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Minister of Trade and CommerceDOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
AGRICULTURAL BRANCHDominion Statistician.
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FIELD CROPS OF CANADA

Ottawa, September 9, 1938, 4 p.m. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issued today a bulletin reporting for 1938 (1) the first estimate of the yields of the principal grain crops and hay and clover and (2) the condition of the late-sown crops. The estimates are based on schedules returned by crop correspondents, including farmers throughout Canada, and bank managers, rural postmasters and railway and elevator agents in the Prairie Provinces. A special list of selected agriculturists was also circularized, in addition to those already co-operating as regular crop correspondents.

The acreages are from the annual June Survey except that of hay and clover in Manitoba, which is estimated from returns of crop correspondents.

SUMMARY

According to the first estimate, total Canadian wheat production in 1938 is 358,433,000 bushels, including 338,396,000 bushels of spring wheat and 20,037,000 bushels of fall wheat. Included in the spring wheat estimate is the crop in the Prairie Provinces, amounting to 334,000,000 bushels distributed as follows: Manitoba 50 million, Saskatchewan 143 million and Alberta 141 million bushels. The spring wheat estimate also includes 22,000,000 bushels of Durum wheat, 15 millions of which were produced in Manitoba and 7 million bushels in Saskatchewan. Total wheat production in Canada in 1938 is the largest since 1932 when 443,061,000 bushels were produced. Improved rainfall in the Prairie Provinces ended a series of partial drought years, although considerable rust and grasshopper damage partly offset the improvement in moisture conditions in the making of the crop. Rust damage has also affected the quality of a fair proportion of the wheat harvested, so that the grading of the crop as a whole may not average above the grading of the 1937 crop.

Production of all coarse grains in Canada in 1938 is larger than in 1937, due principally to improved yields in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The oat crop in 1938 is estimated at 393,071,000 bushels, which is an increase of 124.6 million bushels over the production in 1937. Barley production is estimated at 108,915,000 bushels, which is 25.8 million bushels larger than the 1937 crop. Fall rye is placed at 9,516,000 bushels, and spring rye at 2,849,000 bushels. Each of these crops is more than double the amount produced a year ago. Flaxseed production in 1938 amounts to 1,580,600 bushels in contrast with the production of 697,600 bushels in 1937.

The main hay and clover crop is estimated at 13,504,000 tons, an increase of almost half a million tons over the production in 1937. Declines in hay and clover production occurred in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Manitoba and British Columbia, with increases in the remaining provinces more than offsetting these declines.

Condition figures as of August 31 indicate that the late-sown crops vary from about the same to somewhat better condition than prevailed on the same date in 1937. Potatoes are in slightly better condition for the whole of Canada with improvement over last year occurring in most provinces, including Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Ontario. Pastures are notably improved over last year in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta, while the other provinces have experienced slight declines, except in British Columbia where drought has caused an appreciable decline. Mixed grains are in better condition across Canada this year, except in British Columbia. Corn for husking in Ontario is in distinctly better condition this year. Fodder corn is in good condition in most provinces, although showing declines in Manitoba and British Columbia as compared with last year. Sugar beets in both Ontario and Alberta are in better condition this year. Peas in Quebec and Ontario have done better this year. Beans, buckwheat, turnips and the second growth of alfalfa are in approximately the same condition for the whole of Canada as was the case a year ago.

THE 1938 CROP SITUATION

Spring field work and seeding in eastern Canada were completed somewhat earlier than in the very late season a year ago, although there was considerable delay again this year due to cold weather and rain. Good growing weather prevailed throughout June in the eastern provinces except in Quebec where drought threatened. July and August were marked by too much rain, except in Ontario, and haying and grain harvesting have been hampered by lodging and wet ground. Rainfall in Saskatchewan and Alberta was notably more abundant this year than in any year since 1935. The dry areas this year were in the northern districts of the two provinces rather than in the usual drought area. Before the end of the season, south-western Saskatchewan suffered for lack of rain. Greater damage was done, however, by rust and grasshoppers which accounted for reduced yields in many Saskatchewan districts which had more ample rainfall. Both Manitoba and Alberta, except in the northern part of the latter province, are harvesting good yields of all field crops. British Columbia experienced an unusual drought this year, which reduced yields of hay and spring grains.

