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no. 24
1932 Tublished by Authority

Minister of Trade and Commerce

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA

AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

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Dominion Statistician: Chief, Agricultural Branch:

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R. H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S. (Hon.), F.R.S.C. T. W. Grindley, Ph.D.

Ottawa, August 10, 1932, 4 p.m. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today a bulletin compiled from the returns of crop correspondents giving (1) the condition of field crops on July 31, expressed numerically in percentages of the long-time average; (2) revised estimates of the acreage sown to the five principal grain crops of the three Prairie Provinces, the areas now published representing the results obtained by the annual statistics collected in June last through the rural schools; and (3) a preliminary estimate of the yield of fall wheat, fall rye, hay and clover and alfalfa (first cutting).

SUMMARY

During the month of July, there was a fairly general improvement in crop conditions in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, but this appreciation was more than offset by slight declines in Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia and greater depreciation in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The condition figures for Canada of all the field crops covered in this report are below the long-time average, the disparities ranging in degree from 3 to 21 per cent.

The principal grain crops declined in condition during the month, with the greatest decreases in flax, wheat and barley. Potatoes were slightly lowered in prospects. Pasture, buckwheat, mixed grains, sugar beets and turnips were higher in condition at the month-end. The corn crop has been limited in growth by the dry, cold weather.

The yield per acre of fall wheat is slightly greater than in 1931, but the reduced acreage sown last fall results in a lower production estimate for 1932, being 14,365,000 bushels compared with 15,475,000 bushels in 1931. In contrast, the production of fall rye is placed at 10,198,000 bushels, which is much higher than the return for 1931, 3,873,000 bushels. Most of the fall wheat is grown in Ontario and most of the fall rye in the Prairie Provinces, which accounts for the different comparisons with 1931 yields.

Although the acreage under hay increased slightly over the 1931 total, the unfavourable season of 1932 affected the production, which is estimated at only 11,504,000 tons in Canada compared with 13,960,000 tons last year.

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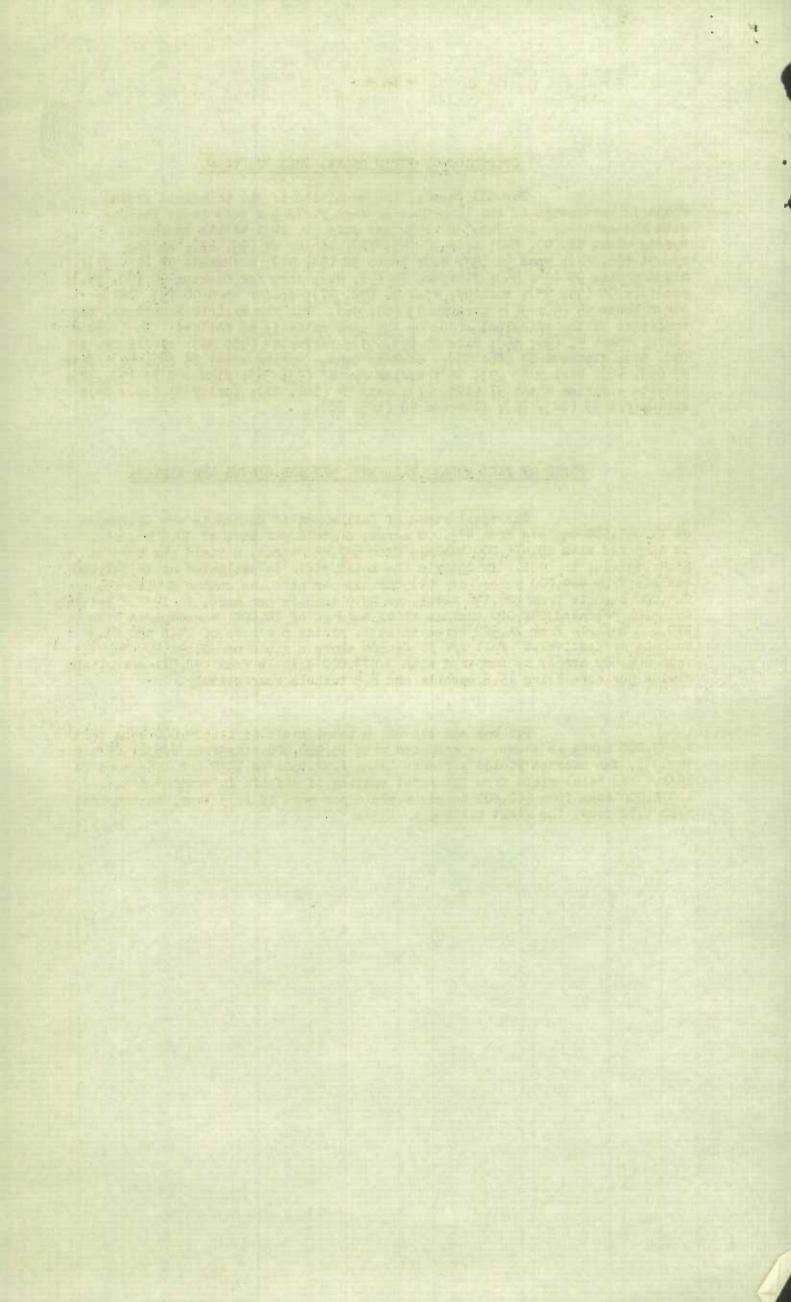
COMDITION OF FIELD CROPS, JULY 31, 1932:

