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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
OMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

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T. W. Grindley, Ph.D.

Ottawa, June 9, 1936, 4 p.m. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues to-day a report on the numerical condition of field crops in Canada at the end of May as compiled from the returns of the Bureau's corps of crop correspondents.

SUMMARY

The condition figures for all the grain crops in Canada at May 31, 1936, were below average and all except fall wheat, peas, and mixed grains were below the figures reported for the same date a year ago. The forage crops, on the other hand, show distinctly better prospects than at May 31, 1935, while pasture was 1 point above average and well above the levels of previous years at this date. The below-average condition figures for the grain crops are the result of late seeding that was general throughout the Dominion, cool May weather in the Maritimes and Eastern Canada and a shortage of soil moisture in certain districts of the Prairie Provinces. The high condition of pastures and meadows is attributed to the lack of winter injury and the earliness of spring growth.

In the Maritime Provinces the spring was late and the soil remained too wet for seeding until the latter part of May. These conditions are particularly evident in New Brunswick; in the other Maritime Provinces, the weather improved during the last two weeks in May and growth quickened. Pastures and meadows are unusually promising everywhere. In Quebec, the late season retarded seeding and growth and the condition figures for grain crops are the lowest in many years—even worse than in 1935. Alfalfa suffered frost injury but meadows and pastures are generally promising. The improvement in forage prospects is also striking in Ontario, but the spring—sown crops were seeded late and growth is backward. Fall rye and fall wheat came through in fine condition and are only 5 per cent below average.

A marked uniformity in crop conditions prevails over the Prairie Provinces, but condition figures are generally below both the average and the 1935 levels. Late seeding is the principal drawback in the north, while moisture shortage was becoming evident in the south at the month-end. Fall rye suffered considerable winter injury, and pastures and hay crops are slightly less promising than at May 31, 1935. In Manitoba, the Red River Valley and most northern districts had better crop prospects than the southern areas where moisture shortage was apparent. Grasshoppers and soil-drifting caused some trouble in these latter areas. The fear of drought damage had not yet left Saskatcheran at the end of May, with south-eastern and western districts reporting the need of rain. Grasshoppers, cutworms and soil drifting had caused some damage and uneven germination of late-sown crops was causing concern. Pasture and hay crops were failing for want of rain. In Alberta, crop conditions were very similar to those of a year ago, but lateness of seeding in the north and west and shortage of soil moisture in the south and east were commonly reported as limiting factors.

Spring-sown crops in British Columbia show generally improved prospects compared with 1935 conditions at this date, while pastures and meadows are much more advanced.

Numerical Condition of Field Crops

Expressed in percentages of the long-time average yields per acre, the condition of the principal field crops on May 31, 1936, for all Canada was as follows, with the condition figures for the same date last year within brackets: Fall wheat 95(88); spring wheat 95 (97); all wheat 95 (97); oats 93 (94); barley 93 (95); fall rye 84 (99); spring rye 93 (97); all rye 86 (99); peas 91 (90); mixed grains 92 (92); hay and clover 98 (88); alfalfa 95 (88); pasture 101 (85).

In the Prairie Provinces, the condition of the principal cereal crops on May 31 was as follows, with last year's figures within brackets: Manitoba - wheat 96(100); oats 95 (98); barley 95 (97); rye 88 (99). Saskatchewan - wheat 95 (97); oats 93 (95); barley 93 (95); rye 80 (99). Alberta - wheat 96 (96); oats 95 (94); barley 94 (94); rye 91 (102).

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Weather Conditions Since June 1.

In the interpretation of condition reports it is important to note the weather conditions that have prevailed since the correspondents filed their schedules, i. e. since the first of June. Warmer weather has stimulated growth throughout the Maritimes and Eastern Canada and in British Columbia. In the Prairie Provinces, the declining crop prospects apparent at the month-end over a large southern territory continued until the 7th of June, when copious rains were of real benefit.

Growth of spring-sown crops has quickened in the Maritime Provinces during the past week as a result of higher temperatures and light rainfall. In Quebec and Ontario, the weather has continued somewhat cool, but there has been sufficient rain to encourage a healthy growth. Spring-sown crops are still backward, particularly in Quebec, but will respond to higher temperatures that should soon be forthcoming.

Before the heavy rains of last Sunday, some permanent damage to grain crops was caused by persistent drought over a wide southern territory of the Prairie Provinces. Only the low prevalent temperatures prevented a more serious decline in prospects. As will be evident from the telegraphic crop report being issued on this date, the week-end rainfall was heaviest in those districts where it could be of greatest benefit. Drought persists, however, in northwestern Saskatcewan and northeastern Alberta. In the northern districts where late seeding was general, rainfall was quite limited but the subnormal temperatures discouraged the rapid growth that is needed to ensure maturity. Frost caused light damage over west-central Saskatchewan and east-central Alberta. Rains of 1 or 2 inches were common over southern Manitoba, southwestern Saskatchewan and southern Alberta during the last week-end; these would be of tremendous benefit.