Spring work in the Maritime Provinces got under way during the last half of May, and was completed earlier than in the very late season a year ago. Fine growing weather prevailed throughout June and early July. Since then, a more than usual amount of rainfall made haying difficult and interfered with the harvesting of spring grains. Wheat was rusted this year in the Maritimes and in eastern Quebec. Spring sowing in Quebec was done during the last two weeks in May. June was comparatively dry, and by the first week in July drought fears were general. Rains during the second and third weeks of July brought relief to growing crops, although haying was delayed. More recent rains have caused lodging of cereals and have made harvesting difficult. The season was about normal in Ontario, although the weather was dry in the central part of the province during July. Northern districts in Ontario and Quebec had too much rain during the growing season. Serious local outbreaks of army worms and grasshoppers occurred this year in widely separated areas of Ontario and Quebec.

The Prairie Provinces as a whole have experienced the best growing season in the past six years. Production of all crops is appreciably higher than the low volume attained in the years 1933 to 1937. In the present year, Manitoba and Alberta have obtained yields approximating the long-time averages for the various crops. Saskatchewan crops, while showing marked improvement over last year's exceptionally low production, are still short of a full recovery. Production this year was distributed more evenly over the Prairies. In contrast with the situation in 1936 and 1937, there were no large areas with yields reduced to zero by drought. What drought occurred in 1938 was shifted to the north, with yields in northern Alberta, the Peace River district and in north-central Saskatchewan reduced to low levels because of very light rainfall. The usual drought area, comprising southern and south-western Saskatchewan and south-eastern Alberta, received good pre-seasonal rainfall, as well as abundant rains during the early part of the growing season. Later in the season, crops on the lighter soils in south-western Saskatchewan which needed current rainfall most declined in condition for lack of moisture supplies.

Although moisture conditions in Saskatchewan and Alberta were greatly improved this year, the Prairie wheat crop experienced two major threats from rust and grasshoppers. Stem rust appeared in southern Manitoba as early as June 22. The spread of rust extended through central and western Manitoba and eastern, southern and central Saskatchewan. By the first week in August rust was present on susceptible varieties in practically the whole of Saskatchewan. Dry weather through the greater part of July forestalled more serious damage from rust, although both the yield and quality of wheat were reduced throughout Saskatchewan because of this scourge. Heavy sowings of Thatcher and other rust-resistant wheats in Manitoba and in south-eastern Saskatchewan served to lessen the loss from rust.

Grasshoppers hatched very early in Saskatchewan and over very extensive areas. The worst damage from this source occurred in the south-east where in many cases farmers had to cut much of their wheat and all of their coarse grains for feed in order to prevent total loss from grasshoppers. As these pests migrated northward and westward during July and early August, wheat yields were reduced and a relatively high proportion of coarse grains was cut for feed.

British Columbia experienced an unusually dry season, particularly along the lower mainland and on Vancouver Island. Drought between the middle of May and the middle of August was only occasionally broken by showers. Consequently grain and hay yields were appreciably reduced this year.

FIRST ESTIMATE OF THE YIELDS OF GRAIN CROPS

The total yields of the principal grain crops in Canada in 1938 are now estimated, in bushels, as follows, with the 1937 figures within brackets: Fall wheat 20,037,000 (18,689,000); spring wheat 338,396,000 (163,721,000); all wheat 358,433,000 (182,410,000); oats 393,071,000 (268,442,000); barley 108,915,000 (83,124,000); fall rye 9,516,000 (4,579,000); spring rye 2,849,000 (1,192,000); all rye 12,365,000 (5,771,000); flaxseed 1,580,600 (697,600). The average yields per acre, in bushels, are estimated as follows, with the 1937 averages within brackets: Fall wheat 27.0 (26.0); spring wheat 13.4 (6.6); all wheat 13.8 (7.1); oats 30.2 (20.6); barley 24.5 (19.2); fall rye 17.2 (6.5); spring rye 15.2 (6.2); all rye 16.7 (6.5); flaxseed 7.1 (2.9).