For all Canada, the condition of the principal field crops in percentage of the long-time average yield per acre is as follows, with the condition for June 30, 1932 and July 31, 1931 within brackets: Spring wheat 88 (99, 54); oats 90 (95, 71); barley 87 (93, 63); spring rye 91 (96, 57); peas 91 (93, 92); beans 92 (94, 97); buckwheat 97 (95, 97); mixed grains 95 (94, 94); flaxseed 79 (92, 44); corn for husking 90 (90, 101); potatoes 95 (96, 95); turnips, etc. 94 (92, 97); fodder corn 90 (93, 101); sugar beets 95 (92, 95); pasture 93 (89, 96). For the Prairie Provinces, the condition of the principal crops on the same dates is as follows: Manitoba spring wheat 92 (96, 56); oats 87 (93, 59); barley 84 (90, 58); spring rye 89 (90, 58); flaxseed 83 (86, 58). Saskatchewan - spring wheat 83 (96, 42); oats 83 (93, 42); barley 83 (93, 38); spring rye 87 (93, 36); flaxseed 77 (92, 32). Alberta - spring wheat 97 (105, 77); oats 94 (102, 81); barley 93 (100, 84); spring rye 98 (103, 76); flaxseed 90 (105, 62).

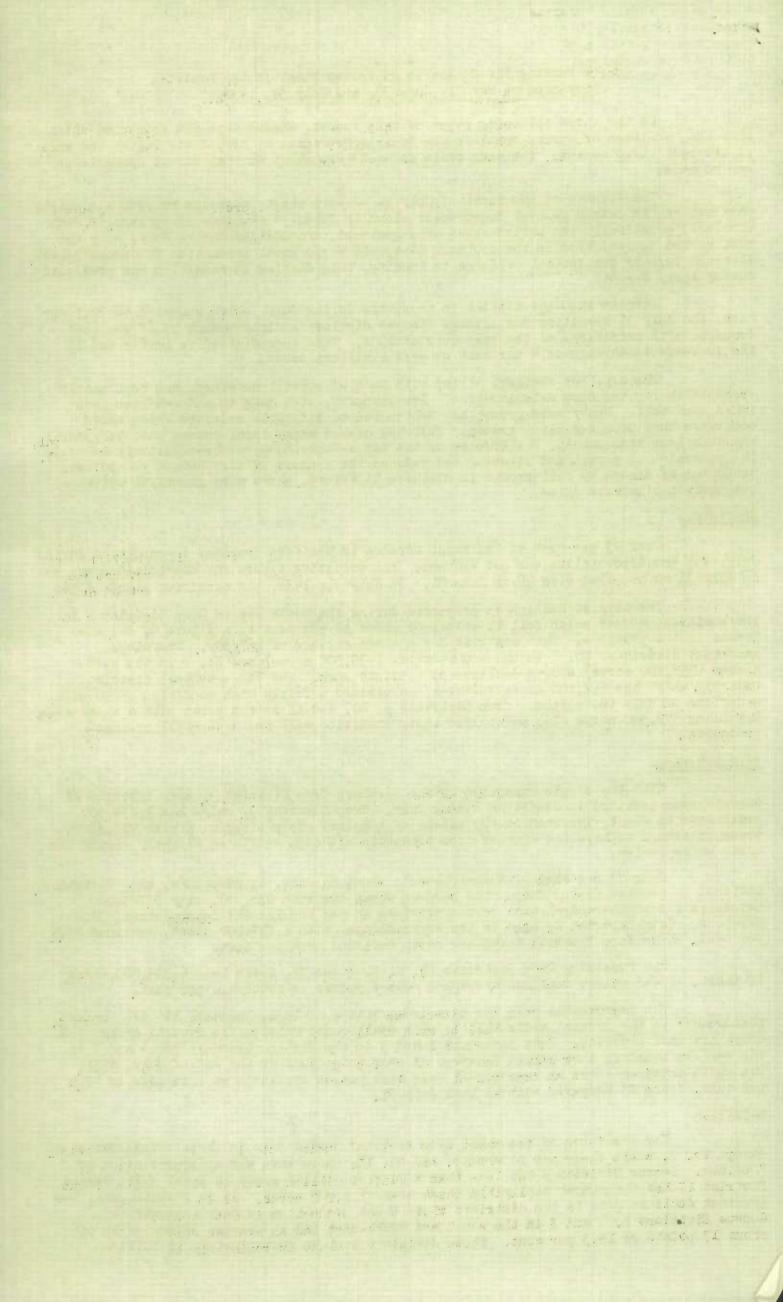
YIELD OF FALL WHEAT, FALL RYE, HAY AND CLOVER AND ALFALFA

The total yield of fall wheat in Canada is now estimated at 14,365,000 bushels from 479,000 acres, a yield per acre of 30.0 bushels, as compared with 15,475,000 bushels from 537,658 acres, a yield per acre of 28.8 bushels, in 1931. In Ontario the total yield is estimated at 14,117,000 bushels from 469,000 acres, or 30.1 bushels per acre, as compared with 15,-205,000 bushels from 526,136 acres, or 28.9 bushels per acre, in 1931. British Columbia produced 248,000 bushels on an acreage of 10,000, as compared with 270,000 bushels from 11,522 acres in 1931, yields per acre of 24.8 and 23.3 bushels respectively. Fall rye in Canada shows a yield of 10,198,000 bushels from 606,400 acres, as compared with 3,873,000 bushels from 598,511 acres, the yields per acre being 16.8 bushels and 6.5 bushels respectively.

For hay and clover, a total yield of 11,504,000 tons from 8,693,000 acres is shown, as compared with 13,960,000 tons from 8,532,369 acres in 1931, the average yields per acre being 1.32 tons in 1932 and 1.64 tons in 1931. The total yield from the first cutting of alfalfa is estimated at 1,078,000 tons from 602,800 acres, a yield per acre of 1.79 tons, as compared with 1.70 tons, the first cutting in 1931.



Charts Showing the Condition of Spring Wheat in the Prairie Provinces at May 31, June 30, and July 31, 1932. On the three following pages of this report, shaded maps are presented which show the condition of spring wheat in the Prairie Provinces by crop districts at the ends of the past three months. The same scale is used throughout so that direct comparisons may be made. The effects of the month of July on western wheat prospects present a complete contrast to the fairly general improvement shown in June. With minor exceptions in each province, practically the entire wheat area declined in condition during July, with the most marked depreciation in the southern districts where wheat production is concentrated. Although further statistical evidence is lacking, this decline in condition has proceeded during early August. Despite the depreciation in prospects during July, which amounted to 10.7 per cent, the July 31 condition and acreage figures disclose an improvement of 67 per cent compared with conditions at the same date of 1931. This appreciation is partly due to the increase in acreage of 4 per cent or over 1 million acres. The dry, hot weather, allied with lack of subsoil moisture, has