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Ottawa, June 7, 1940, 3 p.m.- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today 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

Spring wheat prospects at May 31 were slightly more promising than at the same date a year ago. On the other hand, the condition of oats and barley was hardly up to last year's level at the end of May. Pastures and fodder crops including hay, clover and alfalfa, however, were in appreciably better condition at May 31, 1940, than on the same date last year. Fall wheat prospects in Ontario were unchanged from last year and were about average. The small spring wheat areas of eastern Canada showed poorer prospects than a year ago, but in the main producing areas of the Prairie Provinces the better spring rainfall this year has raised the condition of the wheat crop above last year's prospects at the end of May. It will be recalled that last year's heavy rains did not occur until June. Coarse grains in Saskatchewan and Alberta showed poorer condition at May 31, primarily because of delayed seeding this year. Forage crops and pastures were in notably better condition in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and Ontario this year, although in somewhat backward condition in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Alberta and British Columbia both showed appreciably better pasture and forage crop conditions, however, than they did a year ago.

Hay and clover meadows and pastures in the Maritime Provinces came through the winter with an unusually small amount of damage from winter-kill. The unsettled weather during May was conducive to good growth of these crops. While spring wheat and coarse grains in Prince Edward Island made a better start this year than they did in 1939, these crops on the whole were slightly below last year's condition in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, where the season is late. Seeding of grains in Quebec was also late this year, although germination and growth have been very good. Pastures and forage crops experienced practically no winter-killand are in favourable condition. In Ontario, heavy rainfalls of the past few weeks delayed seeding of spring cereals, but promoted rapid growth of winter crops, including fall wheat, alfalfa and hay and clover. Heavy yields of the hay crops are expected this season.

A wheat crop in the Prairie Provinces of close to average prospects was indicated at the end of May. While autumn rainfall was deficient in Saskatchewan and eastern Alberta, spring rains have replenished the subsoil moisture in Alberta and across southern Saskatchewan. The best wheat prospects at May 31 this year are indicated across the south of each of the three provinces. North-western Manitoba, north-eastern, central and northern Saskatchewan have been deficient in spring rainfall, and ample rains will be needed to maintain prospects in these areas. Central and northern Alberta with the exception of the Peace River districts are below last year's condition, primarily because of the late spring which delayed seeding. Spring rainfall in the central and northern districts has been adequate. Coarse grains are equal to last year's May 31 condition in Manitoba, but below last year's prospects in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The drop in the latter two provinces is due largely to the late seeding. Pastures and forage crops were only fair in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, although well up to average in Alberta at May 31 this year.

In British Columbia all field crops showed favourable promise at May 31, while hay and clover and alfalfa fields and pastures were in exceptionally good condition.

Weather Conditions Since June 1

Heavy showers were received across the Prairie Provinces on May 31 and June 1, which benefited northern Saskatchewan districts as well as southern Saskatchewan and central Alberta. The dry areas in north-western Manitoba and central-eastern Saskatchewan received very little benefit, however. Light showers in Manitoba and northern Saskatchewan occurred on June 5. Since June 1, scattered thunder showers across eastern Canada, together with warm weather in Ontario and Quebec have made for favourable growing conditions.

Numerical Condition of Field Crops

For all Canada, the condition of the principal field crops at May 31, 1940, expressed in percentages of the long-time average yields per acre, was as follows, with the condition figures at the same date last year within brackets: Fall wheat 98 (98); spring wheat 96 (94); all wheat 96 (94); oats 92 (93); barley 91 (93); fall rye 88 (85); spring rye 93 (95); all rye 89 (87); peas 91 (93); mixed grains 92 (93); hay and clover 99 (94); alfalfa 100 (95); pastures 98 (92).

In the Prairie Provinces, the condition of the principal grain crops at May 31 was as follows, with last year's condition at the same date within brackets: Manitoba - Wheat 98 (94); oats 92 (91); barley 91 (91); rye 91 (88). Saskatchewan - Wheat 94 (92); oats 89 (91); barley 88 (92); rye 85 (85). Alberta - Wheat 98 (96); oats 95 (97); barley 95 (97); rye 98 (89).

Charts Showing Conditions of Spring Wheat by Crop Districts in the Prairie Provinces

The charts included on the last two pages of this report permit a direct comparison of spring wheat conditions by crop districts at the end of May in 1939 and 1940.