GRAIN YIELDS OF THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

For the three Prairie Provinces, the first estimate of the production of grain crops in 1938 is as follows, with the 1937 figures within brackets: Wheat 334,000,000 (159,000,000); oats 247,775,000 (142,413,000); barley 86,140,000 (62,418,000); rye 10,731,000 (4,280,000); flaxseed 1,498,000 (617,000). By provinces the total yields are: Manitoba - Wheat 50,000,000 (48,000,000); oats 44,500,000 (43,075,000); barley 32,800,000 (34,800,000); rye 3,570,000 (2,460,000); flaxseed 420,000 (370,000). Saskatchewan - Wheat 143,000,000 (37,000,000); oats 104,275,000 (22,338,000); barley 24,140,000 (5,518,000); rye 4,379,000 (635,000); flaxseed 778,000 (123,000). Alberta - Wheat 141,000,000 (74,000,000); oats 99,000,000 (77,000,000); barley 29,200,000 (22,100,000); rye 2,782,000 (1,185,000); flaxseed 300,000 (124,000).

FIRST ESTIMATE OF THE YIELD OF HAY AND CLOVER

The total production of hay and clover in Canada in 1938 is estimated at 13,504,000 tons from 8,726,900 acres, as compared with 13,030,000 tons from 8,693,300 acres in 1937, yields per acre of 1.55 tons and 1.50 tons respectively. By provinces the total yields in tons are as follows, with last year's figures within brackets: Prince Edward Island 265,000 (383,000); Nova Scotia 679,000 (766,000); New Brunswick 889,000 (802,000); Quebec 5,278,000 (4,799,000); Ontario 4,680,000 (4,601,000); Manitoba 683,000 (788,000); Saskatchewan 249,000 (128,000); Alberta 523,000 (438,000); British Columbia 258,000 (325,000).

CONDITION OF LATE-SOWN CROPS

At August 31, 1938, the condition of late-sown crops for all Canada, expressed in percentages of the long-time average yields per acre, is reported as follows, with the condition figures within brackets for July 31, 1938 and August 31, 1937, in the order mentioned: Peas 97 (97, 85); beans 95 (98, 95); buckwheat 94 (98, 92); mixed grains 97 (98, 93); corn for husking 101 (98, 81); potatoes 92 (97, 90); turnips, etc. 97 (96, 96); alfalfa 94 (-, 96); fodder corn 99 (96, 100); sugar beets 100 (100, 92); pasture 97 (97, 90).

CHARTS SHOWING THE AVERAGE YIELDS PER ACRE OF WHEAT IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES,

BY CROP DISTRICTS, 1938 AND 1937.

On the last two pages of this report, the average yields per acre by crop districts are pictured for the years 1938 and 1937. In the 1938 chart, the ten Saskatchewan crop districts formerly used have each been subdivided into two new crop districts. Otherwise direct comparisons can be made for the two years between districts and patterns.

The 1938 wheat crop in the Prairie Provinces, is the largest since 1932. Compared with last year, Manitoba production is slightly higher than the good 1937 crop, while production in Saskatchewan and Alberta is notably better than in 1937. The improvement in this year's production is evident in western Manitoba, except for the extreme south-west, and across the whole of Saskatchewan. All southern and central Alberta is harvesting a better wheat crop this year. Crops in the northern districts of Alberta are about the same in yield as last year, except in the Peace River district where production is definitely lower. Ampler pre-seasonal and current rainfall during the growing season with a better distribution over the Prairies account for the improved production this year. On the other hand rust and grasshoppers in Saskatchewan reduced yields considerably from what they would have been, with rust causing some loss in Manitoba as well. Other pests, including wire worms, saw-flies and Say's grain bug, some soil drifting early in the season and a considerable amount of hail damage resulted in further losses this year.

Manitoba - Yields in the Red River valley this year were below the relatively heavy yields of a year ago. In the central part of the province, however, yields this year are somewhat better and in the western districts, except in the south-western corner, yields are considerably better than a year ago. Better rainfall in the western districts this year, and more rust-resistant wheat sown in the central districts account for the improvement in yields. While the average yield for the province as a whole is a bushel per acre lower than in 1937, the increased acreage this year more than offset the decline in yield per acre.