been mainly responsible for the crop deterioration. Grasshoppers, stem maggots and sawflies have taken some toll. Heavy weed growth has subtracted considerable moisture which would otherwise have promoted plant growth. Hail has caused heavy local losses but, in general, has been less than usual. The effects of the hot weather have not been entirely harmful. The promotion of growth and ripening has reduced the dangers of rust attack in southern areas and of damage by fall grosts in northern districts, where more plentiful moisture has postponed harvest dates. Manitoba .-Over 93 per cent of the wheat acreage in Manitoba declined in condition during July, but the depreciation was not extreme. The condition figure for the province was 92 on July 31 as compared with 96 on June 31. On July 31, 1931, the condition stood at 56. The largest decline in prospects during the month was in Crop District 1 in the southwest corner which fell 11 points or about 12 per cent to a figure of 82, the lowest in the province. This district has a wheat acreage of 267,300. Two other important districts, No. 2 in the south-centre (495,800 acres) and No. 7 in the westcentre (358,200 acres) showed declines of 5 points each. The large central district (No. 3), which has 698,100 acres in wheat, maintained a fairly high condition of 90 with a decline of only two points. Crop Districts 9, 10, and 11 in the north with a wheat area totalling 379,500 acres also maintained their condition well and have still average prospects. Saskatchewan -With the single exception of the northern Crop District 9, each district of Saskatchewan declined in condition during July. Crop District 9, which has 1,274,000 acres sown to wheat, improved to the extent of 1 point. Crop District 8 with 925,000 acres continued to have the highest cron prospects although declining slightly during the month under review. Over 85 per cent of Saskatchewan's wheat acreage, as grouped by crop districts, declined in promise during July. The largest wheat district (No. 3), with 3,725,000 acres, in the south-central part of the province showed the largest depreciation, 32.6 per cent. Crop District 2, also in the south-centre, with 1,817,000 acres, declined 19.1 per cent, while Crop District 6 further north declined 14.4 per cent. The remaining Crop Districts (1, 4, 5, 7 and 8), which have 6,383,000 acres in wheat, showed slight declines averaging over 4 points or about 4.4 per cent. The improvement over the disastrous season of 1931, however, is still marked. Abandonment in the drought areas will be much smaller and outside the drought areas, the crops are much superior. Crop Districts 1 and 5 on the eastern boundary and 4 and 7 on the western boundary show marked improvement over conditions at the end of July, 1931. The whole province shows an improvement over last year's condition at this time of 97.6 per cent, being 83 compared with 42 last July 31. Alberta.-The condition of the wheat crop declined during July in every census division, except No. 9, where there was no change, and No. 17, where thre was an appreciation of 7 points. Census Division 9 has less than a quarter million acres in wheat while Census District 17 has the almost negligible wheat area of 5,000 acres. As in Saskatchewan, the greatest declines were in the districts where wheat production is most concentrated. Census Divisions 1, 2 and 3 in the south and south-east had an average depreciation of about 17 points or 15.3 per cent. These divisions include approximately 1 million



