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AUGUST FORECAST OF PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL FIELD CROPS, CANADA, 1953

On the basis of yields indicated at August 1, Canadian farmers may harvest in 1953 the second largest crops of wheat, barley, and rye on record. Indicated average yields per acre in 1953 for the ten crops included in this report, the first official forecast of production, are well above the long-time averages but, with the exception of winter wheat, fall rye, flaxseed and mixed grains, are below those of 1952. It is emphasized, however, that realization of the 1953 yield and production forecasts is dependent to an even greater extent than usual on favourable weather conditions being maintained until harvesting is completed. With the exception of fall-sown crops, very little grain harvesting had been started by August 1, and current production forecasts may, therefore, be subject to significant revisions in the light of actual harvesting results.

Seeding was unduly prolonged by wet weather over large areas of the Prairie Provinces this spring and was continued until mid-June or later in the most seriously affected areas. Although generally favourable growing conditions throughout June and July accelerated plant development and did much to overcome the late start of spring-seeded grains, there is still considerable danger of damage from frost before the crop reaches maturity, particularly in Alberta and those parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan where seeding was abnormally late.

Other hazards, notably hail and rust, have already caused losses of varying extent. Hail losses have been particularly severe in Alberta as well as in parts of the other two Prairie Provinces while rust has reduced yields of Durum wheat and late-seeded crops in some southern sections of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Allowance has been made for losses in yield from these causes up to August 1 but no attempt has been made to assess the effects of further possible damage from these or other sources subsequent to that date. In view of this, current forecasts must be interpreted in the light of conditions affecting crop development and harvesting subsequent to August 1. The Bureau's second estimate of production of Canada's principal field crops, based on conditions at September 1, is scheduled for release on September 15.

Forecasts of average yields in this report are based on the August 1 reports from the Bureau's crop correspondents throughout Canada and on information supplied by the officials responsible for agricultural statistics in the provinces. The acreages seeded to the various crops for harvest in 1953 are those published in the Bureau's July 29 crop report and are subject to revision, initially on the completion of the analysis of results of the Bureau's special acreage survey in the Prairie Provinces and eventually on the basis of disposition data. Acreage, yield and production estimates for 1952 are included in the tables for comparison and, with the exception of revised estimates for potatoes in Prince Edward Island and hay in British Columbia, are the same as those published in February, 1953. An examination of preliminary crop-year disposition data indicates that revisions of a relatively minor nature may be required in the 1952 estimates of some crops, especially rye and flaxseed in the Prairie Provinces, when final data become available.

Note: Data for Newfoundland not available.

Wheat

Canada's 1953 wheat crop, currently forecast at 603.8 million bushels, will, if realized, be second only to last year's record crop of 687.9 million and almost 43 per cent above the ten-year (1943-1952) average of 423.5 million. Production of the size indicated at August 1 would make this the second successive crop in excess of 600 million bushels and the third successive crop exceeding the half-billion bushel level. Wheat crops exceeding 500 million bushels had been harvested in Canada only four times prior to 1951—in 1928, 1939, 1940 and 1942. As emphasized above, however, much of this year's crop is immature and susceptible to frost damage and other hazards, and will require an extended period of warm, dry weather to fulfil current prospects.

The indicated decrease in production of the 1953 wheat crop from last year's record level is largely attributable to lower yields of spring wheat. This year's crop of spring wheat, forecast at 577.8 million bushels, is being harvested from a seeded area estimated at 24.8 million acres yielding an indicated 23.3 bushels per acre. In 1952 the spring wheat crop was estimated at a record 667.1 million bushels, yielding an average of 26.3 bushels per acre on a seeded area of 25.3 million acres. Ontario's winter wheat crop is forecast at 26.0 million bushels, an increase of 5.2 million over the 1952 outturn as the result of an indicated record average yield of 35.5 bushels per acre and an increase in the seeded area from 650,000 to 732,000 acres.

In the Prairie Provinces the wheat crop is forecast at 574 million bushels as against last year's record of 664 million. The anticipated average yield per seeded acre in the Prairie Provinces is 23.3 bushels, with Manitoba averaging 22.6; Saskatchewan, 22.7; and Alberta, 25.1 bushels per seeded acre. Production in Saskatchewan, the major wheat-producing province, is placed at 365 million bushels as against last year's record 435 million. This year's crop is also below that of 1952 in Alberta and Manitoba where production is forecast at 159 million and 50 million bushels, respectively, compared with 172 million and 57 million last year. Relatively small quantities of winter wheat are included in the spring wheat estimates for the Prairie Provinces.