Saskatchewan - Districts 1A, 2A, 3A-S, 3A-N and 3B-N in the southern part of Saskatchewan have harvested low yields per acre due partly to lack of rain late in the growing season, but especially to rust and grasshopper damage. District 9A in the north-central area has a low yield because of drought. Wheat yields are best in the eastern and north-eastern part of the province, while some fair yields were harvested in the western districts along the Alberta border. The central districts 2B, 6A, 6B and 8B were affected by rust and grasshoppers. Rust damage has affected the weight and quality of a considerable part of the Saskatchewan wheat crop.

Alberta - Greatly improved yields are being harvested in the south-eastern part of the province, including crop districts 1, 3, 5 and 7, in comparison with the drought-affected yields last year. Production is also heavier in the south-western and central parts of the province. The northern districts 13, 14 and 15 are harvesting crops of about the same size as last year, while in the Peace River district, No. 16, yields are lower. Over most of the province, rains late in the growing season improved yields over earlier expectations.

1. First Estimate of the Yield of Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rye, Flaxseed and Hay and Clover in Canada, 1938 as compared with 1937.

Field Crops	1937	1938	1937	1938	1937	1938
	acres	acres	bush. per acre	bush. per acre	bush.	bush.
CANADA -						
Fall wheat	718,800	742,100	26.0	27.0	18,689,000	20,037,000
Spring wheat	24,851,400	25,188,400	6.6	13.4	163,721,000	338,396,000
All wheat	25,570,200	25,930,500	7.1	13.8	182,410,000	358,433,000
Oats	13,048,500	13,009,700	20.6	30.2	268,442,000	393,071,000
Barley	4,331,400	4,453,900	19.2	24.5	83,124,000	108,915,000
Fall rye	700,300	553,500	6.5	17.2	4,579,000	9,516,000
Spring rye	193,400	187,900	6.2	15.2	1,192,000	2,849,000
All rye	893,700	741,400	6.5	15.7	5,771,000	12,365,000
Flaxseed	241,300	221,200	2.9	7.1	697,600	1,580,600
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	8,693,300	8,726,900	1.50	1.55	13,030,000	13,504,000
P. E. Island -						
Spring wheat	18,600	18,900	12.8	10.7	238,000	202,000
Oats	153,300	146,800	22.4	36.5	3,437,000	5,359,000
Barley	6,500	7,800	21.4	29.0	139,000	226,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	231,100	228,800	1.66	1.16	383,000	265,000
NOVA SCOTIA -						
Spring wheat	4,000	3,400	12.8	17.8	51,000	61,000
Oats	87,400	90,400	24.9	33.1	2,174,000	2,996,000
Barley	9,600	9,700	20.3	26.5	195,000	257,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	401,000	401,300	1.91	1.69	766,000	679,000
NEW BRUNSWICK -						
Spring wheat	13,000	12,500	14.2	18.6	184,000	233,000
Oats	210,400	211,400	24.4	30.6	5,144,000	6,464,000
Barley	13,400	14,700	20.0	24.1	268,000	355,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	570,500	564,900	1.41	1.57	802,000	889,000
QUEBEC -						
Spring wheat	53,000	50,500	16.6	16.5	879,000	833,000
Oats	1,644,500	1,662,000	21.8	25.7	35,850,000	42,713,000
Barley	168,500	177,000	21.3	25.1	3,589,000	4,443,000
Spring rye	6,700	7,000	16.0	16.0	107,000	112,000
Flaxseed	2,800	3,000	9.3	9.7	26,000	29,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	3,608,600	3,640,000	1.33	1.45	4,799,000	5,278,000
ONTARIO -						
Fall wheat	718,800	742,100	26.0	27.0	18,689,000	20,037,000
Spring wheat	94,200	88,000	17.0	18.6	1,601,000	1,637,000
All wheat	813,000	830,100	25.0	26.1	20,290,000	21,674,000
Oats	2,263,900	2,263,000	32.6	36.7	73,803,000	83,052,000
Barley	555,900	544,000	28.8	31.5	16,010,000	17,136,000
Fall rye	74,700	74,100	17.3	19.2	1,292,000	1,423,000
Flaxseed	5,000	5,200	10.3	9.6	52,000	50,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	2,722,200	2,769,000	1.69	1.69	4,601,000	4,680,000
MANITOBA -						
Spring wheat	2,872,000	3,184,000	16.7	15.7	48,000,000	50,000,000
Oats	1,410,000	1,462,000	30.5	30.4	43,075,000	44,500,000
Barley	1,393,000	1,355,000	25.0	24.2	34,800,000	32,800,000
Fall rye	116,600	176,400	19.0	17.8	2,220,000	3,140,000
Spring rye	18,600	28,600	12.9	15.0	240,000	430,000
All rye	135,200	205,000	18.2	17.4	2,460,000	3,570,000
Flaxseed	38,300	42,700	9.7	9.8	370,000	420,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	410,000	402,000	1.92	1.70	788,000	683,000
SASKATCHEWAN -						
Spring wheat	13,893,000	13,793,000	24.7	10.4	37,000,000	143,000,000
Oats	4,380,000	4,171,000	5.1	25.0	22,338,000	104,275,000
Barley	1,174,000	1,207,000	4.7	20.0	5,518,000	24,140,000
Fall rye	429,000	204,000	0.9	15.3	386,000	3,121,000
Spring rye	89,000	88,000	2.8	14.3	249,000	1,258,000
All rye	518,000	292,000	1.2	15.0	635,000	4,379,000
Flaxseed	175,000	139,000	0.7	5.6	123,000	778,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	242,400	200,600	0.53	1.24	128,000	249,000

