normal as compared with 42 per cent below normal a week ago and in contrast to 72 per cent above normal at May 9, 1955. Mean temperature for the week ending May 14 was 0.1 degrees above normal in contrast to 9.1 degrees below normal a week ago and 2.1 degrees below normal for the week ending May 9 last year.

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	May 14	
		May 14, 1956	April 1	April 1	1956	Normal
			- inches -	- degrees F. -		
MANITOBA						
1	Pierson	.51	1.93	2.10	48	49
	Melita	.74	1.70	2.05	46	49
	Waskeda	.67	1.27 ^{2/}	1.59	47	50
	Deloraine	1.06	1.66	1.92	44	49
2	Boissevain	1.03	1.38	2.23	45	49
	Deerwood	N.R.	.14 ^{2/}	1.87	N.R.	50
	Ninette	.72	1.34	2.30	46	48
3	Portage la Prairie	.67	.77	1.98	45	49
	Graysville	.80	.82	1.61	46	49
	Morden	.75	.85	2.02	47	50
	Altona	.46	.62	2.01	46	49
	Morris	.62	.66	1.78	46	49
	Roland	.96	1.02	1.74	46	50
	Gretna	.57	1.04	1.20	43	50
	Emerson	.59	.59	1.20	46	50
4	Winnipeg	.76	1.14	2.12	46	50
6	Vita	N.R.	N.R.	1.92	N.R.	50
	Sprague	1.69	2.20	2.05	46	48
	Seven Sisters Falls	1.78	1.78	1.32	43	48
7	Virden	.80	1.22	1.26	46	49
	Reston	.59	1.24	1.69	46	49
	Rivers	.85	1.18	1.81	45	49
8	Brandon	.60	.94	1.80	46	50
	Cypress River	.68	.78	1.76	45	49
9	Neepawa	.70	.75	1.80	44	48
	Flumas	.62	.62	1.85	46	48
10	Russell	N.R.	Trace ^{2/}	1.52	N.R.	47
	Rosburn	1.32	1.72	1.52	44	47
	Birtle	1.13	1.78	1.59	43	47
11	Dauphin	1.00	1.25	1.17	44	48
12	Gimli	.47	.64	1.94	42	47
13	Swan River	.09	.34	1.28	47	45
	The Pas	.59	1.46	1.15	41	47
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.79	1.15	1.73	45.2	48.7
SASKATCHEWAN						
1A	Estevan	.82	2.47	1.62	49	48
	Carlyle	.88	1.38	2.08	44	47
	Oxbow	.92	1.86	1.91	46	48
	Willmar	1.19	2.17	1.87	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	May 14	
		May 14, 1956	April 1	April 1	1956	Normal
		- inches -			- degrees F. -	
SASKATCHEWAN (continued)						
1B	Broadview	1.09	1.84	1.62	43	48
	Moosomin	.92	1.49	1.30	44	48
2A	Yellow Grass	1.91	3.14	1.61	46	47
	Creelman	1.44	2.03	1.53	46	47
	Weyburn	.84	1.67	1.80	48	48
	Midale	.95	2.05	1.95	48	48
	2B Moose Jaw	1.74	2.57	1.39	48	51
	Regina	1.08	2.20	1.40	47	49
	Rowatt	.70	1.61	1.39	N.R.	49
	Francis	1.17	1.95	.98	44	48
	Qu'Appelle	1.84	2.34 ^{2/}	1.88	47	47
	Indian Head	1.94	3.06	1.56	46	48
	Wilcox	.98	1.83	1.50	47	49
	3AS Assiniboia	.83	2.07	1.23	48	49
	Ormiston	.68	1.80	1.38	47	49
	Readlyn	.97	1.97	1.23	46	49
	Minton	1.11	2.21	2.01	46	48
	Cardross	.47	1.70	1.38	47	49
	Ceylon	.81	1.94	2.39	47	48
	3AN Chaplin	.59	1.07	1.72	50	50
	Gravelbourg	1.15	1.65	1.24	49	48
	Coderre	.74	1.16	1.25	47	48
	3BS Shaunavon	.40	.93	1.36	45	46
	Cadillac	.85	1.30	1.99	48	46
	Aneroid	.90	1.36	1.45	48	47
	Instow	.42	1.15	1.29	47	48
3BN Pennant	.30	.57	1.81	48	50	
	Swift Current	.78	1.17	1.46	48	49
	Hodgeville	1.05	1.55	1.36	48	49
	Hughton	.34	.59	1.92	50	48
	4A Maple Creek	.50	1.03	1.46	49	50
	Consul	.79	1.40	1.59	46	47
4B Roadene	.14	.43	1.93	N.R.	48	
5A Cupar	1.83	2.34	1.34	49	47	
	Leross	.91	2.57	1.53	45	46
	Yorkton	.67	1.21	1.35	45	47
	Bangor	1.09	1.80	1.49	44	46
	5B Dafoe	.25	1.20	1.12	46	46
	Lintlaw	.25	1.21	1.57	43	44
	Kamsack	.55	1.07	1.12	46	46
	Buchanan	.25	.25 ^{2/}	1.33	44	46
	Pelly	N.R.	.80 ^{2/}	1.22	N.R.	46

