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AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

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FIELD CROPS OF CANADA

Ottawa, September 11, 1933, 4 p.m. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today a bulletin, reporting for 1933 (1) the preliminary estimate of the yields of the principal grain crops and (2) the condition of the late-sown crops. The estimates are based on schedules returned by a numerous corps of crop correspondents, including farmers throughout Canada, bank managers, rural postmasters and railway and elevator agents in the Prairie Provinces. A list of agriculturists was also circularized, in addition to those already co-operating as regular crop correspondents.

Estimates of yield are based on the acreages sown, as compiled from the annual June Survey in the Prairie Provinces and Ontario and from the reports of crop correspondents in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and British Columbia.

Summary

The 1933 wheat crop of the Dominion is estimated at 282,771,000 bushels, consisting of 268,628,000 bushels of spring wheat and 14,143,000 bushels of fall wheat. Of the spring wheat production, 264 million bushels is in the three Prairie Provinces. The production of oats is forecasted as 316,966,000 bushels, barley 64,291,000 bushels, rye 6,418,000 bushels and flaxseed at the very low figure of 756,000 bushels. Yields of all grains are much below average and show a close relation to the harvests in the dry season of 1931. The 1933 production of wheat is the lowest since 1924, oats since 1929, barley since 1921, rye since 1931, and flaxseed the lowest in the records of the Bureau dating back to 1908.

Judging by condition at August 31, there will also be short harvests of the late-sown crops, including corn, potatoes and sugar beets. These late crops are distinctly less promising than in 1932 and are about 20 per cent below average. The condition of pastures throughout Canada is extremely poor.

Crop Production in Canada, 1933

The total estimated yields of all the small grain crops in 1933 are considerably below the long-time averages and the 1932 harvests. The reduction was largely due to a Dominion-wide deficiency in summer rainfall and to periods of abnormally high temperatures, aggravated in the Prairie Provinces by an extremely destructive outbreak of grasshoppers.

Despite the slightly higher acreages seeded, Maritime grain production is less than in 1932, principally because of lower yields of the main oat crop. Wheat and barley withstood the drought much better. Conditions improved somewhat during August so that yields are slightly higher than those indicated by condition figures at the end of July. In Quebec also, conditions during August were more favourable to crop growth and there was a slight improvement in yield prospects as a result. The yields of the principal grain crops are about 10 per cent below those of last year, and the late crops also are less promising. Grain yields in Ontario are extremely disappointing, but are slightly higher than those indicated by July 31 condition. The average yields per acre of spring wheat, oats and barley are the lowest since 1921 and only 3 lower yields for oats are in the records back to 1882.

In the Prairie Provinces, the unfavourable season caused a lowering of yields almost to the extremely low levels of 1931. Generally, the wheat and rye yields are slightly higher than indicated by July 31 condition, while oats, barley and flax are lower. Oat yields are quite low in comparison with the other grains and the amount of oats to be threshed is still obscure because of the practice of mowing or binding it for fodder. The prairie wheat production is the lowest since 1924 and flax production is by far the lowest in the Bureau records, which date back to 1908. Alberta again has the highest wheat yield per acre but Manitoba's average is very close. In British Columbia the yields of spring grain crops, principally wheat and oats, are only slightly changed from last year's harvests.

Condition of Late-sown Crops and Pasture

Excepting beans, buckwheat, fodder corn and sugar beets, the condition of the late-sown crops declined further during the month of August. The effects of summer drought were too severe to be overcome by the moderate rainfall of the month. All the late-sown crops are much lower in condition than at the same date last year and are about 20 per cent below average. The potato crop shows a condition of 80 on August 31 compared with 84 on July 31 and 91 on August 31 last year. Sugar beets did not change in prospects during the month, the condition figure remaining at 83 compared with 94 at the end of August last year. A further decline in pasture condition from 77 at July 31 to 73 at August 31 resulted from further deterioration in every province except Quebec. In Prince Edward Island, Ontario and the three Prairie Provinces, the pastures are extremely poor. Considering the whole Dominion, the condition of pastures is the lowest on the Bureau records back to 1908, excepting the year 1914.

