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

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Ottawa, June 7, 1938, 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 in Canada at May 31, 1938, were all very close to normal, and with the exception of fall wheat, were well above the condition figures reported at the same date last year. Fall wheat prospects in Ontario are only slightly below those of a year ago, while fall rye conditions in the Prairie Provinces are notably better than in 1937. Spring wheat and coarse grains are showing a considerable improvement over their condition at this date a year ago, as a result of more normal moisture conditions in the Prairie Provinces, including the grass-plains area which last year was so markedly affected by drought. Pastures and forage crops are greatly improved in the west, and are considerably better in Ontario and Quebec this year in the absence of an open winter which resulted in winter-killing a year ago. In the Maritime Provinces, another late season has been experienced, with spring sowings delayed. Forage crops are below last year's condition in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

All three Maritime Provinces experienced cold and wet weather during the greater part of May. Seeding of wheat and coarse grains was not generally undertaken until the last week of the month. Hay and clover fields are for the most part showing good stands, and there was very little winter-killing of pastures, except in Prince Edward Island. Rains in Quebec during the first half of May retarded spring sowing considerably, but much has been done since May 15 under favourable conditions with higher temperatures. Only a few fields still remain to be sown. Despite the slow start, growth is progressing well on meadows and pastures, with conditions much improved over those of a year ago. In some parts drought is feared, but good warm rains would help to maintain conditions which are generally good throughout the province. In Ontario, the bulk of the spring grain was planted from ten days to two weeks earlier than last year, and is now in about average condition. Germination has been good and most fields show an even stand. Fall wheat has made excellent growth except in Western Ontario where quite a few fields are reported a little thin and patchy. Present prospects, however, indicate an almost average yield. Old alfalfa fields were badly winter-killed. Other hay and clover, and new seedings of alfalfa are generally making satisfactory growth. Pastures are good for this time of year.

A normal spring wheat crop is in prospect in the Prairie Provinces if conditions showing at the end of May are maintained. Average to above-average seasonal precipitation across the southern portions of all three provinces has materially improved the outlook for this year's crop, in comparison with the poor prospects at this date a year ago. The northern districts in the three provinces have had less than normal rainfall this spring, but conditions are still only moderately below average. Other field crops are showing almost normal prospects, the best since 1935. The crop outlook in Manitoba is as good as that of a year ago. Improvement is most noted this year in southern Saskatchewan and south-eastern Alberta, the drought area having received normal rainfall to date. Sub-soil moisture reserves, however, are none too ample. With the northern districts already lacking rain, ample June precipitation will be needed over the whole of the Prairie Provinces in order to maintain present prospects. Serious infestations of wireworms have been reported in parts of Saskatchewan and Alberta, while grasshopper hatchings have already occurred in south-eastern and north-western Saskatchewan.

The season is well advanced in British Columbia but rainfall during May has been light. Crop conditions are generally only a trifle lower than those of a year ago.

Numerical Condition of Field Crops

For all Canada, the condition of the principal field crops at May 31, 1938, expressed in percentages of the long-time average yields per acre, was as follows, with condition figures at the same date last year within brackets: Fall wheat 96 (98); spring wheat 99 (85); all wheat 98 (85); oats 97 (90); barley 96 (93); fall rye 98 (69); spring rye 99 (83); all rye 98 (73); peas 97 (93); mixed grains 99 (92); hay and clover 100 (90); alfalfa 95 (89); pasture 100 (92).

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 100 (101); oats 97 (97); barley 97 (96); rye 97 (96). Saskatchewan - Wheat 99 (78); oats 96 (84); barley 96 (89); rye 98 (59). Alberta - Wheat 99 (93); oats 96 (92); barley 96 (94); rye 100 (79).

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 have been mainly dry since June 1. While field work has been facilitated in eastern Canada, the scanty showers occurring during the past week in the Prairie Provinces have been disappointing, inasmuch as abundant June rainfall is needed to ensure a normal harvest. The Peace River district and the northern parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan are still lacking much needed rains. Further rainfall is also needed in British Columbia.

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 1937 and 1938. Since the patterns used are identical for the two dates, direct comparisons can be made.

