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Minister of Trade and Commerce

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

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Ottawa, June 8, 1937, 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 field crops at May 31, 1937, were below average, and with the exception of fall wheat, peas and mixed grains, were below the condition figures reported for the same date last year. Fall grains in Eastern Canada suffered from the open winter, and spring grains from delayed seeding. In the Prairie Provinces the light showers received this spring in the old drought area of southern and southwestern Saskatchewan and southeastern Alberta have been insufficient to date, and the poor condition of this area has more than offset the better than average conditions in central and northern Alberta, northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Forage crops are well below average in Saskatchewan and Alberta in the drought regions, whereas in Ontario and Quebec winter-killing and a late spring combined to lower the condition of hay and pasture fields below the level of a year ago. Meadows fared better in the Maritime Provinces.

While some seeding was done in the Maritime Provinces in the first week of May, continuous rains during the latter part of the month retarded work on the land. Coarse grains, where up, show somewhat lower condition than at May 31, 1936. Meadows improved greatly with the rains and pastures are in excellent condition, except in parts of New Brunswick where there was some winter-killing. In Quebec the late thaw and heavy rain delayed field-work ten days longer than usual although grains are ahead of the particularly late season last year. Pastures and meadows, while backward, have shown considerable improvement in the past fortnight. The crop outlook in Ontario is considered quite favourable at the present time. Seeding of spring grains was greatly retarded by frequent rains, but soil moisture supplies are the best in years, and with present warm weather growth will be rapid. Fall wheat is making splendid growth and promises excellent yields. Alfalfa, hay and clovers and pastures are responding to the more favourable weather and are improving.

Crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces are much more varied this season, than at the end of May in 1936. In Manitoba the precipitation this spring has been heavy and general with even the south-west corner of the province showing better than average condition. In Saskatchewan and Alberta, seeding got away to a much earlier start in the central and northern districts, and although spring rainfall has been moderately below normal, the condition in these districts at May 31, 1937, is better than a year ago and is equal to or above the long-time average. In the old drought area of the south, very dry sub-soil conditions from the preceding autumn have been followed by spring precipitation considerably below normal. This situation not only discouraged seeding but invited soil-drifting damage to the areas which had been sown. The May 31 condition in these districts, where between a quarter and a third of the Prairie wheat acreage lies, was the lowest since 1934. While heavy June precipitation could still improve the condition of this area, the outlook at the end of May is definitely unpromising. Grasshopper hatchings were reported in the Calgary area before the end of May, but little damage occurred. Wire-worm damage was reported in central Alberta. While the area subject to grasshopper damage is extensive this year, control measures have been arranged in the affected districts.

Although the season was backward and wet in British Columbia spring grains are showing almost as good condition as a year ago. Meadows and pastures are likewise showing good growth.

Numerical Condition of Field Crops

For all Canada, the condition of the principal field crops at May 31, 1937, expressed in percentages of the long-time average yields per acre, was as follows, with condition figures for the same date last year within brackets: Fall wheat 98 (95); spring wheat 85 (95); all wheat 85 (95); oats 90 (93); barley 93 (93); fall rye 69 (84); spring rye 83 (93); all rye 73 (86); peas 93 (91); mixed grains 92 (92); hay and clover 90 (98); alfalfa 89 (95); pasture 92 (101).

In the Prairie Provinces, the condition of the principal grain crops at May 31 was as follows, with last year's figures in brackets: Manitoba - Wheat 101 (96); oats 97 (95); barley 96 (95); rye 96 (88). Saskatchewan - Wheat 78 (95); oats 84 (93); barley 89 (93); rye 59 (80). Alberta - Wheat 93 (96); oats 92 (95); barley 94 (94); rye 79 (91).

Weather Conditions Since June 1

In the interpretation of the condition report it is important to bear in mind that the figures are based on the returns of correspondents filed at the end of May. Weather conditions since June 1 have affected the crop prospects which were evident at the end of the month. Further showers have fallen in the Maritimes and Eastern Canada but in general field work has advanced rapidly and growth has been ample.

In the Prairie Provinces, Manitoba received an abnormally heavy rainfall over the past week-end accompanied by cool temperatures. Throughout the whole of Saskatchewan for the past week there was only a trace of rain except in the east-central area bordering Manitoba. Alberta likewise received virtually no rainfall during the week. In the absence of rain, very serious wind damage has occurred both in central Alberta and in southern Saskatchewan and conditions in these areas are materially lower than on May 31. In central Alberta where conditions were very promising up to the end of the month the loss during the past week could be made up most readily by effective rains.

In British Columbia, warm, bright weather marked the early part of June.