1. First Estimate of the Yield of Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rye, Flaxseed and Hay and Clover in Canada, 1938 as compared with 1937 - Concluded

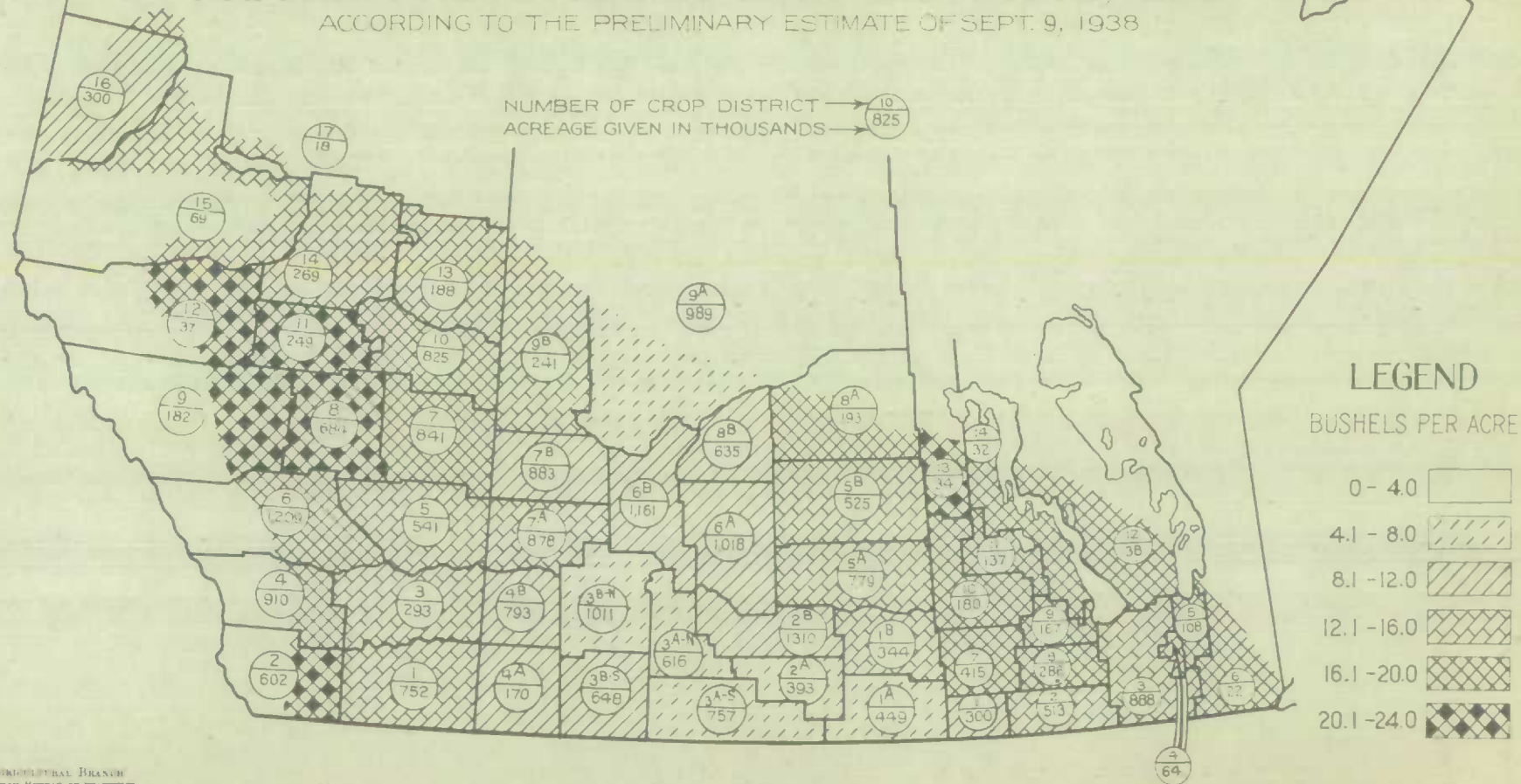
Field Crops	1937	1938	1937	1938	1937	1938
	acres	acres	bush. per acre	bush. per acre	bush.	bush.
<u>ALBERTA -</u>						
Spring wheat	7,834,000	7,969,000	9.4	17.7	74,000,000	141,000,000
Oats	2,789,000	2,885,000	27.6	34.3	77,000,000	99,000,000
Barley	995,300	1,125,000	22.2	26.0	22,100,000	29,200,000
Fall rye	80,000	99,000	8.5	18.5	681,000	1,832,000
Spring rye	75,000	59,000	6.7	16.1	504,000	950,000
All rye	155,000	158,000	7.6	17.6	1,185,000	2,782,000
Flaxseed	20,000	31,000	6.2	9.7	124,000	300,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	356,500	365,600	1.23	1.43	438,000	523,000
<u>BRITISH COLUMBIA -</u>						
			bush.	bush.	bush.	bush.
Spring wheat	69,600	69,100	25.4	20.7	1,768,000	1,430,000
Oats	110,000	118,100	51.1	39.9	5,621,000	4,712,000
Barley	15,200	13,700	33.2	26.1	505,000	358,000
Spring rye	4,100	5,300	22.4	18.6	92,000	99,000
Flaxseed	200	300	13.0	12.0	2,600	3,600
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	151,000	154,700	2.15	1.67	325,000	258,000