Wheat prospects in the Prairie Provinces are showing almost uniformly good as of May 31 this year, in contrast with the poor prospects in southern and central Saskatchewan and south-eastern Alberta indicated at the same date a year ago. The provincial condition figures at May 31 this year compared very favourably with those of a year ago, Manitoba showing 100 against 101, Saskatchewan 99 against 78, and Alberta 99 this year against 93 on May 31, 1937. Greater uniformity prevails in this year's crop district condition figures. The largest range in condition figures amounted to 15 points from 91 in Districts 14 and 16 to 106 in District 2 of Alberta, whereas at May 31 last year the range was 54 points from 50 in District 4 of Saskatchewan to 104 in District 16 of Alberta. The heavier seasonal rains in the southern districts of all three Provinces have improved conditions this year, particularly in the usual drought triangle, whereas current rains are most needed in the northern districts.

Manitoba

Conditions are uniformly good in the main wheat producing areas of Manitoba, with slightly poorer prospects showing in the northern districts. While spring rains have been lighter this year, compared with the heavy precipitation a year ago, rainfall during April and May this year was almost normal. The provincial condition figure at May 31, 1938 stood at 100 compared with 101 on the same date a year ago.

Saskatchewan

Marked improvement over conditions at this date a year ago is indicated by the current condition figure of 99 for the province as a whole, compared with the figure of only 78 for May 31, 1937. The situation this year is in further contrast with that of a year ago, in that the southern crop districts are showing normal conditions, whereas the central and northern districts are slightly below normal. By May 31, last year, the southern districts were already seriously below normal, while the park-belt districts showed the best promise.

Alberta

Conditions are similarly reversed in Alberta this year with the southern districts showing the best current prospects. Normal prospects are also indicated in the west-central part of the Province. Districts 3, 5 and 7 in the east-central area are slightly below average. The districts north and north-west of Edmonton including the Peace River district show conditions below normal at this date because of the light spring rainfall, whereas last year at May 31, these districts were showing the best in the province.

Condition of Field Crops, May 31, 1934 - 38.

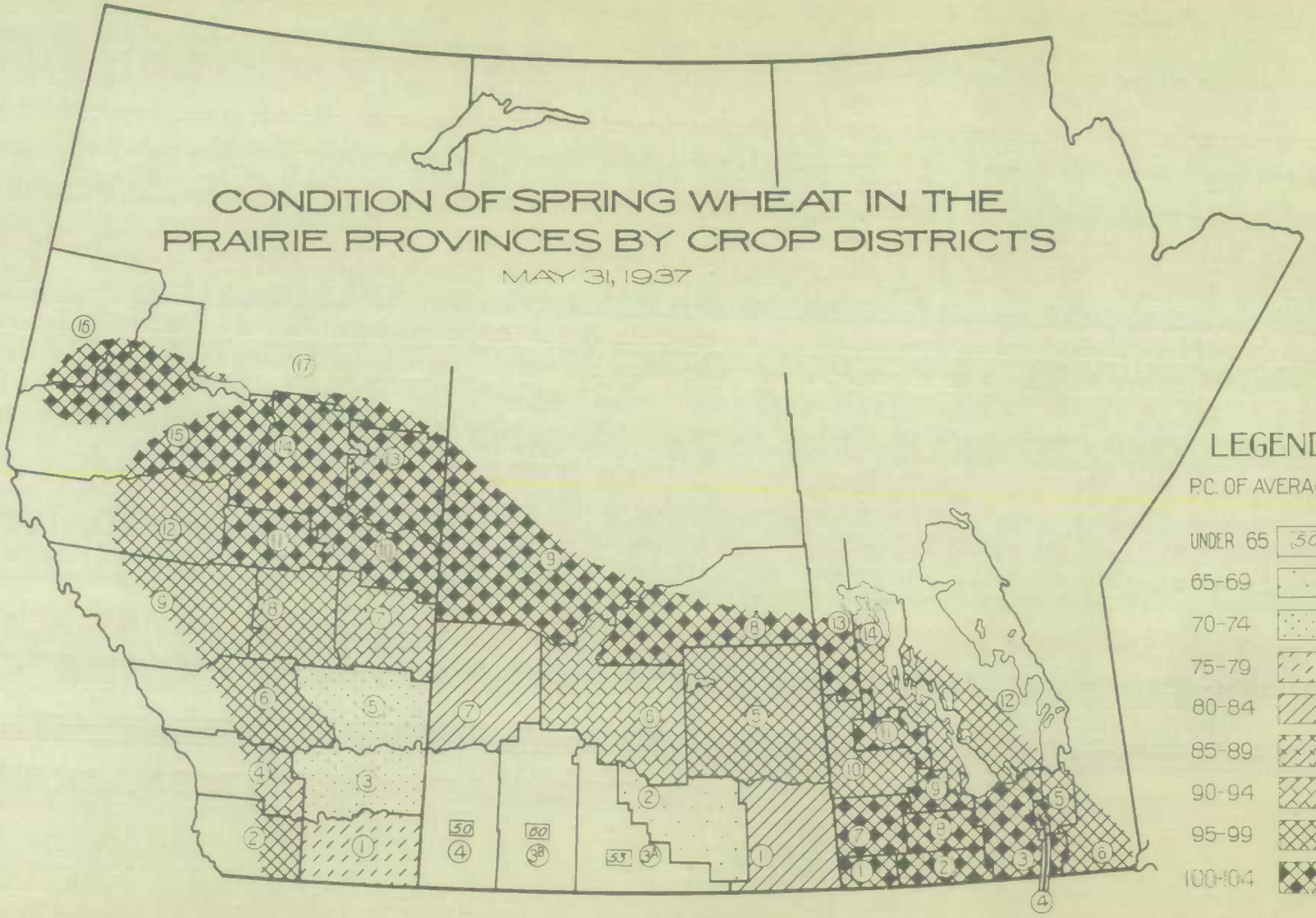
(Note: 100 = the long-time average yield per acre)