All three of the Prairie Provinces show somewhat better prospects at May 31 this year than they did at the same date a year ago. It will be recalled that the heavy rains which made the 1939 crop did not occur until June, so that the May 31, 1939 condition figures could not reflect the subsequent upturn in 1939 crop prospects. Manitoba's provincial-average condition figure at the end of May this year stood at 98 per cent of the long-time average, which was 4 per cent higher than a year ago. Saskatchewan's provincial-average condition stood at 94 at May 31 this year as compared with 92 a year ago. Alberta's condition figure at May 31, 1940, was likewise two points higher than a year ago, standing at 98 as compared with 96 in 1939. Although the greater part of Saskatchewan and central and north-eastern Alberta suffered virtual drought last autumn, rainfall since April 1 of this year has been close to normal in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, while exceeding normal in Alberta. This rainfall has not been distributed evenly over the provinces, however, and local deficiencies, particularly in north-western Manitoba and in north-eastern and northern Saskatchewan, are emphasized in the variations in the crop district condition figures as illustrated in the charts and described below by provinces.

Manitoba

The south-western Crop Districts 1,2, 7 and 8 and the important Red River Valley District 3 all show better conditions this year than at the end of May a year ago. Crop District 4 in the vicinity of Winnipeg is below last year's condition and Districts 5 and 6 in the east are practically unchanged from a year ago. Crop Districts 10 to 14 embracing the inter-lake and north-western areas all show appreciably poorer prospects than in 1939, although they fall considerably short of offsetting this year's improvement in the other crop districts of Manitoba.

Saskatchewan

All Saskatchewan's southern crop districts and particularly the south-eastern districts show better prospects at May 31 this year than they did a year ago, with the exception of District 4A in the extreme south-west. Good spring moisture has been received across the south of the province, and while moisture conditions are good in District 4A, the 1940 grasshopper infestation is heaviest in that district. Seeding was late there as well. While conditions in Districts 7A, 7B and 9B are very little changed from last year, the remaining crop districts embracing the north-eastern, central and north-central areas of the province all showed poorer prospects at May 31 than they did a year ago because of the scantier rainfall to date this season.

Alberta

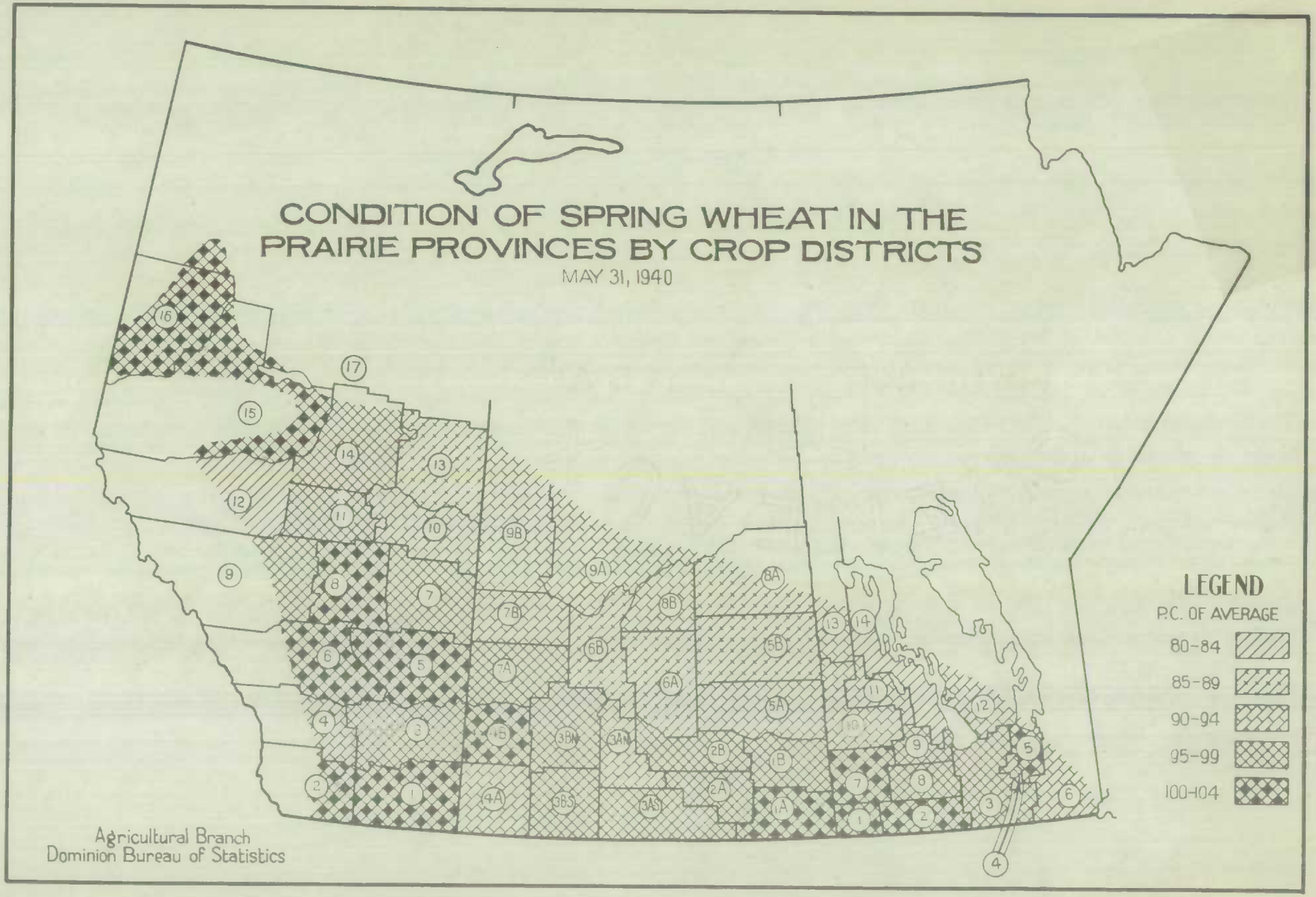
Southern Alberta districts including the Calgary area are in better condition this year than at the same date a year ago. On the other hand central and northern Alberta districts are in somewhat poorer condition than last year, although their apparent deterioration is not due to lack of current rainfall but rather to the very late seeding conditions this year. This handicap will be overcome rapidly if moderate temperatures and rainfall are maintained. The Peace River districts are in approximately the same condition as last year.