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 1936 and 1937. Since the patterns used are identical for the two dates, direct comparisons can be made.

For the Prairie Provinces as a whole, crop prospects are somwehat lower than at May 31 a year ago, because of the poorer conditions in southern Saskatchewan and in south-eastern Alberta. Partially offsetting these recessions are the improved conditions throughout central and northern Alberta, northern Saskatchewan and the whole of Manitoba. Less uniformity in prospects in the various crop districts appears this year than at the same time a year ago, with the range in condition figures amounting to 54 points, from 50 in Crop District 4 of Saskatchewan to 104 in Crop District 16 of Alberta. At May 31, 1936, the range in condition figures was only 19 points - from 83 to 102 - and at May 31, 1935, the range was 32 points - from 74 to 106. Early seeding and ample surface moisture during April and May have contributed to the enhanced prospects in northern Alberta, northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The low sub-soil moisture reserves, scanty spring rainfall and high winds contributing to soil blowing account for the low condition figures in the drought triangle of southeastern Alberta and southern Saskatchewan.

Manitoba

Conditions are very uniform over the whole of the province and are somewhat better than at this time a year ago. The condition figures by crop districts show a narrow range from 97 to 103 with a provincial average of 101. This year the spring precipitation to May 31 has been well above average, whereas a year ago the reverse was the case, except in the Dauphin - Swan River area, and the provincial average condition figure stood at 96.

Saskatchewan

The northern and east-central districts of the province show conditions which are just about normal, with Crop District 9 registering considerable improvement over the dry condition which prevailed a year ago. Central Saskatchewan is moderately below average with a condition figure of 94, while west-central Saskatchewan shows only 81. The poorest condition figures prevail in the southern and south-western districts where condition figures at May 31 have not been as low since 1934. For the Regina-Weyburn District, the condition figure is only slightly better at 68. In the extreme south-east conditions are better than in the rest of Southern Saskatchewan.

Alberta

Compared with the end of May last year, the whole of northern Alberta is showing better condition. While the rainfall is somewhat lighter than a year ago, seeding has been earlier this year and the wheat has been showing a much better stand.

Conditions are also well maintained in central and west-central Alberta. In the central-eastern and south-eastern districts of the province, however, rainfall has been much below normal, and the condition figures in Districts 1, 3 and 5 are considerably below the level for these districts on May 31, 1936.

Condition of Field Crops, May 31, 1933 - 37.

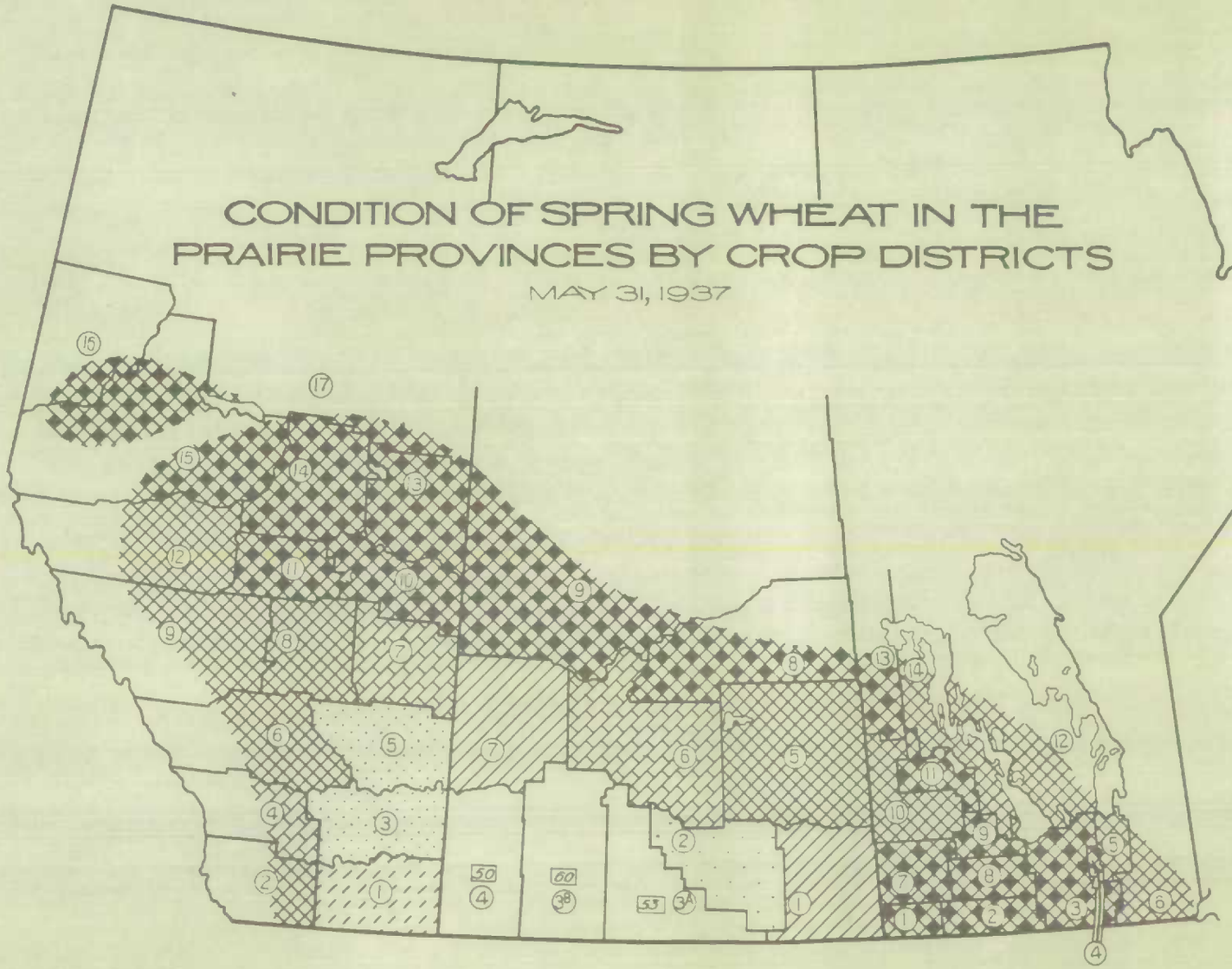
(Note: 100= the long time average yield per acre)