Field Crops	1934 p.c.	1935 p.c.	1936 p.c.	1937 p.c.	1938 p.c.
Canada					
Fall wheat	45	88	95	98	96
Spring wheat	79	97	95	85	99
All wheat	78	97	95	85	99
Oats	85	94	93	90	97
Barley	83	95	93	93	96
Fall rye	59	99	84	69	98
Spring rye	75	97	93	83	99
All rye	63	99	86	73	98
Peas	91	90	91	93	97
Mixed grains	89	92	92	92	99
Hay and clover	83	88	98	90	100
Alfalfa	66	88	95	89	95
Pasture	81	85	101	92	100
P. E. Island					
Spring wheat	99	94	96	99	91
Oats	98	93	96	94	96
Barley	98	97	96	99	88
Mixed grains	98	98	96	94	94
Hay and clover	95	92	103	104	93
Pasture	96	87	101	105	93
Nova Scotia					
Spring wheat	98	95	99	95	98
Oats	97	95	100	94	97
Barley	96	95	98	91	97
Mixed grains	97	97	99	95	97
Hay and clover	96	89	104	100	97
Pasture	95	82	102	99	94
New Brunswick					
Spring wheat	99	95	93	96	92
Oats	97	94	95	87	90
Barley	99	94	96	89	89
Mixed grains	99	92	96	100	96
Hay and clover	99	88	104	94	98
Pasture	94	83	103	95	96
Quebec					
Spring wheat	97	86	85	91	97
Oats	98	86	85	92	99
Barley	98	87	87	89	98
Spring rye	97	90	94	95	98
Peas	96	86	90	95	98
Mixed grains	98	85	91	94	99
Hay and clover	96	90	100	91	105
Alfalfa	94	86	95	85	102
Pasture	93	86	109	92	104
Ontario					
Fall wheat	45	88	95	98	96
Spring wheat	87	93	92	92	97
All wheat	54	89	95	97	96
Oats	89	93	92	91	98
Barley	88	92	89	91	97
Fall rye	66	90	95	96	96
Peas	89	91	91	92	97
Mixed grains	88	93	92	92	99
Hay and clover	63	82	92	87	97
Alfalfa	59	86	95	89	94
Pasture	66	80	95	92	99

Field Crops	1934 p.c.	1935 p.c.	1936 p.c.	1937 p.c.	1938 p.c.
Manitoba					
Spring wheat	82	100	96	101	100
Oats	83	98	95	97	97
Barley	83	97	95	96	97
Fall rye	83	99	87	96	97
Spring rye	84	98	93	96	96
All rye	83	99	88	96	97
Peas	97	100	98	105	97
Mixed grains	82	98	96	96	96
Hay and clover	80	94	99	92	96
Alfalfa	87	97	97	93	96
Pasture	78	96	98	97	96
Saskatchewan					
Spring wheat	73	97	95	78	99
Oats	73	95	93	84	96
Barley	74	95	93	89	96
Fall rye	48	99	76	51	97
Spring rye	68	97	92	79	99
All rye	53	99	80	59	98
Peas	70	95	92	85	101
Mixed grains	70	90	92	81	92
Hay and clover	73	92	94	78	91
Alfalfa	72	100	93	88	96
Pasture	66	94	93	68	95
Alberta					
Spring wheat	88	96	96	93	99
Oats	89	94	95	92	96
Barley	91	94	94	94	96
Fall rye	72	103	90	74	101
Spring rye	78	98	94	83	99
All rye	74	102	91	79	100
Peas	96	99	100	90	99
Mixed grains	87	93	92	88	96
Hay and clover	84	98	97	84	97
Alfalfa	87	96	94	85	98
Pasture	81	97	97	80	98
British Columbia					
Spring wheat	101	95	96	96	94
Oats	101	94	98	94	94
Barley	99	94	96	95	90
Spring rye	100	97	98	96	93
Peas	100	95	100	95	98
Mixed grains	101	95	99	94	95
Hay and clover	104	91	98	95	94
Alfalfa	105	94	100	96	97
Pasture	104	89	98	98	96