Condition of Field Crops, May 31, 1936 - 1940.

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

Field Crops	1936 p.c.	1937 p.c.	1938 p.c.	1939 p.c.	1940 p.c.
Canada					
Fall wheat	95	98	96	98	98
Spring wheat	95	85	99	94	96
All wheat	95	85	99	94	96
Oats	93	90	97	93	92
Barley	93	93	96	93	91
Fall rye	84	69	98	85	88
Spring rye	93	83	99	95	93
All rye	86	73	98	87	89
Peas	91	93	97	93	91
Mixed grains	92	92	99	93	92
Hay and clover	98	90	100	94	99
Alfalfa	95	89	95	95	100
Pasture	101	92	100	92	98
P. E. Island					
Spring wheat	96	99	91	89	101
Oats	96	94	96	93	100
Barley	96	99	88	93	99
Mixed grains	96	94	94	94	99
Hay and clover	103	104	93	84	102
Pasture	101	105	93	84	101
Nova Scotia					
Spring wheat	99	95	98	96	94
Oats	100	94	97	96	98
Barley	98	91	97	97	95
Mixed grains	99	95	97	96	96
Hay and clover	104	100	97	90	100
Pasture	102	99	94	83	97
New Brunswick					
Spring wheat	93	96	92	99	93
Oats	95	87	90	98	96
Barley	96	89	89	99	97
Mixed grains	96	100	96	100	97
Hay and clover	104	94	98	86	101
Pasture	103	95	96	84	98
Quebec					
Spring wheat	85	91	97	96	95
Oats	85	92	99	97	96
Barley	87	89	98	96	97
Spring rye	94	95	98	94	97
Peas	90	95	98	97	96
Mixed grains	91	94	99	97	97
Hay and clover	100	91	105	96	100
Alfalfa	95	85	102	96	100
Pasture	109	92	104	96	100
Ontario					
Fall wheat	95	98	96	98	98
Spring wheat	92	92	97	91	88
All wheat	95	97	96	97	98
Oats	92	91	98	91	89
Barley	89	91	97	91	89
Fall rye	95	96	96	94	97
Peas	91	92	97	91	89
Mixed grains	92	92	99	92	91
Hay and clover	92	87	97	97	101
Alfalfa	95	89	94	96	101
Pasture	95	92	99	93	99

Field Crops	1936 p.c.	1937 p.c.	1938 p.c.	1939 p.c.	1940 p.c.
Manitoba					
Spring wheat	96	101	100	94	98
Oats	95	97	97	91	92
Barley	95	96	97	91	91
Fall rye	87	96	97	87	91
Spring rye	93	96	96	91	90
All rye	88	96	97	88	91
Peas	98	105	97	91	90
Mixed grains	96	96	96	90	91
Hay and clover	99	92	96	84	79
Alfalfa	97	93	96	88	83
Pasture	98	97	96	81	80
Saskatchewan					
Spring wheat	95	73	99	92	94
Oats	93	84	96	91	89
Barley	93	89	96	92	88
Fall rye	76	51	97	81	84
Spring rye	92	79	99	95	91
All rye	80	59	98	85	85
Mixed grains	92	81	92	90	91
Hay and clover	94	78	91	90	82
Alfalfa	93	88	96	95	89
Pasture	93	68	95	91	82
Alberta					
Spring wheat	96	93	99	96	98
Oats	95	92	96	97	95
Barley	94	94	96	97	95
Fall rye	90	74	101	85	99
Spring rye	94	83	99	96	97
All rye	91	79	100	89	98
Peas	100	90	99	95	95
Mixed grains	92	88	96	94	94
Hay and clover	97	84	97	92	100
Alfalfa	94	85	98	94	102
Pasture	97	80	98	90	101
British Columbia					
Spring wheat	96	96	94	97	101
Oats	98	94	94	99	101
Barley	96	95	90	98	100
Spring rye	98	96	93	101	100
Peas	100	95	98	101	100
Mixed grains	99	94	95	99	100
Hay and clover	98	95	94	97	104
Alfalfa	100	96	97	98	104
Pasture	98	98	96	98	104