Oats for Grain Production of oats for grain in 1953 is forecast at 402.3 million bushels, well below last year's 466.8 million, with decreases in both seeded acreage and average yield contributing to this year's smaller indicated crop. Average yields are expected to equal or exceed those of 1952 in all provinces except the Prairies. However, the indicated drop in production in that region from 346 million bushels last year to 273 million bushels in 1953 more than offsets gains in all other provinces except Nova Scotia.

Barley

The 1953 barley crop, seeded on a record area estimated at 8.9 million acres, is forecast at 283.2 million bushels, slightly below last year's record outturn of 291.4 million bushels. Average yields per acre are expected to exceed those of 1952 in all but the Prairie Provinces where the indicated yield is 31.6 bushels per seeded acre as against 34.5 bushels in 1952. Production in the Prairie Provinces is placed at 272 million bushels, 9 million less than in 1952, with Alberta accounting for 121 million bushels; Saskatchewan, 84 million; and Manitoba, 67 million of this year's total.

Rye

As a result of a fairly substantial increase in the area seeded to fall rye and indicated higher yields in the major producing areas over those of 1952, Canada's 1953 crop of fall and spring rye combined is forecast at 29.7 million bushels, second only to the record 32.4 million harvested in 1922. All but 2.0 million bushels of this year's crop is being produced in the Prairie Provinces, with Saskatchewan's indicated crop of 15.0 million accounting for slightly over half the total.

Flaxseed This year's flaxseed crop, forecast at 11.2 million bushels, is 1.8 million below the 1952 level, with the decrease mainly attributable to smaller seeded acreages in each of the flax-producing provinces. The indicated average yield, at 10.8 bushels per seeded acre, is practically unchanged from last year.

Mixed Grains Canada's 1953 crop of mixed grains, grown chiefly in Eastern Canada, is forecast at 59.7 million bushels as against 63.2 million in 1952. Although prospective yields are higher in all but the Prairie Provinces, the decrease in seeded area from 1.6 million to 1.4 million acres more than offsets the increase in the indicated all-Canada average yield from 40.3 to 41.3 bushels per acre.

Tame Hay Production of tame hay (including the first cutting of clover and alfalfa) is currently placed at 18.5 million tons, somewhat below the 1952 total crop of 19.1 million. Although weather conditions favoured production of a heavy hay crop in Nova Scotia, western Ontario and the four Western provinces, deterioration in quality resulted in many regions from poor curing weather.

Potatoes Canada's 1953 potato crop is indicated, on the basis of conditions at August 1, at 62.9 million bushels as against the 1952 revised estimate of 60.1 million. This year's planted area, estimated at some 321,000 acres, represents an increase of 24,000 over 1952 but the indicated average yield, at 196.0 bushels per acre, is somewhat below last year's 202.4 bushels. Increases in production are expected in all regions except Prince Edward Island and the Prairie Provinces.

Summary of August Forecast of the Production of Grain Crops Based on conditions at August 1, the production of the principal grain crops in Canada in 1953 is forecast, in bushels, as follows, with the 1952 figures within brackets: Winter wheat, 25,986,000 (20,800,000); spring wheat, 577,807,000 (667,122,000); all wheat, 603,793,000 (687,922,000); oats for grain, 402,282,000 (466,805,000); barley, 283,207,000 (291,379,000); fall rye, 21,900,000 (14,783,000); spring rye, 7,760,000 (9,774,000); all rye, 29,660,000 (24,557,000); flaxseed, 11,187,000 (12,961,000). The average yields per acre, in bushels, are forecast as follows, with the 1952 averages within brackets: Winter wheat, 35.5 (32.0); spring wheat, 23.3 (26.3); all wheat, 23.7 (26.5); oats for grain, 40.9 (42.2); barley, 31.8 (34.4); fall rye, 21.9 (19.5); spring rye, 16.8 (19.6); all rye, 20.3 (19.5); flaxseed, 10.8 (10.7).

Production of Grain Crops in the Prairie Provinces For the Prairie Provinces the first forecast of production of grain crops in 1953, in bushels, is as follows, with the 1952 figures within brackets: Three Provinces - Wheat, 574,000,000 (664,000,000); oats for grain, 273,000,000 (346,000,000); barley, 272,000,000 (281,000,000); rye, 27,660,000 (22,924,000); flaxseed, 10,600,000 (12,000,000). Manitoba - Wheat, 50,000,000 (57,000,000); oats for grain, 52,000,000 (65,000,000); barley, 67,000,000 (71,000,000); rye, 2,160,000 (924,000); flaxseed, 5,000,000 (5,700,000). Saskatchewan - Wheat, 365,000,000 (435,000,000); oats for grain, 109,000,000 (152,000,000); barley, 84,000,000 (92,000,000); rye, 15,000,000 (14,200,000); flaxseed, 3,700,000 (4,300,000). Alberta - Wheat, 159,000,000 (172,000,000); oats for grain, 112,000,000 (129,000,000); barley, 121,000,000 (118,000,000); rye, 10,500,000 (7,800,000); flaxseed, 1,900,000 (2,000,000).