acres sown to wheat. Census Division 5 in the east-centre (856,000 acres) also depreciated greatly in condition from 113 to 97 or nearly 14 per cent. These four districts mentioned were among those with the highest condition at June 30 so, even with the heavy depreciation, are not far below the long-time average.

Another district showing seriously lowered prospects was Census Division 16, which comprises most of the Peace River district. The decline (which began in June) brought the condition figure at July 31 down to 80, the lowest in the province. There are 305,900 acres of wheat in this division.

The highest prospects in the province are now in Census Division 6 in the west-centre which also has the largest acreage in the province. The decline during July in this division was limited to 3 points by the plentiful rains which fell early in the season.

Census Divisions 7, 8, 10 and 11 in the east-centre and centre, which have over 3 million acres in wheat, also maintained their condition fairly well, with declines of only 7, 8, 5 and 6 points respectively.

In summary, the condition figure of July 31 for the province (97) showed a decline of nearly 7.6 per cent from 105 at June 30 but is still nearly 26 per cent above the prospects at the same date last year (77).

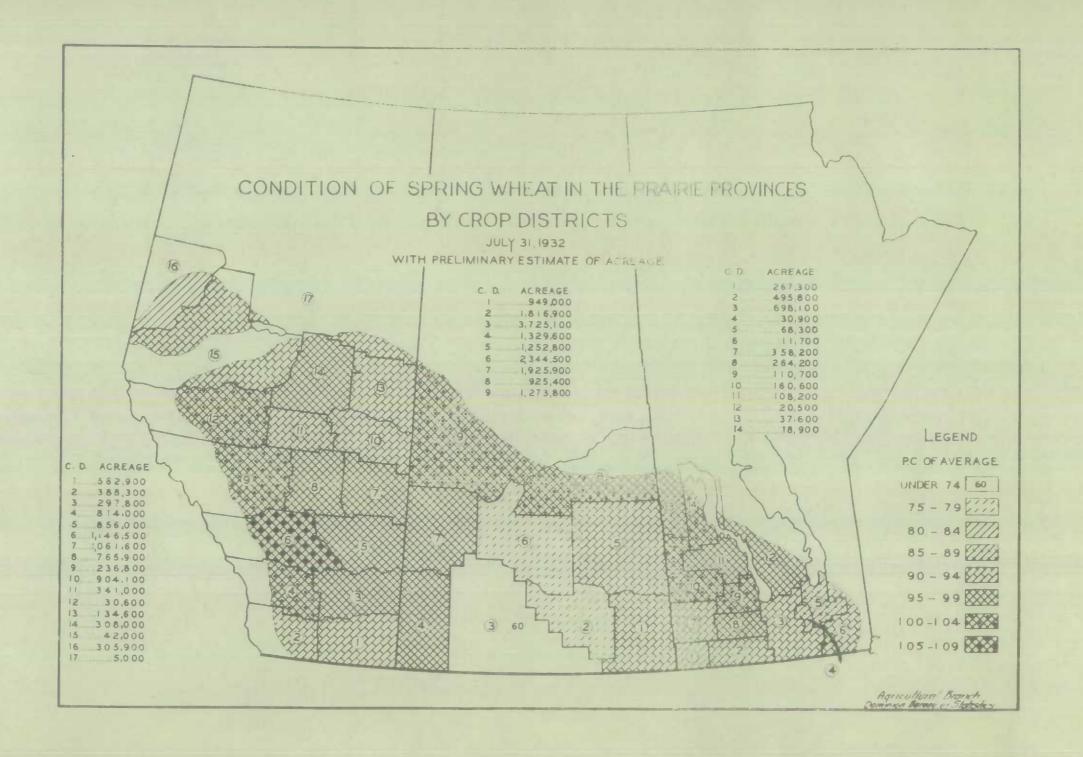
ACREAGE OF GRAIN CROPS IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