The Wheat Crop of the Prairie Provinces

The preliminary estimate of the wheat crop of the three Prairie Provinces is 264 million bushels, compared with 408.4 million bushels in 1932 and a final estimate of 301,181,000 bushels for 1931. A map depicting wheat yields by Crop Districts accompanies this report and shows a wide variation in yields, almost as extreme as in 1931. The distribution of the Manitoba crop is very similar to that of the short crop of 1931, but the provincial average is higher. In Saskatchewan, the average yield is only slightly below that of 1931 and the drought area is further west and north. Crop District 5 in the east-centre of Saskatchewan has practically double the yield per acre of 1931 while Crop District 7 in the west-centre has less than half the yield of 1931. In Alberta, the average yield is 4.6 bushels lower than in 1931, principally because the drought area extends further west in the southern part of the province and further north in the eastern part.

The early expectations of prairie farmers were almost continuously lowered as the season progressed. The spring moisture supply was fairly ample for germination and first growth. In some northern districts, the wet fields caused delay in land preparation and seeding, while in other districts previously visited by drought, there were misgivings as to the sufficiency of sub-soil moisture and a realization that summer rains must be heavy and well-distributed. These latter conditions did not materialize, except in some northern districts. A disastrous period of hot, dry weather began in the second week of June, centering at first in south-western Saskatchewan but rapidly spreading so that it eventually covered most of the specialized wheat-growing areas. Great damage was also caused by grasshoppers, with minor outbreaks of cutworms, wireworms and sawflies as the season advanced. Hail and plant disease were less evident than usual, but frosts caused loss of grade and yield in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Most of the early frost damage was centered in the foothill district south of Calgary and the September frost, accompanied by snow, caused general and serious damage to both the yield and grade of uncut crops in the Peace River district. Frosts were recorded quite commonly across the northern areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta while crops were standing and the extent of loss will become known as threshing proceeds. In the past fortnight, rainy weather has retarded harvest operations, but previous progress had been rapid, except in some northern districts, and little concern is felt as yet. The ripening of the late and heavy northern crops during August, even allowing for some loss in yield and grade, has been a principal factor in the improvement of western wheat prospects.

Marketings to date have been slightly above those of the same period last year. The grades are high, although the limited amounts becoming visible do not give a representative sample of the whole crop. The recent cold and rainy weather may cause loss of grade in the grain still to be cut or threshed.

Estimation of the wheat crop is more hazardous than usual because of the combination of drought, insect and frost damage and the limited number of threshing returns in the districts where crops are late and heavy. Judgments of the different classes of correspondents on yields at individual points vary rather widely.