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 14, 1956	since April 1	since April 1	May 14 1956	Normal	
		- inches -			- degrees F. -		
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u> (continued)							
6A	Davidson	.50	.82	1.25	47	48	
	Dilke	N.R.	1.26 ^{2/}	1.36	N.R.	N.R.	
	Imperial	.64	1.01	1.22	49	48	
	Semans	.45	1.18	1.03	47	46	
	Strasbourg	.93	1.94	1.35	47	48	
6B	Watrous	.60	.89	1.11	50	48	
	Harris	.06	.56	1.11	48	47	
	Outlook	.14	.24	1.05	51	48	
	Saskatoon	.10	.47	1.18	49	48	
	Elbow	.26	.26	1.08	51	49	
	Tugaske	.45	1.35	1.05	49	49	
	Dundurn	.06	.41	1.34	50	48	
	Rosthern	.15	.29	1.50	48	48	
	Kindersley	.11	.33	1.22	49	47	
	Rosetown	.29	.44	1.56	49	47	
7B	Macklin	Trace	.10	2.22	49	46	
	Scott	.05	.33	1.48	47	48	
	Biggar	.04	.23	1.09	49	48	
	Ruthilda	.10	.21	1.28	N.R.	N.R.	
	8A	Hudson Bay	.11	.87	1.41	45	47
	Forcupine Plain	.05	.78	1.34	45	47	
	8B	Cudworth	N.R.	N.R.	1.50	N.R.	48
	Humboldt	.72	.74	1.15	46	48	
	Melfort	.02	.52	1.38	47	48	
	9A	North Battleford	Trace	.68	1.12	49	50
	Rabbit Lake	NIL	.62	1.22	46	47	
	Leask	.12	.24	1.39	48	48	
	Prince Albert	.13	.47	1.42	48	48	
	Island Falls	.39	1.10	1.38	43	45	
9B	Waseca	.14	.65	1.41	49	48	
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.64	1.26	1.45	47.2	47.7	
<u>ALBERTA</u>							
1	Taber	.76	1.82	1.75	49	50	
	Foremost	.73	1.31	2.75	48	52	
	Winnifred	.71	1.46	2.03	N.R.	N.R.	
	Medicine Hat	.45	1.10	1.30	50	52	
	Manyberries	.48	1.41	1.80	48	52	
2	Cowley	1.01	3.37	2.29	44	48	
	Fort Macleod	.67	2.49	1.38	47	51	
	Cardston	.86	3.54	2.70	46	47	
	Lethbridge	.78	2.53	1.74	47	50	
	Magrath	.45	2.35	2.44	47	51	

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 14, 1956	since April 1	since April 1	May 14 1956	Normal
		- inches -			- degrees F. -	
ALBERTA (concluded)						
3	Vauxhall	.78	1.66	1.46	48	51
	Hays	1.04	1.75	1.40	49	51
	Brooks	.78	1.23	1.61	47	52
	Bindloss	.41	1.07	1.64	48	51
	Empress	.11	.71	1.52	50	51
4	High River	.93	2.66	2.41	46	48
	Vulcan	1.40	2.53	1.78	46	48
5	Drumheller	.10	1.20	1.51	50	50
	Hanna	.72	1.57	1.87	48	49
	Naco	.50	.60	2.02	45	48
	Excel	.90	1.40	1.23	47	49
	Oyen	.85	1.10	1.23	N.R.	N.R.
6	Olds	.87	1.95	2.08	48	48
	Calgary	.99	2.28	1.67	45	49
	Three Hills	.32	.81	1.16	48	48
	Strathmore	.60	1.20	1.54	48	46
	Gleichen	1.32	2.31	1.54	46	48
	Hussar	.61	1.14 ^{2/}	1.93	N.R.	N.R.
	Trochu	N.R.	.77 ^{2/}	1.32	N.R.	48
	Alliance	.29	.44 ^{2/}	1.41	49	46
	Hardisty	.09	.44	1.12	N.R.	N.R.
	Coronation	.07	.43	1.69	48	46
8	Hughenden	.05	.30	1.66	48	46
	Red Deer	.17	1.07	1.97	50	47
	Lacombe	.03	.96	1.56	50	48
	Wetaskiwin	.25	.97	1.30	50	48
	Camrose	.05	.15	1.91	50	47
9	Stettler	.11	.30	2.41	52	47
	Rocky Mountain House	.21	2.17	2.32	48	46
	Springdale	Trace	.48	2.09	48	46
10	Vegreville	.06	.12	1.75	51	48
	Vermilion	.06	.61	1.41	49	47
	Lloydminster	.17	.42	1.12	51	46
11	Edmonton	.20	.84	1.49	54	50
12	Edson	.05	.61	1.36	47	48
	Whitecourt	Trace	.58	1.82	50	47
	Elk Point	.17	.55	1.30	47	46
14	Lac la Biche	.16	.83	1.58	50	48
	Campsie	.03	.46	1.28	50	48
	Athabaska	.13	.25	1.35	50	48
15	High Prairie	N.R.	.48 ^{2/}	1.10	N.R.	49
	Wagner	.03	.55	1.48	48	47
16	Beaverlodge	.34	.45	1.13	48	47
	Grande Prairie	.26	.61	1.34	51	47
	Fairview	.01	.36	.83	52	48
	Berwyn	.13	.25	1.16	49	47
	Fort St. John	Trace	.31	1.22	51	49
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.42	1.18	1.64	48.5	48.4

N.R. - No report
^{1/} - Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.
^{2/} - Incomplete; not included in average.