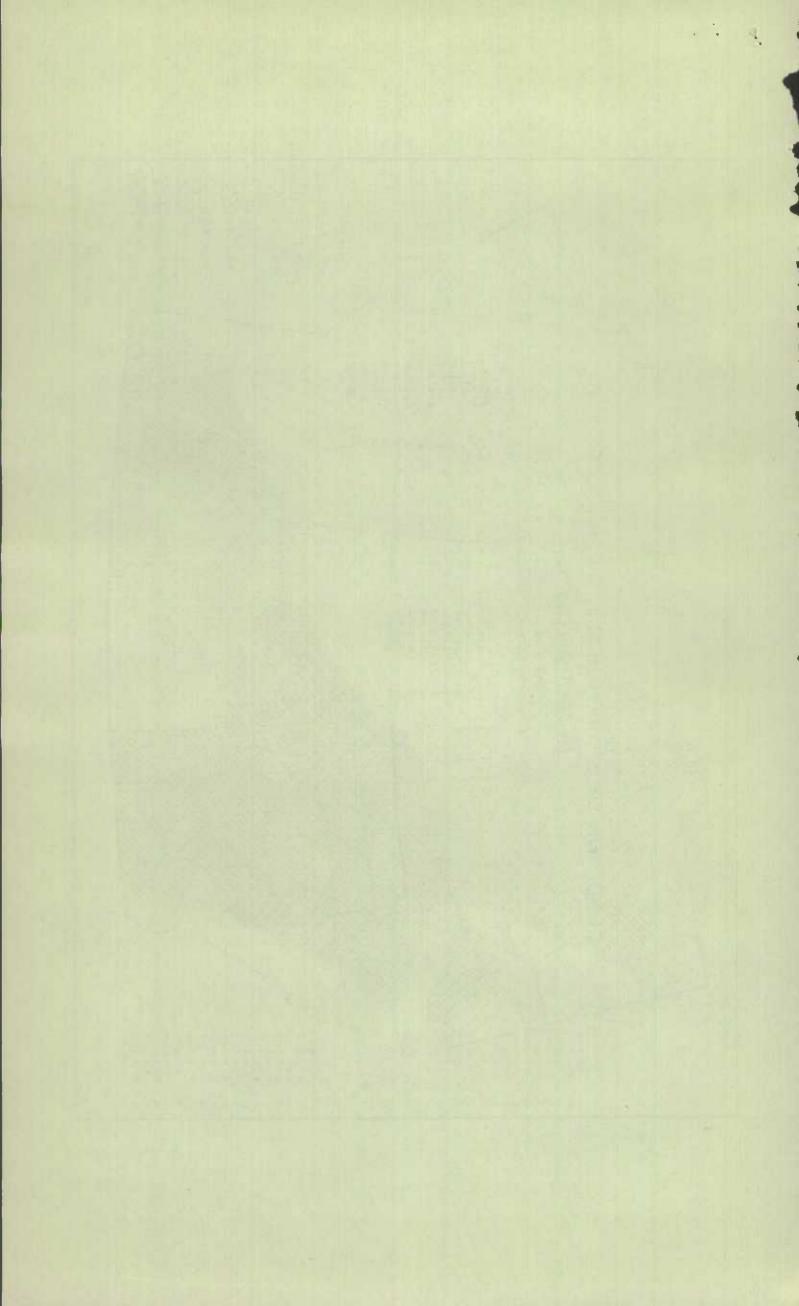
The estimates of the areas sown to the principal grain crops in the three Prairie Provinces as shown by the annual statistics collected in June last through the rural schools are now available. The figures reveal an increase of 1.042,278 acres (4 per cent) in wheat and 221,033 acres (2.7 per cent) in oats, with slight decreases in barley and rye and a rather drastic reduction of 28 per cent in flaxseed acreage from 618,561 to 445,700 acres. The acreages are as follows, with the preliminary Census figures for 1931 within brackets: Three Prairie Provinces - wheat 26,395,000 (25,352,722); cats, 8,533,000 (8,311,967); barley, 3,154,100 (3,202,727); rye, 706,200 (711,709); flaxseed, 445,700 (618,561). Manitoba - Wheat, 2,651,000 (2,577,780); cats, 1,463,500 (1,495,944); barley, 1,123,300 (1,112,863); rye, 40,600 (49,128); flaxseed, 49,300 (97,562). Saskatchewan - wheat, 15,543,000 (14,775,047)! cats 4,364,700 (4,368,735); barley, 1,329,500 (1,366,092); rye, 482,500 (510,562); flaxseed, 381,200 (492,168). Alberta - wheat, 8,201,000 (7,999,895); cats, 2,704,800 (2,447,288); barley, 701,300 (723,772); rye 183,100 (152,019); flaxseed, 15,200 (28,831).