In British Columbia, the weather since June 1 has been seasonable and field crops are responding normally.

Charts Showing Condition of Spring Wheat by Crop Districts.

The charts included on the last two pages of this report permit a comparison of spring wheat conditions by crop districts at the end of May in 1935 and 1936. Since the patterns used are identical for the two dates, direct comparisons can be made.

Prospects in general are not quite up to the level of a year ago, because of slight recessions in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Alberta has the same condition figure as in 1935. A decided uniformity in crop prospects prevails over the whole West this year, the range in condition figures being only 19 points, from 83 in Crop District 14 of Alberta to 102 in Crop District 5 of Manitoba. At May 31, 1935, the range in condition figures was 32 points - from 74 to 106 - and at May 31, 1934, the range was 61 points - from 41 to 102. Southern Manitoba and southern Alberta have lower prospects than in 1935 but improved conditions prevail in south-central Saskatchewan and in central and northern Alberta. A period of limited rainfall towards the end of May created some uncertainty in most southern and central areas and in north-western Saskatchewan. Lateness of seeding created doubt as to maturity in a large northern area. These factors undoubtedly affected the condition figures.

Manitoba.

With a narrow range in condition figures from 93 to 102 and a provincial average of 96, Manitoba wheat prospects were decidedly uniform over the province but slightly lower on the whole than at May 31, 1935. This unfavourable comparison with 1935 conditions is principally due to reduced moisture supplies in the south-east and south-west. The Red River Valley and the northern districts compare very favourably with conditions a year ago.

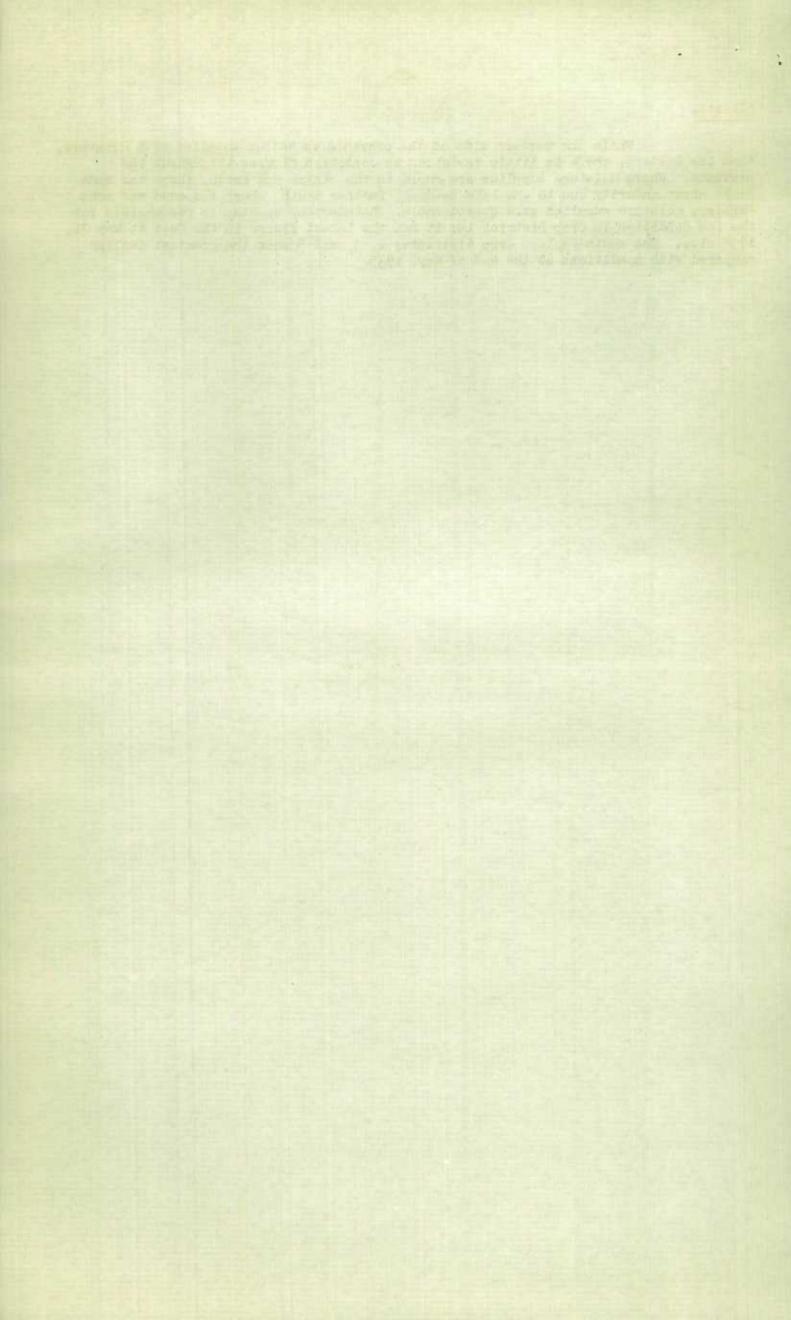
Saskatchewan.