Field Crops	1933 p.c.	1934 p.c.	1935 p.c.	1936 p.c.	1937 p.c.
Canada					
Fall wheat	95	45	88	95	98
Spring wheat	99	79	97	95	85
All wheat	99	78	97	95	85
Oats	95	85	94	93	90
Barley	95	83	95	93	93
Fall rye	93	59	99	84	69
Spring rye	97	75	97	93	83
All rye	94	63	99	86	73
Peas	95	91	90	91	93
Mixed grains	97	89	92	92	92
Hay and clover	93	83	88	98	90
Alfalfa	98	66	88	95	89
Pasture	93	81	85	101	92
P. E. Island					
Spring wheat	96	99	94	96	99
Oats	97	98	93	96	94
Barley	99	98	97	96	99
Mixed grains	98	98	98	96	94
Hay and clover	94	95	92	103	104
Pasture	91	96	87	101	105
Nova Scotia					
Spring wheat	98	98	95	99	95
Oats	97	97	95	100	94
Barley	98	96	95	98	91
Mixed grains	96	97	97	99	95
Hay and clover	95	96	89	104	100
Pasture	91	95	82	102	99
New Brunswick					
Spring wheat	96	99	95	93	96
Oats	97	97	94	95	87
Barley	98	99	94	96	89
Mixed grains	98	99	92	96	100
Hay and clover	93	99	88	104	94
Pasture	89	94	83	103	95
Quebec					
Spring wheat	91	97	86	85	91
Oats	92	98	86	85	92
Barley	92	98	87	87	89
Spring rye	91	97	90	94	95
Peas	89	96	86	90	95
Mixed grains	93	98	85	91	94
Hay and clover	88	96	90	100	91
Alfalfa	88	94	86	95	85
Pasture	87	93	86	109	92
Ontario					
Fall wheat	95	45	88	95	98
Spring wheat	96	87	93	92	92
All wheat	95	54	89	95	97
Oats	96	89	93	92	91
Barley	96	88	92	89	91
Fall rye	94	66	90	95	96
Peas	97	89	91	91	92
Mixed grains	97	88	93	9 2	92
Hay and clover	97	63	82	92	87
Alfalfa	99	59	86	95	89
Pasture	97	66	80	95	92