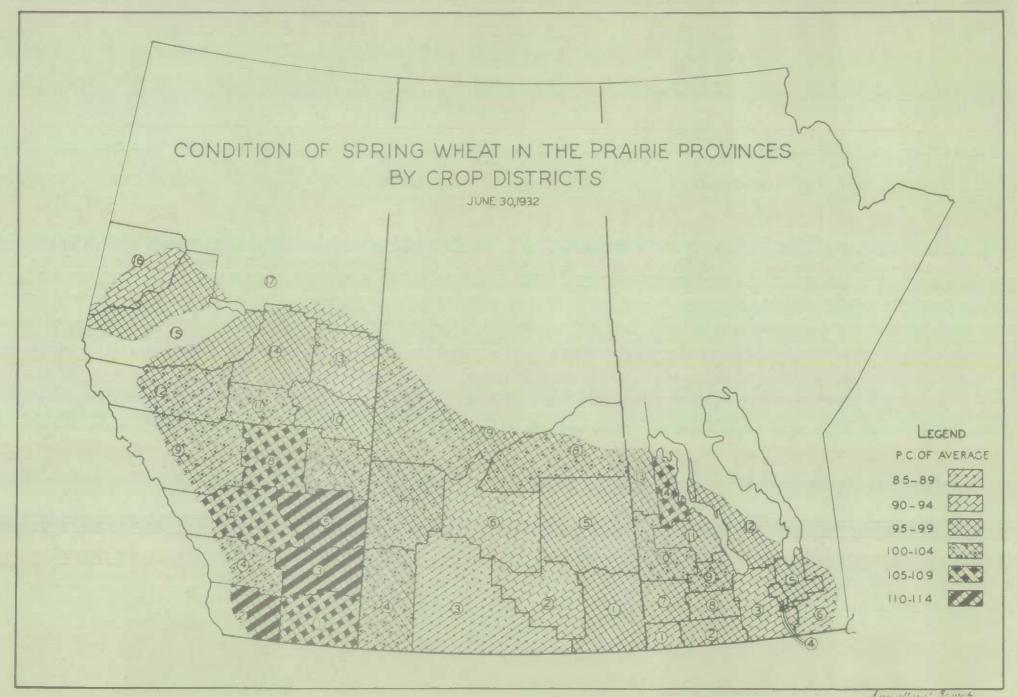
1. Revised Estimate of the Areas Sown to the Principal Grain Crops in the Prairie Provinces 1932, as compared with 1931.

Province	Year	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flax
		acres	acres	acres	acres	acres
Manitoba	1931 1932	2,577,780 2,651,000	1,495,944 1,463,500	1,112,863	49,128	97,562 49,300
Saskatchewan	1931 1932	14,775,047 15,543,000	4,368,735	1,366,092	510,562 482,500	492,168 381,200
Alberta	1931 1932	7,999,895	2,447,288 2,704,800	723,772 701,300	152,019	28,831
Total Prairie Provinces	1931	25, 352, 722 26, 395,000	8, 311, 967 8, 533,000	3,202,727 3,15 ⁴ ,100	711,709 706,200	618,561 445,700
Canada	1931 1932	26,114,650 27,099,000	12,871,341 13,138,000	3,768,269 3,727,500	777,534 765,100	627.430