Improvement is evident in the large Crop District No. 3 in the south-centre, while along the western side of the province persistent drought places condition figures lower than at this time a year ago. In the other central and north-eastern districts, prospects are nearly average and much the same as a year ago. Crop District 9 in the north-west has been unusually dry and showed the lowest condition figure in the province (85). The south-western corner, Crop District 4, is similarly afflicted and has a condition figure of 87.

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Alberta.

While the western side of the province is better supplied with moisture, than the eastern, there is little variation in condition figures throughout the province. Where moisture supplies are ample in the centre and north, there was some doubt about maturity due to the late seeding; further south, where the seed was sown earlier, moisture supplies were questionable. Lateness of seeding is responsible for the low condition in Crop District 14; it had the lowest figure in the West at May 31, 1935 also. The south-eastern crop districts, 1, 3, and 5, show the greatest decline compared with conditions at the end of May, 1935.



Condition of Field Crops, May 31, 1932 - 36.

(Note: 100= the long time average yield per acre)

Tible Ones	1070	7077	70=1	10=5	20-6	71014					
Fibid Crops		1933				Field Crops	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
Canada	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	Marithan	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
Fall wheat	100	95	45	88	95	Manitoba	0.00	00	no.	200	0.6
Spring wheat	96	99	79	97	95	Spring wheat	98 94	99	82	100	96
All wheat	96	99	78	97	95	Barley	93	96	83	98	95
Oats	95	95	85	94	93	Fall rye	95	96	83	97 99	95 87
Barley	93	95	83	95	93	Spring rye	91	96	84	98	93
Fall rye	86	93	59	99	84	All rye	94	96	83	99	88
Spring rye	95	97	75	97	93	Peas	95	100	97	100	98
All rye Peas	88 96	94	63	99	86	Mixed grains	88	97	82	98	96
Mixed grains	95	97	91	90	91 92	Hay and clover	89	97	80	94	99
Hay and clover	91	93	83	88	98	Pasture	95 91	98	37 78	97	97
Alfalfa	97	98	66	88	95	20000010	71	30	10	90	98
Pasture	91	93	81	85	101	Saskatchewan					
the state as a						Spring wheat	92	99	73	97	95
P. E. Island	300	00	00	011	06	Oats	90	96	73	95	93
Spring wheat	100	96 97	99	94	96	Barley	90	94	74	95	93
Barley	100	99	98	93	96 96	Fall rye	81	91	48	99	76
Mixed grains	100	98	98	98	96	Spring rye All rye	91	96	68	97	92
Hay and clover	100	94	95	92	103	Peas	95	94	53	99	80 92
Pasture	98	91	96	87	101	Mixed grains	92	98	70	90	92
						Hay and clover	88	96	73	92	94
Nova Scotia	0.0	0.00				Alfalfa	93	95	72	100	.93
Spring wheat	99	98	98	95	99	Pasture	89	98	66	94	93
Barley	98	97	97 96	95 95	100	Alberta					
Mixed grains	98	96	97	97	99	Spring wheat	102	98	88	06	06
Hay and clover	97	95	96	89	104	Oats	101	95	89	96 94	96 95
Pasture	93	91	95	82	102	Barley	99	94	91	94	94
37 - 73 - 1 3						Fall rye	98	97	72	103	90
New Brunswick	nd	20	00	0.00		Spring rye	101	99	78	98	94
Spring wheat	98	96 97	99	95	93	All rye	99	98	74	102	91
Barley	97	98	97	94	95 96	Peas	100	96	96	99	1.00
Mixed grains	98	98	99	92	96	Mixed grains Hay and clover	100	94	87	93	92
Hay and clover	94	93	99	88	104	Alfalfa	103	100	84 87	98 96	97 94
Pasture	91	89	94	83	103	Pasture	106	101	81	97	97
							-00	202	01	11	21
Quebec						British Columbia					
Spring wheat	95	91	97	86	85	Spring wheat	99	95	101	95	96
Barley	96	92	98	86	85	Oats	98	95	101	94	98
Spring rye	91	91	97	87 90	94	Barley	99	94	99	94	96
Peas	94	89	96	86	90	Spring rye Peas	99	97	100	97	98
Mixed grains	96	93	98	85	91	Mixed grains	97	97	101	95 95	100
Hay and clover	87	88	96	90	100	Hay and clover	98	92	104	91	98
Alfalfa	86	88	94	86	95	Alfalfa	100	95	105	94	100
Pasture	85	87	93	86	109	Pasture	99	93	104	89	98
Ontario											
Fall wheat	100	95	45	88	95						
Spring wheat	95	96	87	93	92						
All wheat	99	95	54	89	95						
Oats	95	96	89	93	92						
Earley	95	96	88	92	89						
Fall rye Peas	96	94	66	90	95						
Mixed grains	97 95	97 97	89 88	91	91						
Hay and clover	93	97	63	82	92						
Alfalfa	97	99	59	86	95						
Pasture	95	97	66	80	95						