Field Crops	1933 p.c.	1934 p.c.	1935 p.c.	1936 p.c.	1937 p.c.
Manitoba					
Spring wheat	99	82	100	96	101
Oats	97	83	98	95	97
Barley	96	83	97	95	96
Fall rye	96	83	99	87	96
Spring rye	96	84	98	93	96
All rye	96	83	99	88	96
Peas	100	97	100	98	105
Mixed grains	97	82	98	96	96
Hay and clover	97	80	94	99	92
Alfalfa	98	87	97	97	93
Pasture	96	78	96	98	97
Saskatchewan					
Spring wheat	99	73	97	95	78
Oats	96	73	95	93	84
Barley	94	74	95	93	89
Fall rye	91	48	99	76	51
Spring rye	96	68	97	92	79
All rye	92	53	99	80	59
Peas	94	70	95	92	85
Mixed grains	98	70	90	92	81
Hay and clover	96	73	92	94	78
Alfalfa	95	72	100	93	88
Pasture	98	66	94	93	68
Alberta					
Spring wheat	98	88	96	96	93
Oats	95	89	94	95	92
Barley	94	91	94	94	94
Fall rye	97	72	103	90	74
Spring rye	99	78	98	94	83
All rye	98	74	102	91	79
Peas	96	96	99	100	90
Mixed grains	94	87	93	92	88
Hay and clover	100	84	98	97	84
Alfalfa	98	87	96	94	85
Pasture	101	81	97	97	80
British Columbia					
Spring wheat	95	101	95	96	96
Oats	95	101	94	98	94
Barley	94	99	94	96	95
Spring rye	97	100	97	98	96
Peas	96	100	95	100	95
Mixed grains	97	101	95	99	94
Hay and clover	92	104	91	98	95
Alfalfa	95	105	94	100	96
Pasture	93	104	89	98	98

CONDITION OF SPRING WHEAT IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES BY CROP DISTRICTS

MAY 31, 1937



LEGEND

P.C. OF AVERAGE

UNDER 65	50
65-69	
70-74	
75-79	
80-84	
85-89	
90-94	
95-99	
100-104	

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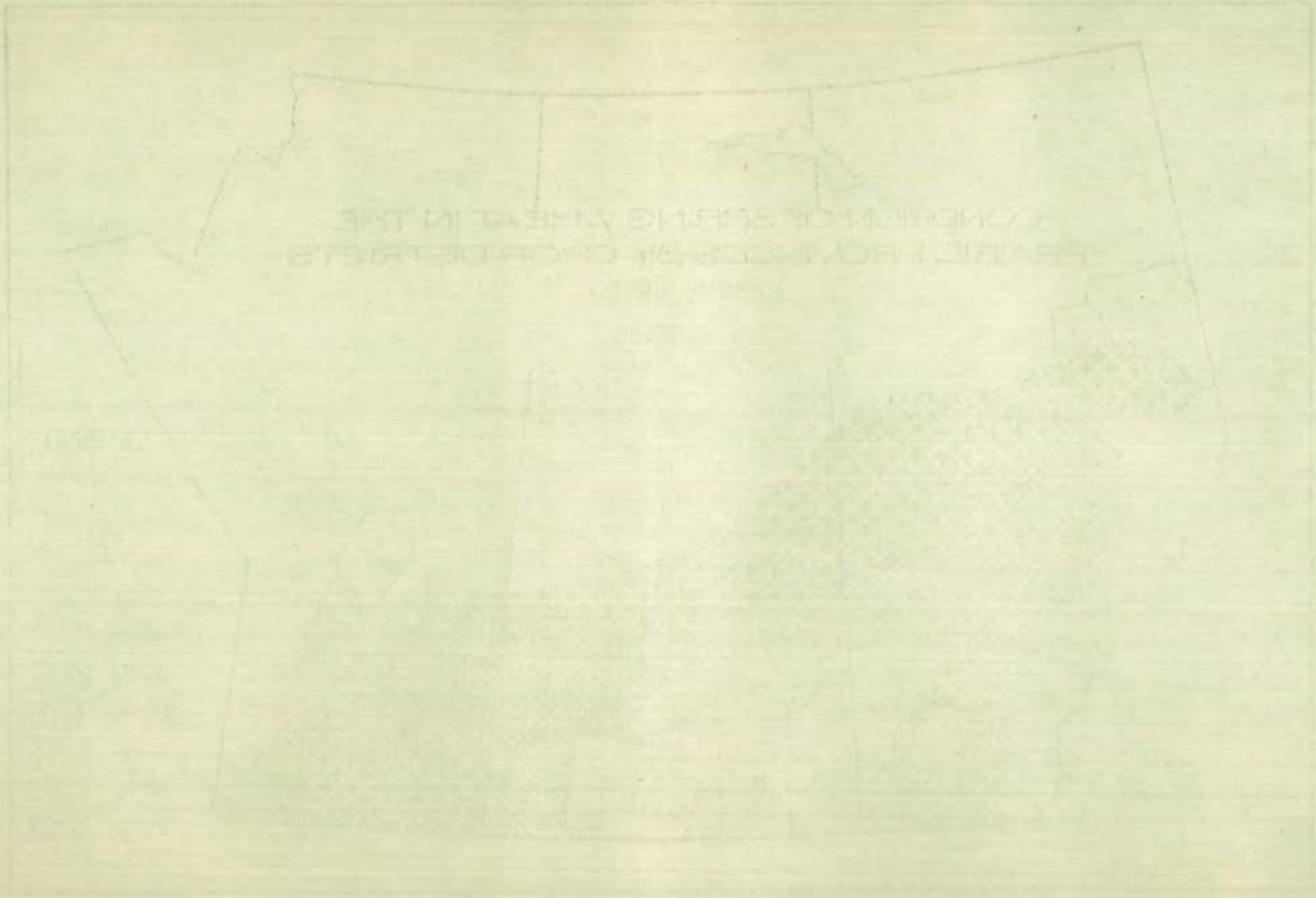