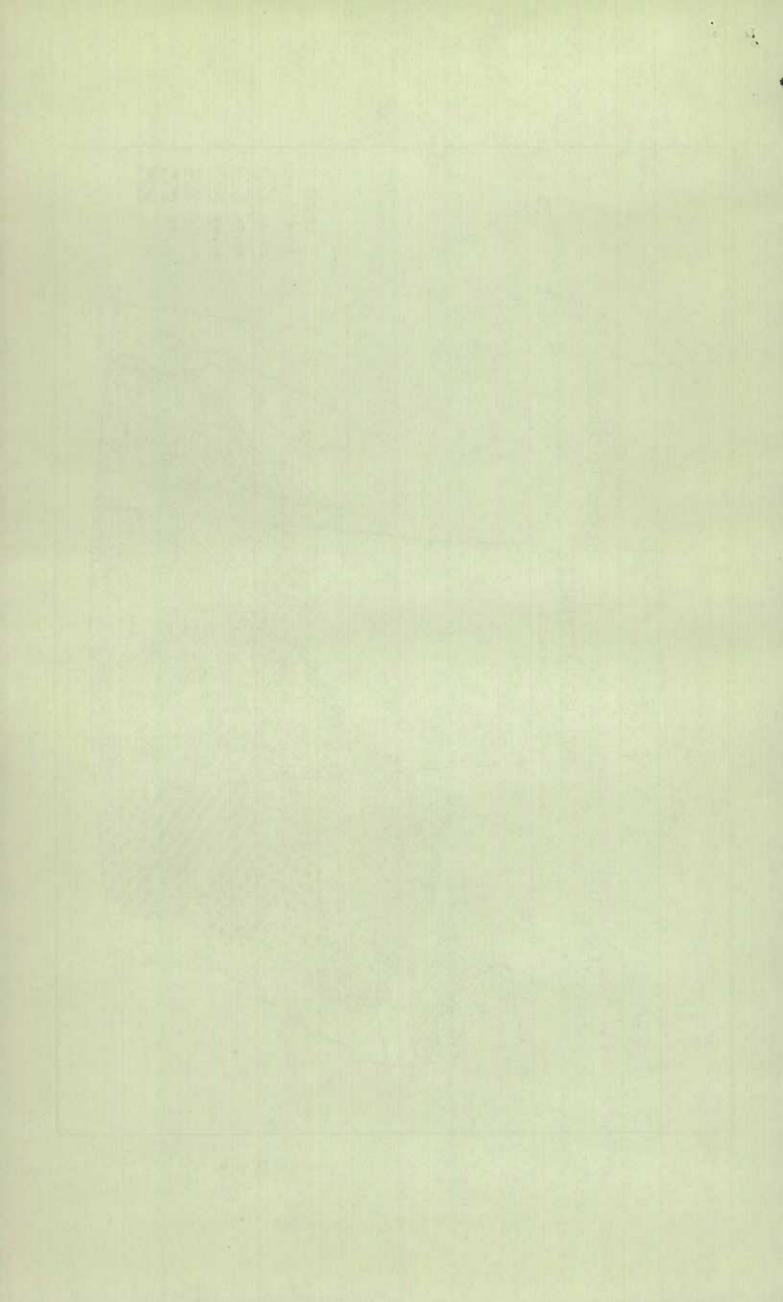
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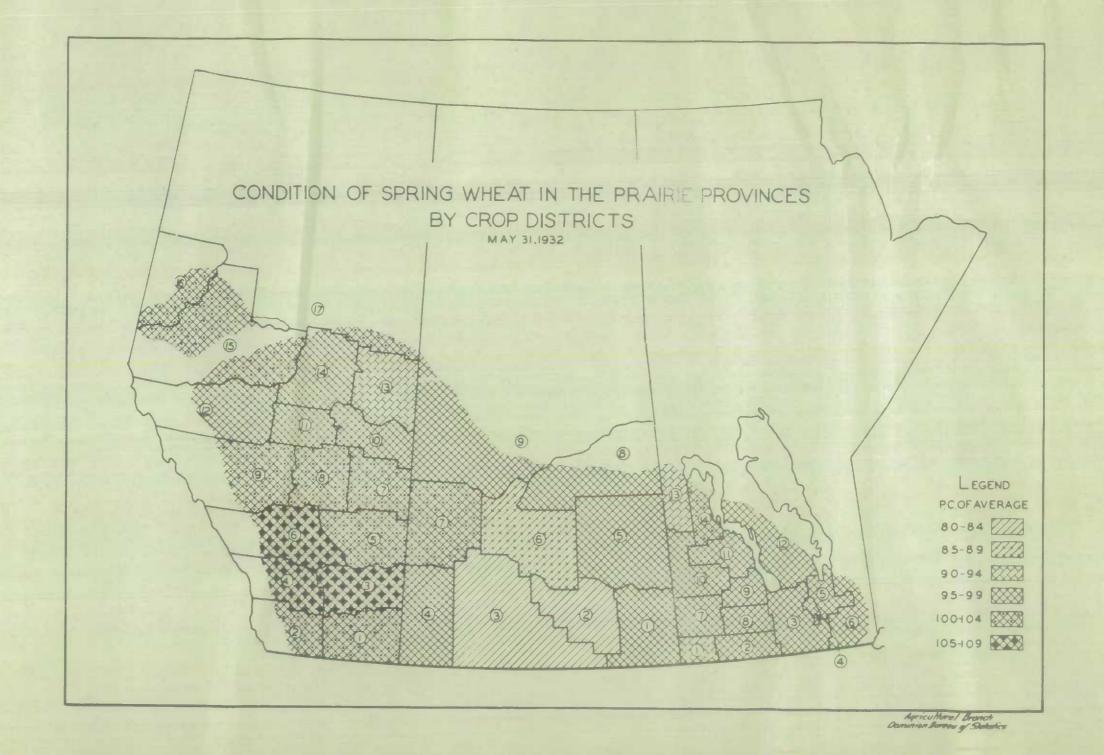