II. Area and Yield of Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rye and Flaxseed in the Prairie Provinces, 1936 to 1938.

Province and Crop 1936	1937	1938	1936	1937	1938
	acres	acres	acres	bush.	bush.
<u>PRAIRIE PROVINCES -</u>					
Wheat	24,837,800	24,599,000	24,946,000	202,000,000	159,000,000
Oats	8,674,300	8,579,000	8,518,000	135,862,000	142,413,000
Barley	3,724,100	3,562,300	3,687,000	52,617,000	62,418,000
Rye	561,800	808,200	655,000	3,201,000	4,280,000
Flaxseed	468,700	233,300	212,700	1,730,000	617,000
<u>MANITOBA -</u>					
Wheat	2,556,600	2,872,000	3,184,000	26,000,000	48,000,000
Oats	1,453,400	1,410,000	1,462,000	20,400,000	43,075,000
Barley	1,423,000	1,393,000	1,355,000	18,990,000	34,800,000
Rye	88,300	135,200	205,000	950,000	2,460,000
Flaxseed	89,100	38,300	42,700	415,000	370,000
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>					
Wheat	14,744,000	13,893,000	13,793,000	110,000,000	37,000,000
Oats	4,684,200	4,380,000	4,171,000	65,462,000	22,338,000
Barley	1,302,100	1,174,000	1,207,000	16,627,000	5,518,000
Rye	336,100	518,000	292,000	1,489,000	635,000
Flaxseed	366,200	175,000	139,000	1,240,000	123,000
<u>ALBERTA</u>					
Wheat	7,537,200	7,834,000	7,969,000	66,000,000	74,000,000
Oats	2,536,700	2,789,000	2,885,000	50,000,000	77,000,000
Barley	999,000	995,300	1,125,000	17,000,000	22,100,000
Rye	137,400	155,000	158,000	762,000	1,185,000
Flaxseed	13,400	20,000	31,000	75,000	124,000