Condition of Pasture At July 31, 1953, the condition of pasture for all Canada, expressed as a percentage of the average condition at the end of July, is reported as follows, with the condition figures for June 30, 1953, and July 31, 1952, within brackets: Pasture, 102 (102; 97).

August Forecast of the 1953 Production of Principal Field Crops in Canada,
Compared with 1952

Province and Crop	Area		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	1952	1953	1952	1953 1/	1952	1953 1/
	acres	acres	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
CANADA						
Winter wheat	650,000	732,000	32.0	35.5	20,800,000	25,986,000
Spring wheat	25,345,000	24,780,600	26.3	23.3	667,122,000	577,807,000
All wheat	25,995,000	25,512,600	26.5	23.7	687,922,000	603,793,000
Oats for grain	11,062,400	9,830,000	42.2	40.9	466,805,000	402,282,000
Barley	8,477,400	8,911,100	34.4	31.8	291,379,000	283,207,000
Fall rye	757,700	1,001,200	19.5	21.9	14,783,000	21,900,000
Spring rye	499,600	462,200	19.6	16.8	9,774,000	7,760,000
All rye	1,257,300	1,463,400	19.5	20.3	24,557,000	29,660,000
Mixed grains	1,570,100	1,445,400	40.3	41.3	63,205,000	59,741,000
Flaxseed	1,206,500	1,036,000	10.7	10.8	12,961,000	11,187,000
Potatoes	296,800 2/	320,800	202.4 2/	196.0 176	60,071,000 2/	62,873,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	10,679,400 2/	10,702,000	1.79	1.73	19,083,000 2/	18,545,000
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND			bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
Spring wheat	3,700	2,900	23.0	25.0	85,000	72,000
Oats for grain	96,000	106,200	36.0	42.0	3,456,000	4,460,000
Barley	4,200	4,800	30.0	35.0	126,000	168,000
Mixed grains	71,200	70,200	39.0	44.0	2,777,000	3,089,000
Potatoes	36,000 2/	39,000	300.0 2/	260.0 156	10,800,000 2/	10,140,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	199,000	191,000	2.10	1.50	418,000	286,000
NOVA SCOTIA			bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
Spring wheat	900	1,000	25.0	27.0	22,000	27,000
Oats for grain	56,100	55,800	42.0	42.0	2,356,000	2,344,000
Barley	3,700	3,000	32.0	33.0	118,000	99,000
Mixed grains	9,800	9,400	40.0	42.0	392,000	395,000
Potatoes	12,000	12,400	230.0	237.0 1432	2,760,000	2,939,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	353,000	345,000	2.40	2.00	847,000	690,000
NEW BRUNSWICK			bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
Spring wheat	2,800	2,700	22.0	23.0	62,000	62,000
Oats for grain	155,000	152,000	30.0	42.0	4,650,000	6,384,000
Barley	10,300	8,900	26.0	34.0	268,000	303,000
Mixed grains	7,600	7,200	31.0	41.0 165.0	236,000	295,000
Potatoes	42,700	48,400	257.0	275.0 165.0	10,974,000	13,310,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	443,000	430,000	2.00	1.30	886,000	559,000
QUEBEC			bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
Spring wheat	11,100	11,100	19.8	22.0	220,000	244,000
Oats for grain	1,363,000	1,380,000	27.5	30.0	37,483,000	41,400,000
Barley	60,800	56,500	25.6	27.0	1,556,000	1,526,000
Fall rye	3,500	2,700	20.6	19.0	72,000	51,000
Mixed grains	218,000	202,000	30.3	32.0	6,605,000	6,464,000
Potatoes	91,700	100,000	150.0	151.0 906	13,755,000	15,100,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	3,673,000	3,637,000	1.65	1.32	6,060,000	4,801,000

1/ As indicated on basis of conditions at August 1.

2/ Revised.

August Forecast of the 1953 Production of Principal Field Crops in Canada,
Compared with 1952 (continued)