Preliminary Estimate of the Yield of Grain Crops

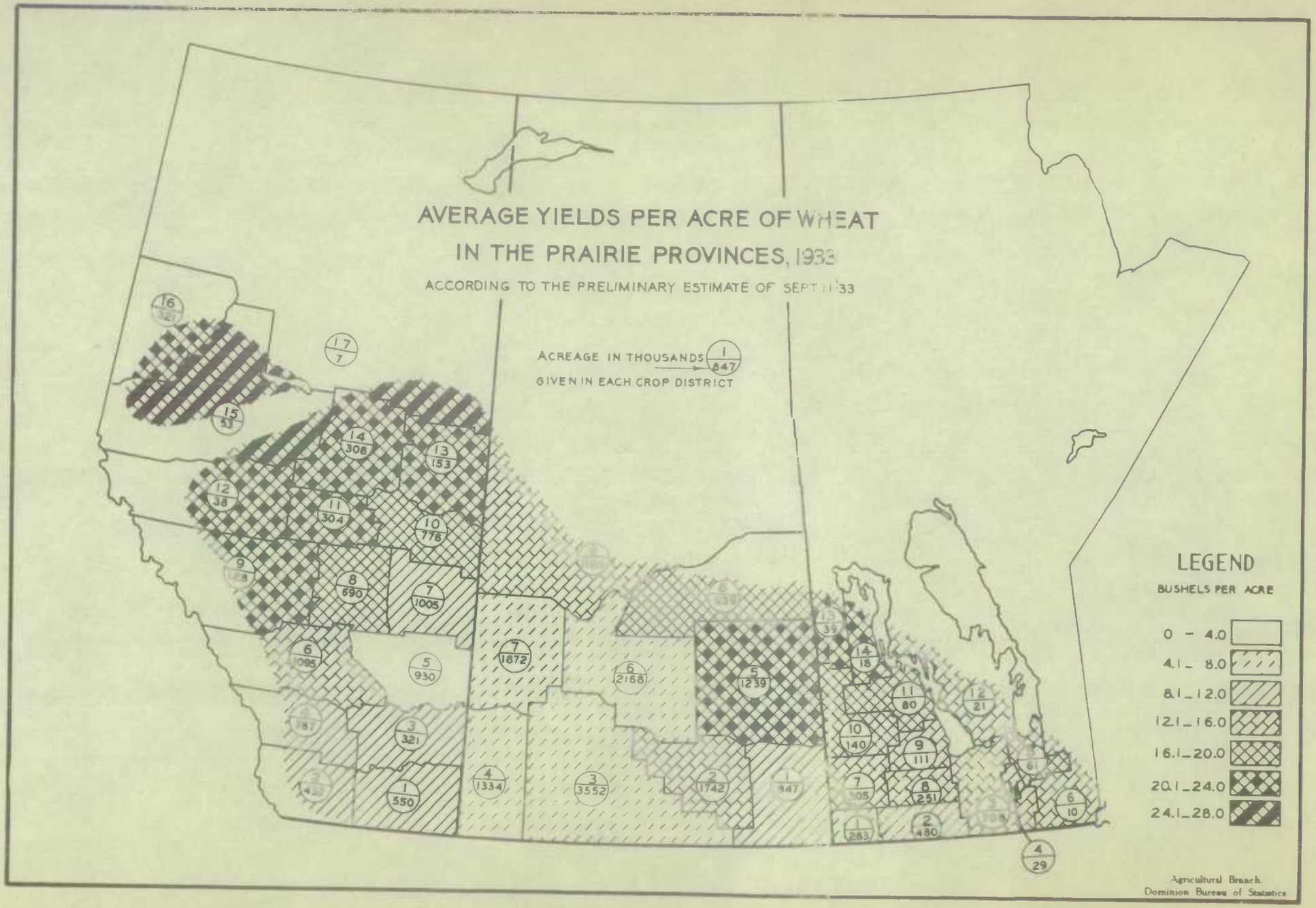
For all Canada, the average yields per acre in bushels are as follows, with the figures for 1932 within brackets: Fall wheat 25.3 (28.1); spring wheat 10.6 (15.5); all wheat 10.9 (15.8); oats 23.3 (29.8); barley 17.6 (21.5); fall rye 11.7 (11.6); spring rye 8.8 (11.3); all rye 11.0 (11.6); flaxseed 3.1 (5.4). The total yields in bushels, based on these averages and on the areas sown, are as follows, with last year's figures within brackets; Fall wheat 14,143,000 (15,062,000); spring wheat 268,628,000 (413,452,000); all wheat 282,771,000 (428,514,000); oats 316,966,000 (391,561,000); barley 64,291,000 (80,773,000); fall rye 5,104,000 (7,132,000); spring rye 1,314,000 (1,806,000); all rye 6,418,000 (8,938,000); flaxseed 756,000 (2,446,000).