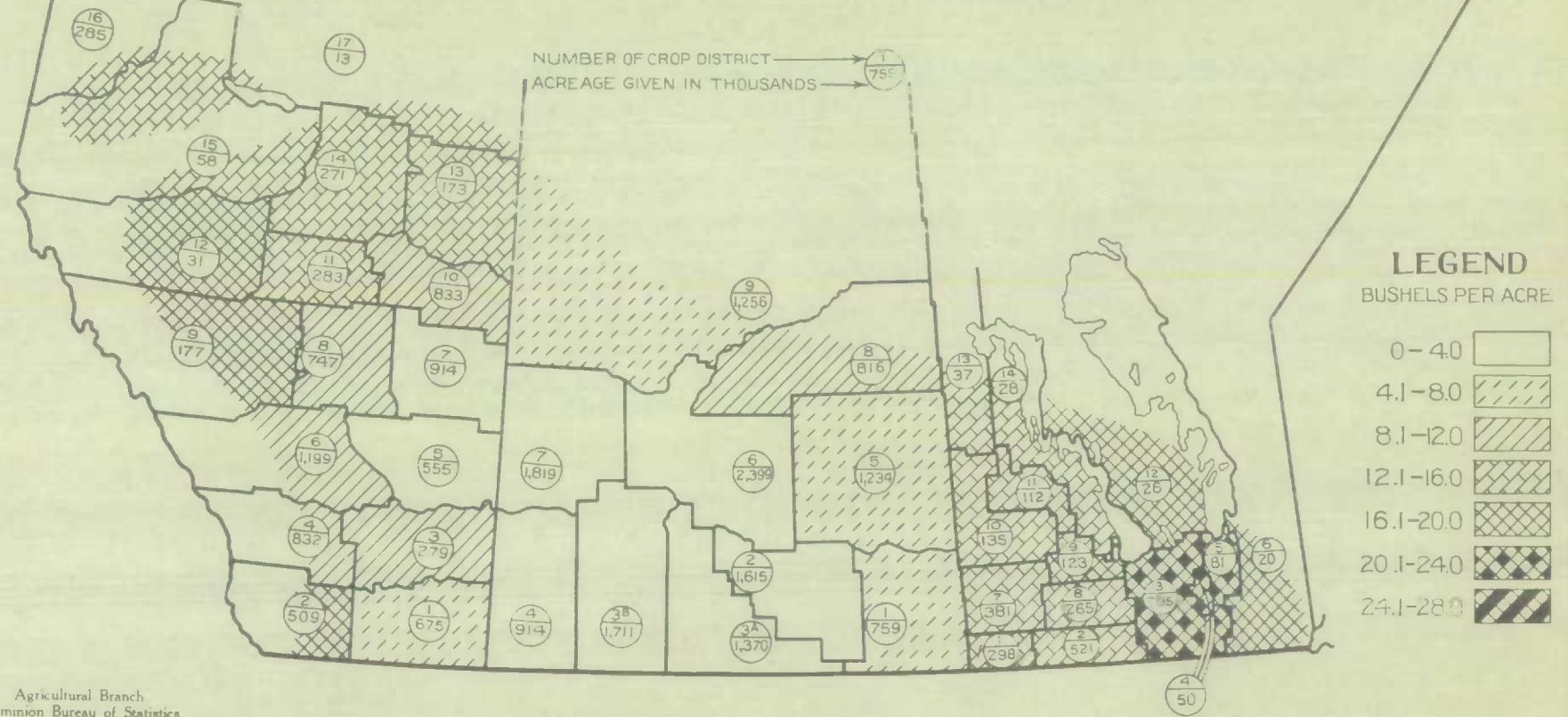
AVERAGE YIELDS PER ACRE OF WHEAT IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES BY CROP DISTRICTS, 1938

ACCORDING TO THE PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF SEPT. 9, 1938



AVERAGE YIELDS PER ACRE OF WHEAT IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES BY CROP DISTRICTS, 1937

ACCORDING TO THE THIRD ESTIMATE OF JAN. 21, 1938



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