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FIELD CROPS OF CANADA, 1926

Ottawa, July 12, 1926, 4 p.m. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issued to-day a bulletin giving (1) a preliminary estimate of the areas sown to the principal field crops for the season of 1926; (2) a report on the condition of all field crops in Canada at the end of June; and (3) a forecast of the yields from wheat, oats, barley, rye and flaxseed, as interpreted from their condition at the end of June. To this bulletin is attached a comparative statement in tabular form showing the estimated area and condition of all field crops in Canada, by provinces, as compiled from the returns of crop correspondents (farmers, bank managers and station agents) at the end of June, 1926.

ACREAGE OF PRINCIPAL CEREALS AND OF POTATOES, 1926

The total area estimated as sown to wheat in Canada for the season of 1926 is 22,492,000 acres, as compared with 21,972,732 acres, finally reported for 1925. The increase is therefore 519,268 acres, or 2 p.c. Fall wheat to be harvested occupies 753,100 acres, as compared with 793,819 acres in 1925, and spring wheat 21,738,900 acres, as compared with 21,178,913 acres, the final estimate for 1925. For oats the area sown is estimated at 14,706,400 acres as compared with 14,672,320 acres in 1925, a slight increase of 34,080 acres. Barley occupies 4,107,100 acres, as compared with 4,075,995 acres in 1925, an increase of 31,105 acres, or 1 p.c. The area sown to rye is placed at 794,750 acres, as compared with 852,357 acres, a decrease of 56,607 acres, or 7 p.c. Fall rye occupies 654,000 acres, as compared with 702,755 acres and spring rye 140,750 acres, as compared with 149,602 acres. Flaxseed shows an area of 1,065,700 acres, as against 1,128,100 acres, a decrease of 62,400 acres, or 6 p.c. The area planted to potatoes, viz. 545,600 acres, is practically equal to that of 1925, viz. 545,891 acres.

ACREAGE OF GRAIN AND POTATOES IN PRAIRIE PROVINCES

For the three Prairie Provinces, the acreages sown to the principal grain crops and to potatoes are estimated as follows, the final estimates for 1925 being given within brackets: wheat 21,519,700 (20,942,590); oats 9,430,000 (9,391,234); barley 3,524,000 (3,492,474); rye 688,000 (732,536); flaxseed 1,052,400 (1,114,426); potatoes 106,000 (106,350). By provinces the acreages are: Manitoba, wheat 2,131,000 (2,220,100); oats 1,961,000 (1,922,377); barley 1,912,000 (1,874,349); rye 277,500 (328,446); flaxseed 151,000 (155,650); potatoes 29,000 (28,991). Saskatchewan, wheat 13,263,000 (13,002,741); oats 5,072,000 (5,071,507); barley 1,065,000 (1,065,398); rye 281,500 (369,768); flaxseed 897,000 (953,776); potatoes 44,600 (45,000). Alberta, wheat 6,125,700 (5,719,749); oats 2,397,000 (2,397,350); barley 547,000 (552,727); rye 129,000 (134,322); flaxseed 4,400 (5,000) potatoes 32,400 (32,359).

ACREAGE OF LATER SOWN CROPS, ETC.

The acreages devoted to later sown crops, etc., are estimated for 1926 as follows: the corresponding figures for 1925 are given within brackets: Peas 197,560 (182,951), beans 72,830 (81,466); buckwheat 468,900 (464,693); mixed grains 897,600 (886,962); corn for husking 219,400 (238,767); turnips, etc. 201,800 (204,378); hay and clover 10,123,000 (10,097,042); alfalfa 722,000 (655,567); fodder corn 627,500 (641,119); sugar beets 41,900 (43,418).

The total area sown to all field crops, exclusive of grain hay, in Canada for 1926, is estimated at 57,281,040 acres, as compared with 56,745,756 acres for 1925.

CONDITION OF FIELD CROPS AT THE END OF JUNE, 1938

The following is a summary of the reports of crop correspondents at the end of June.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES. The season is very late, and in many districts farmers had not completed sowing, especially late crops, by the end of June. Good growing weather towards the end of the month was bringing on the crops well and on June 30 prospects were generally favourable. Meadows and pastures, with few exceptions, were looking well.

QUEBEC.- Practically all correspondents refer to the extreme lateness of the season. In the counties north of the St. Lawrence, the weather has been cold with little sunshine. Some report that owing to the late seeding it is too soon yet to judge of the crops; others say that on the whole cereals have germinated well, though they are not so good as at this time last year. In the counties south of the St. Lawrence the general conclusion is that everything is late, but that the appearance is fairly good. In the Eastern Townships, everything is very late, and the weather has been wet and cold. The general outlook for good crops is not very favourable. In the Montreal district the same conditions apply, making it difficult to give any trustworthy forecast. Throughout the province, favourable weather may yet effect considerable improvement.