Province and Crop	Area		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	1952	1953	1952	1953 ^{1/}	1952	1953 ^{1/}
	acres	acres	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
<u>ONTARIO</u>						
Winter wheat	650,000	732,000	32.0	35.5	20,800,000	25,986,000
Spring wheat	36,700	33,500	20.7	23.8	760,000	797,000
All wheat	686,700	765,500	31.4	35.0	21,560,000	26,783,000
Oats for grain	1,732,300	1,548,000	39.0	44.2	67,560,000	68,422,000
Barley	202,700	171,000	33.0	36.6	6,689,000	6,259,000
Fall rye	74,700	75,000	20.0	23.5	1,494,000	1,762,000
Mixed grains	1,128,700	1,017,000	42.5	43.8	47,970,000	44,545,000
Flaxseed	75,100	41,000	11.6	12.5	871,000	512,000
Potatoes	56,100	62,700	201.0	194.0	11,276,000	12,164,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	3,401,400	3,500,000	1.81	2.06	6,157,000	7,210,000
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
			bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
Spring wheat	2,368,000	2,208,000	24.1	22.6	57,000,000	50,000,000
Oats for grain	1,611,000	1,412,000	40.3	36.8	65,000,000	52,000,000
Barley	2,165,000	2,365,000	32.8	28.3	71,000,000	67,000,000
Fall rye	44,100	90,000	17.0	21.1	750,000	1,900,000
Spring rye	10,600	14,200	16.4	18.3	174,000	260,000
All rye	54,700	104,200	16.9	20.7	924,000	2,160,000
Mixed grains	36,600	33,300	32.8	31.0	1,200,000	1,032,000
Flaxseed	593,000	500,000	9.6	10.0	5,700,000	5,000,000
Potatoes	17,300	18,800	159.0	130.0	2,751,000	2,444,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	417,000	450,000	1.55	2.00	646,000	900,000
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
			bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
Spring wheat	16,432,000	16,100,000	26.5	22.7	435,000,000	365,000,000
Oats for grain	3,362,000	2,721,000	45.2	40.1	152,000,000	109,000,000
Barley	2,644,000	2,745,000	34.8	30.6	92,000,000	84,000,000
Fall rye	379,000	500,000	18.5	20.0	7,000,000	10,000,000
Spring rye	363,000	316,000	19.8	15.8	7,200,000	5,000,000
All rye	742,000	816,000	19.1	18.4	14,200,000	15,000,000
Mixed grains	24,500	22,800	40.8	30.0	1,000,000	684,000
Flaxseed	380,000	342,000	11.3	10.8	4,300,000	3,700,000
Potatoes	14,100	12,800	131.0	130.0	1,847,000	1,664,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	586,000	540,000	1.74	1.70	1,020,000	918,000

^{1/} As indicated on basis of conditions at August 1.



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August Forecast of the 1953 Production of Principal Field Crops in Canada,
Compared with 1952 (concluded)

Province and Crop	Area		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	1952	1953	1952	1953 <u>1/</u>	1952	1953 <u>1/</u>
	acres	acres	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
ALBERTA						
Spring wheat	6,404,000	6,340,000	26.9	25.1	172,000,000	159,000,000
Oats for grain	2,587,000	2,357,000	49.9	47.5	129,000,000	112,000,000
Barley	3,336,000	3,489,000	35.4	34.7	118,000,000	121,000,000
Fall rye	254,000	328,000	21.3	24.4	5,400,000	8,000,000
Spring rye	126,000	132,000	19.0	18.9	2,400,000	2,500,000
All rye	380,000	460,000	20.5	22.8	7,800,000	10,500,000
Mixed grains	71,300	80,600	40.7	38.0	2,900,000	3,063,000
Flaxseed	151,000	148,000	13.2	12.8	2,000,000	1,900,000
Potatoes	16,700	15,400	195.0	150.0	3,256,000	2,310,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	1,292,000	1,300,000	1.75	1.90	2,261,000	2,470,000
BRITISH COLUMBIA						
			bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
Spring wheat	85,800	81,400	23.0	32.0	1,973,000	2,605,000
Oats for grain	100,000	98,000	53.0	64.0	5,300,000	6,272,000
Barley	50,700	67,900	32.0	42.0	1,622,000	2,852,000
Fall rye	2,400	5,500	28.0	34.0	67,000	187,000
Mixed grains	2,400	2,900	52.0	60.0	125,000	174,000
Flaxseed	7,400	5,000	12.2	15.0	90,000	75,000
Potatoes	10,200	11,300	260.0	248.0	2,652,000	2,802,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Tame hay	315,000 <u>2/</u>	309,000	2.50	2.30	788,000 <u>2/</u>	711,000

Area and First Forecast of the 1953 Production of Principal Grain
Crops in the Prairie Provinces, Compared with 1952

Crop	Area		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	1952	1953	1952	1953 <u>1/</u>	1952	1953 <u>1/</u>
	acres	acres	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.
Wheat	25,204,000	24,648,000	26.3	23.3	664,000,000	574,000,000
Oats for grain	7,560,000	6,490,000	45.8	42.1	346,000,000	273,000,000
Barley	8,145,000	8,599,000	34.5	31.6	281,000,000	272,000,000
Rye	1,176,700	1,380,200	19.5	20.0	22,924,000	27,660,000
Flaxseed	1,124,000	990,000	10.7	10.7	12,000,000	10,600,000

1/ As indicated on basis of conditions at August 1.

2/ Revised.