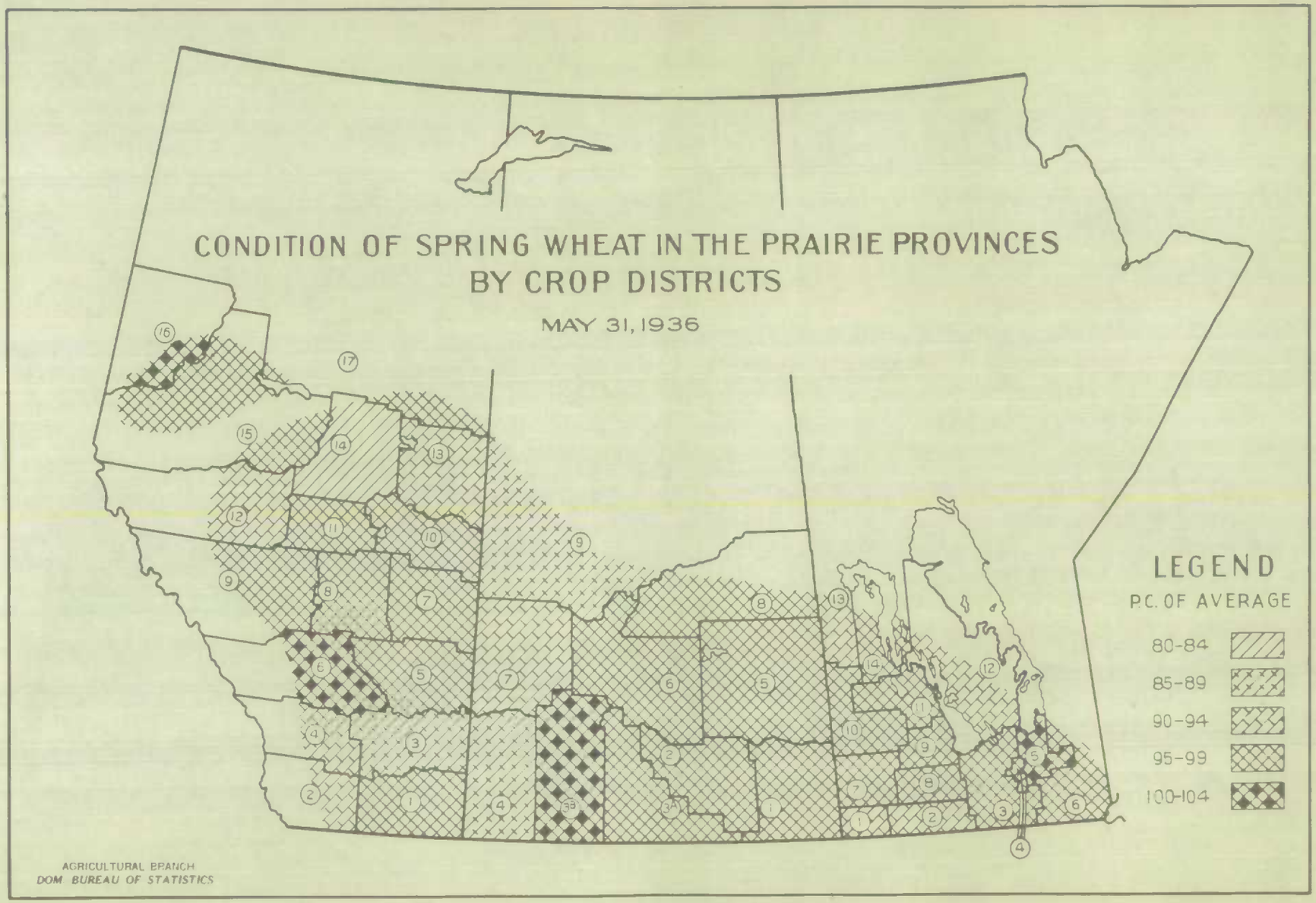
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MAY 31, 1936
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P.C. OF AVERAGE
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