ONTARIO. In the Eastern Counties the season is from two to three weeks late, and the weather during June has been so cool that growth has been very slow. Meadows are very light, and correspondents reporting on June 30 state that a light hay crop is expected, only one half or one third of what it was last year. It is evident, however, that the soaking rainfall of the last three days (July 8-10) will do something to improve the prospects for a good hay crop. In the counties of central Ontario the season is also very late. The weather has been cold. Fall wheat is poor, and the hay crops are light. In Western Ontario the season is late, and the weather has been cold. Both fall wheat and corn are poor and hay is short. In Southern Ontario the season is late and the weather has been dry and cold. Grain crops are however fair, except corn which is poor. Hay is light, but alfalfa is good. In Northern Ontario crops are backward. The hay crop is below average, but alfalfa is good. Nice rains were falling at the end of the month.

MANITOBA. The spring has been dry and cold with high winds which in some cases have caused soil drifting and necessitated reseeding. In the southern part of the province (Crop districts 1 to 8) good soaking rains fell about the middle of the month, either from the 14th to the 16th or from the 18th to the 20th. These have proved very beneficial, and growth has since been rapid. They arrived just in time to save the situation, though a few correspondents say the rain came too late to make a big crop. In the northern part of the province (Crop districts 9 to 14), conditions have been cold and dry and rain was very badly needed at the end of June. In these northern districts also, cutworms have done considerable damage, whilst severe frosts about the 17th and 18th, in some cases from 9 to 12 degrees, cut potatoes down to the ground and damaged all kinds of tender vegetation. Grain straw and hay are frequently reported as short.

SASKATCHEWAN. Cool, backward weather during the first part of June retarded growth, and crops did not make as good progress as was generally expected. High winds also caused some damage. Toward the end of the month warm weather prevailed and crops made more rapid growth, but many localities in the southwest and central part would greatly benefit by a good rain. Weeds are generally reported as more troublesome than in previous years. Since June 30, the date of this report, rain showers in districts affected by drought have proved beneficial.

ALBERTA. With exceptions in particular cases the condition of cereal crops in Alberta at the end of June is reported as very favourable and promising. As a rule moisture is ample. Many correspondents report that conditions are excellent, and some say they were never better at this time of the year. A few reports, especially those from crop district 6(North and South of the North Saskatchewan River) state that rain was badly needed at the end of June.

BRITISH COLUMBIA. Conditions continue to be generally favourable.

Expressed numerically in percentage of the average yield per acre for the ten-year period 1916-25, the condition of field crops for all Canada on June 30, 1926 compared with June 30, 1925, in brackets, was as follows: Fall wheat 86 (96); spring wheat 102 (106); all wheat 102 (106); oats 99 (101); barley 98 (100); fall rye 94 (99); spring rye 98 (100); all rye 95 (99); peas 96 (98); beans 94 (93); buckwheat 98(98); mixed grains 87 (97); flaxseed 96 (98); corn for husking 86 (94); potatoes 97 (92); turnips, etc. 95 (97); hay and clover 91 (98); alfalfa 98 (98); fodder corn 91 (97); sugar beets 97 (92). In the Prairie Provinces the condition of the principal cereals and of potatoes, numerically expressed, was on June 30 as follows, the corresponding figures for June 30, 1925, and for May 31, 1926, being placed within brackets in the order mentioned: Manitoba, wheat 97 (101,101); oats 96 (100,100); barley 96 (99,100); rye 91 (93,94); flaxseed 93 (97); potatoes 94 (95). Saskatchewan, wheat 103 (105,104); oats 100 (103,101); barley 100 (101,101); rye 98 (99,100); flaxseed 97 (100); potatoes 99 (103). Alberta, wheat 106 (112,105); oats 105 (109,102); barley 104 (108,102); rye 103 (107,102); flaxseed 101(106); potatoes 102 (103).

INTERPRETATION OF CROP REPORTS

From the data in the accompanying table it is possible to calculate a forecast for each crop, by provinces, of the total yields indicated by the condition on June 30. For wheat, oats, barley, rye and flaxseed the total yields indicated by the condition on June 30 are, for Canada and the three Prairie Provinces, as follows:

Crop	Prairie Provinces	Rest of Canada	Canada
	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
Wheat	327,226,000	21,400,000	348,626,000
Oats	294,277,000	164,563,000	458,840,000
Barley	83,237,000	17,387,000	100,624,000
Rye	10,250,000	1,512,000	11,762,000
Flaxseed	8,342,000	77,000	8,419,000

The above forecast of yields is subject to changes due first to subsequent revision of the areas sown, and secondly to the effects of the season as between June 30 and the time of harvest.

P.S. Beneficial showers have fallen throughout western Canada since the end of June, and heavy rains are reported to have fallen towards the end of the week ended July 10.