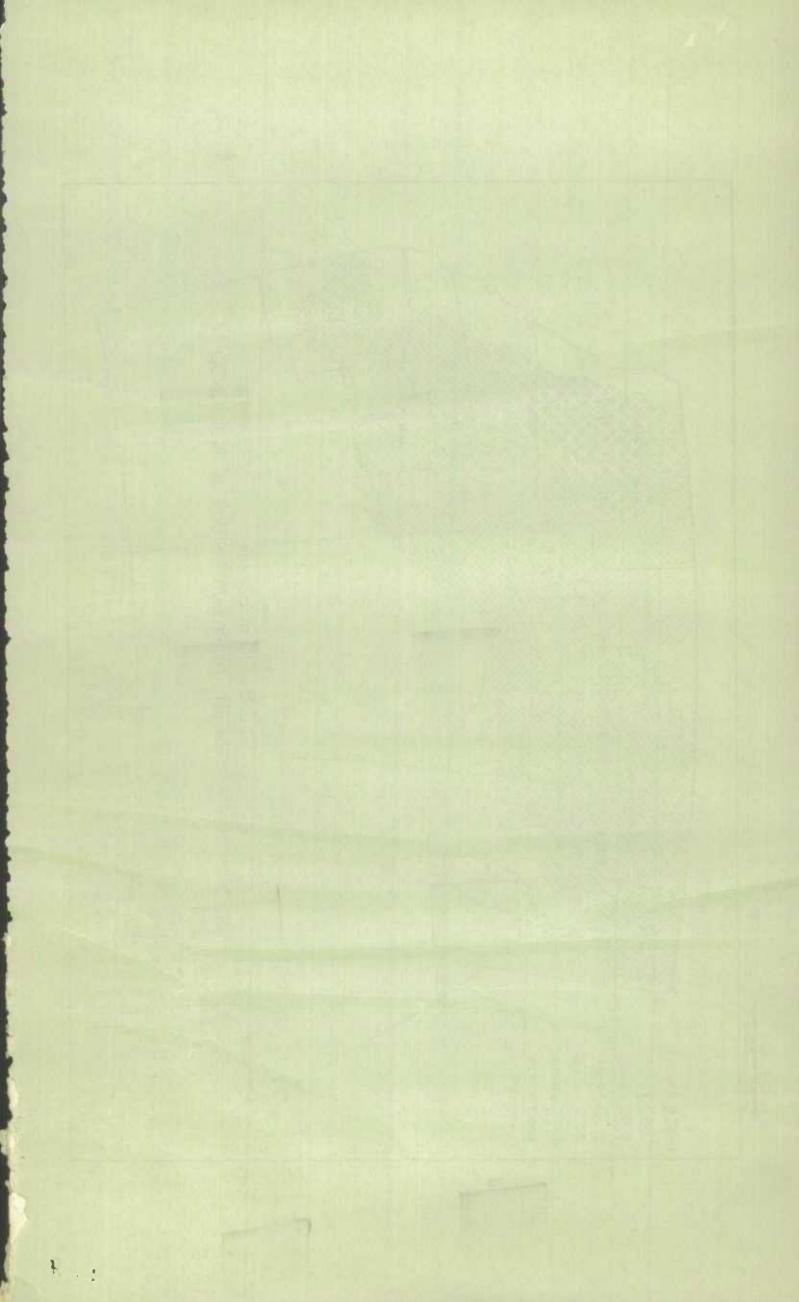




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II. Condition of Field Crops on July 31, 1932, as compared with May 31 and June 30, 1932 and with July 31, 1931.

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