CONDITION OF SPRING WHEAT IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES BY CROP DISTRICTS

MAY 31, 1937



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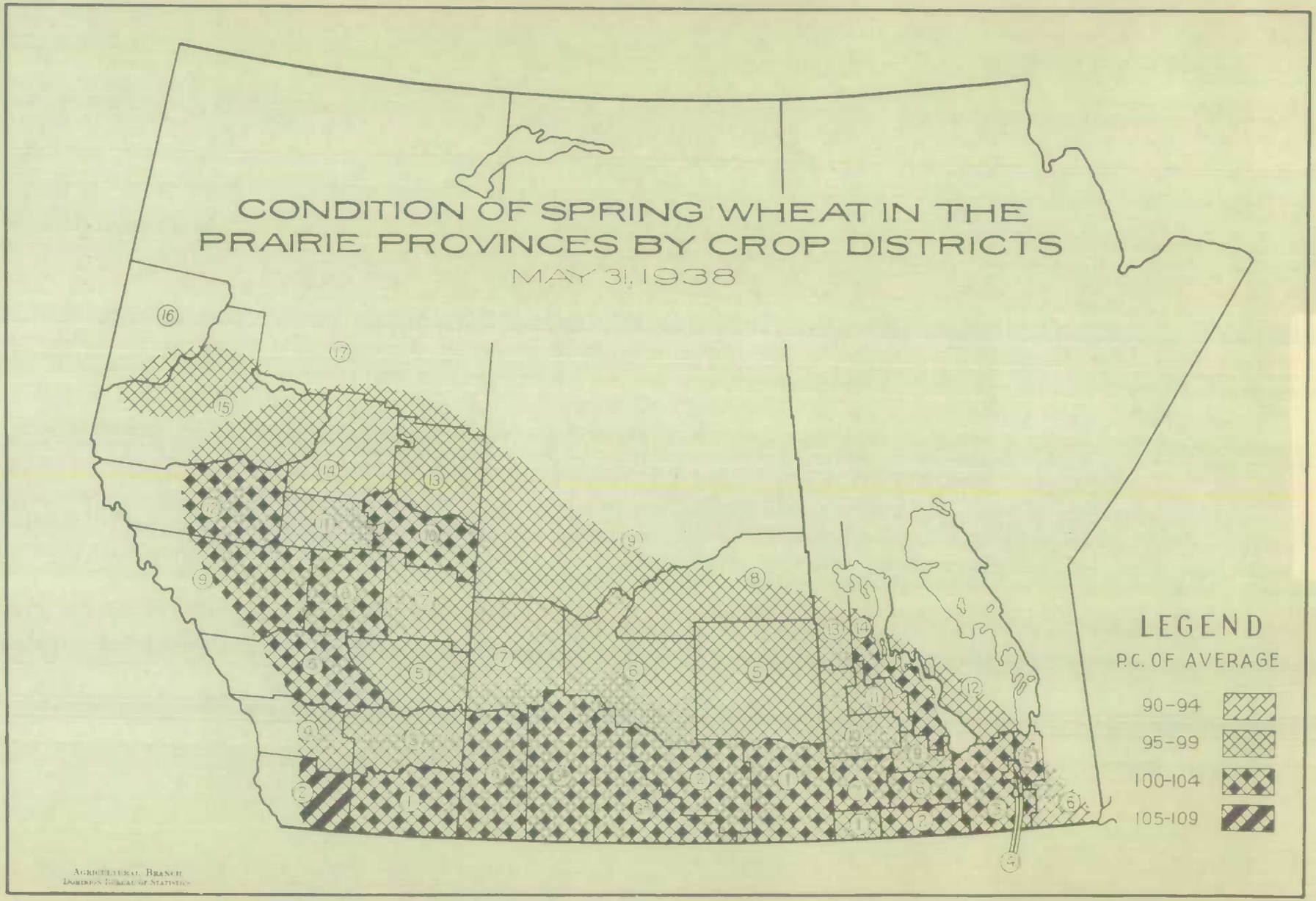
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