Grain Yields of the Prairie Provinces

For the three Prairie Provinces, the preliminary estimates of total production in 1933, as compared with 1932 in brackets, are in bushels as follows: Wheat 264,000,000 (408,400,000); oats 186,500,000 (245,726,000); barley 48,500,000 (63,114,000); rye 5,340,000 (7,738,000); flaxseed 691,000 (2,367,000). By provinces the yields in bushels are: Manitoba - Wheat 32,600,000 (42,400,000); oats 28,700,000 (36,826,000); barley 16,900,000 (20,014,000); rye 635,000 (560,000); flaxseed 120,000 (240,000). Saskatchewan- Wheat 128,300,000 (202,000,000); oats 75,800,000 (107,400,000); barley 17,600,000 (23,400,000); rye 2,775,000 (5,190,000); flaxseed 533,000 (1,980,000). Alberta - Wheat 103,100,000 (164,000,000); oats 82,000,000 (101,500,000); barley 14,000,000 (19,700,000); rye 1,930,000 (1,988,000); flaxseed 38,000 (147,000).

Condition of Late-sown Crops

On August 31, 1933, the condition of late-sown crops for Canada, in percentage of the long-time average yield per acre, is reported as follows, the figures within brackets showing the condition on July 31, 1933 and August 31, 1932 in the order mentioned: Peas 80 (82, 95); beans 77 (75, 94); buckwheat 83 (82, 98); mixed grains 75 (76, 96); corn for husking 75 (78, 93); potatoes 80 (84, 91); turnips, etc. 79 (80, 95); alfalfa 77 (-, 98); fodder corn 81 (81, 94); sugar beets 83 (83, 94); pasture 73 (77, 92).


AVERAGE YIELDS PER ACRE OF WHEAT
IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES, 1933
ACCORDING TO THE PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF SEPT. 1933
ACREAGE IN THOUSANDS GIVEN IN EACH CROP DISTRICT
LEGEND
BUSHELS PER ACRE
0 - 4.0
4.1 - 8.0
8.1 - 12.0
12.1 - 16.0
16.1 - 20.0
20.1 - 24.0
24.1 - 28.0
Agricultural Branch,
Dominion Bureau of Statistics

1. - Preliminary Estimate of the Yield of Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rye and Flaxseed, 1933 as compared with 1932.

Field Crops	1932	1933	1932	1933	1932	1933
	acres	acres	bush. per acre	bush. per acre	bush.	bush.
CANADA -						
Fall wheat	536,000	559,000	28.1	25.3	15,062,000	14,143,000
Spring wheat	26,646,100	25,427,600	15.5	10.6	413,452,000	268,628,000
All wheat	27,182,100	25,986,600	15.8	10.9	428,514,000	282,771,000
Oats	13,148,400	13,576,000	29.8	23.3	391,561,000	316,966,000
Barley	3,757,600	3,646,000	21.5	17.6	80,773,000	64,291,000
Fall rye	613,900	434,900	11.6	11.7	7,132,000	5,104,000
Spring rye	159,900	148,600	11.3	8.8	1,806,000	1,314,000
All rye	773,800	583,500	11.6	11.0	8,938,000	6,418,000
Flaxseed	453,700	243,100	5.4	3.1	2,446,000	756,000
P. E. ISLAND -						
Spring wheat	23,300	24,000	18.5	19.6	431,000	470,000
Oats	149,500	149,500	34.0	31.0	5,083,000	4,635,000
Barley	4,000	4,000	25.2	25.6	101,000	102,000
NOVA SCOTIA -						
Spring wheat	3,300	3,400	21.6	18.6	71,000	63,000
Oats	85,100	87,000	35.4	34.9	3,013,000	3,036,000
Barley	7,900	8,000	29.0	28.1	229,000	225,000
NEW BRUNSWICK -						
Spring wheat	11,300	12,000	17.7	18.2	200,000	218,000
Oats	216,500	216,500	31.3	27.4	6,776,000	5,932,000
Barley	12,000	12,100	27.7	24.8	332,000	300,000
QUEBEC -						
Spring wheat	52,000	53,000	18.3	16.8	952,000	901,000
Oats	1,735,500	1,770,000	29.4	26.4	51,024,000	46,728,000
Barley	114,300	118,900	25.7	24.5	2,938,000	2,913,000
Spring rye	6,200	5,800	15.8	14.5	98,000	84,000
Flaxseed	1,400	1,400	9.9	9.9	14,000	14,000
ONTARIO -						
Fall wheat	536,000	559,000	28.1	25.3	15,062,000	14,143,000
Spring wheat	100,000	97,000	19.9	16.8	1,990,000	1,630,000
All wheat	636,000	656,000	26.8	24.0	17,052,000	15,773,000
Oats	2,338,000	2,316,000	32.3	28.4	75,517,000	65,774,000
Barley	456,000	461,000	30.2	25.9	13,771,000	11,940,000
Fall rye	57,500	54,000	17.8	16.9	1,024,000	913,000
Flaxseed	6,300	5,500	9.8	8.7	62,000	48,000
MANITOBA -						
Spring wheat	2,651,000	2,536,000	16.0	12.9	42,400,000	32,600,000
Oats	1,463,500	1,504,000	25.2	19.1	36,826,000	28,700,000
Barley	1,123,300	1,173,000	17.8	14.4	20,014,000	16,900,000
Fall rye	30,100	36,700	13.8	14.1	415,000	517,000
Spring rye	10,500	9,000	13.8	13.1	145,000	118,000
All rye	40,600	45,700	13.8	13.9	560,000	635,000
Flaxseed	49,300	20,200	4.9	5.9	240,000	120,000
SASKATCHEWAN -						
Spring wheat	15,543,000	14,743,000	13.0	8.7	202,000,000	128,300,000
Oats	4,364,700	4,571,000	24.6	16.6	107,400,000	75,800,000
Barley	1,329,500	1,228,000	17.6	14.3	23,400,000	17,600,000
Fall rye	405,200	232,200	10.6	9.6	4,300,000	2,229,000
Spring rye	77,300	72,800	11.5	7.5	890,000	546,000
All rye	482,500	305,000	10.8	9.1	5,190,000	2,775,000
Flaxseed	361,200	205,000	5.2	2.6	1,880,000	533,000

1. - Preliminary Estimate of the Yield of Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rye and Flaxseed, 1933 as compared with 1932 - Cont'd.

Field Crops	1932	1933	1932	1933	1932	1933
	acres	acres	bush. per acre	bush. per acre	bush.	bush.
ALBERTA -						
Spring wheat	8,201,000	7,898,000	20.0	13.1	164,000,000	103,100,000
Oats	2,704,800	2,870,000	37.5	28.6	101,500,000	82,000,000
Barley	701,300	631,000	28.1	22.2	19,700,000	14,000,000
Fall rye	121,100	112,000	11.5	12.9	1,393,000	1,445,000
Spring rye	62,000	57,000	9.6	8.5	595,000	485,000
All rye	183,100	169,000	10.9	11.4	1,988,000	1,930,000
Flaxseed	15,200	10,700	9.7	3.5	147,000	38,000
BRITISH COLUMBIA -						
Spring wheat	61,200	61,200	23.0	22.0	1,408,000	1,346,000
Oats	90,800	92,000	48.7	47.4	4,422,000	4,361,000
Barley	9,300	10,000	31.0	31.1	288,000	311,000
Spring rye	3,900	4,000	20.0	20.2	78,000	81,000
Flaxseed	300	300	11.0	10.3	3,000	3,000

11. - Preliminary Estimate of the Yield of Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rye and Flaxseed in the Prairie Provinces, 1933 as compared with 1932.

Province		WHEAT	OATS	BARLEY	RYE	FLAXSEED
		bush.	bush.	bush.	bush.	bush.
Manitoba	1932	42,400,000	36,826,000	20,014,000	560,000	240,000
	1933	32,600,000	28,700,000	16,900,000	635,000	120,000
Saskatchewan	1932	202,000,000	107,400,000	23,400,000	5,190,000	1,980,000
	1933	128,300,000	75,800,000	17,600,000	2,775,000	533,000
Alberta	1932	164,000,000	101,500,000	19,700,000	1,988,000	147,000
	1933	103,100,000	82,000,000	14,000,000	1,930,000	38,000
TOTAL	1932	408,400,000	245,726,000	63,114,000	7,738,000	2,367,000
	1933	264,000,000	186,500,000	48,500,000	5,340,000	691,000