CONDITION OF SPRING WHEAT IN THE
PRAIRIE PROVINCES BY CROP DISTRICTS
MAY 31, 1940
LEGEND
P.C. OF AVERAGE
80-84
85-89
90-94
95-99
100-104
Agricultural Branch
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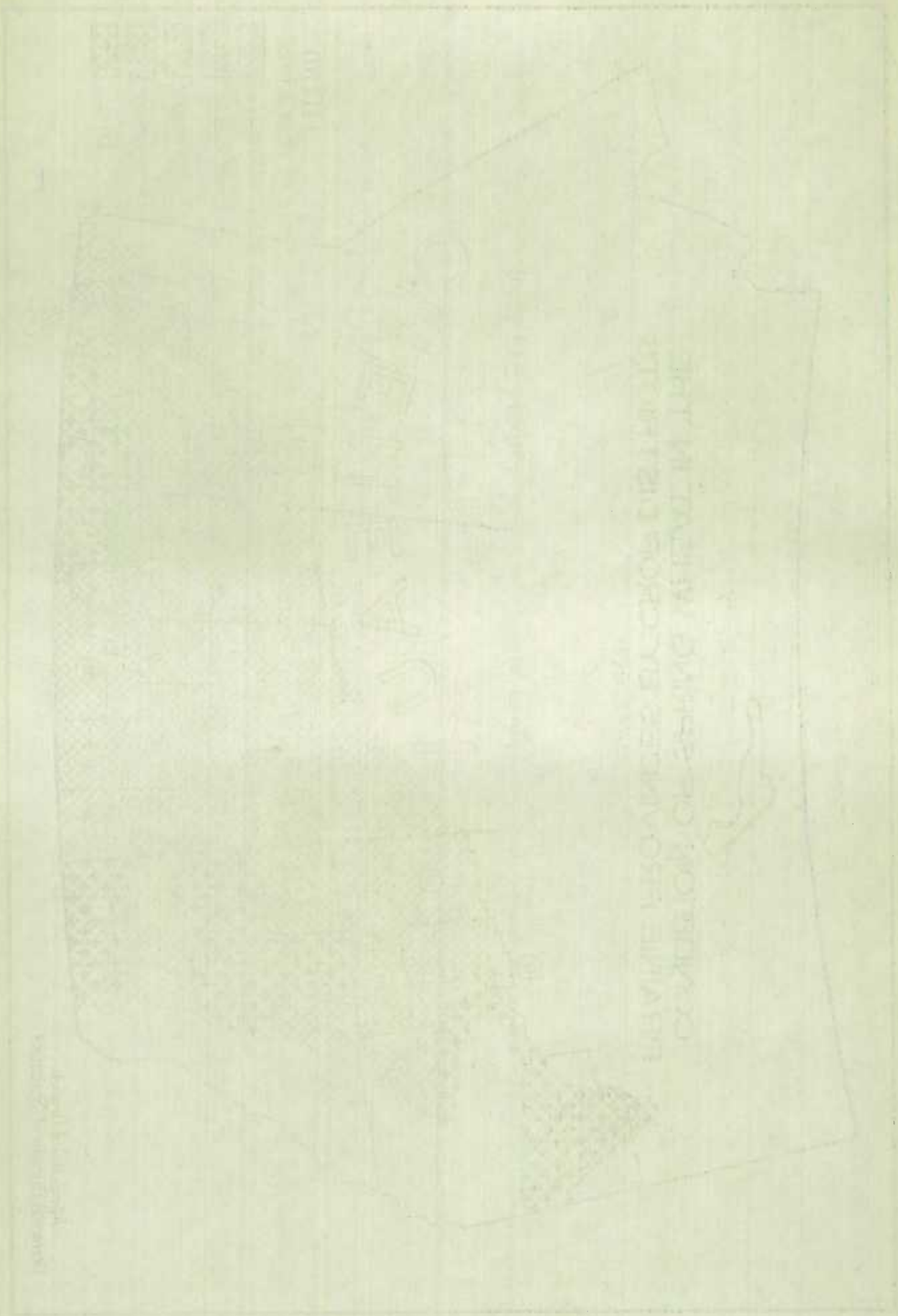

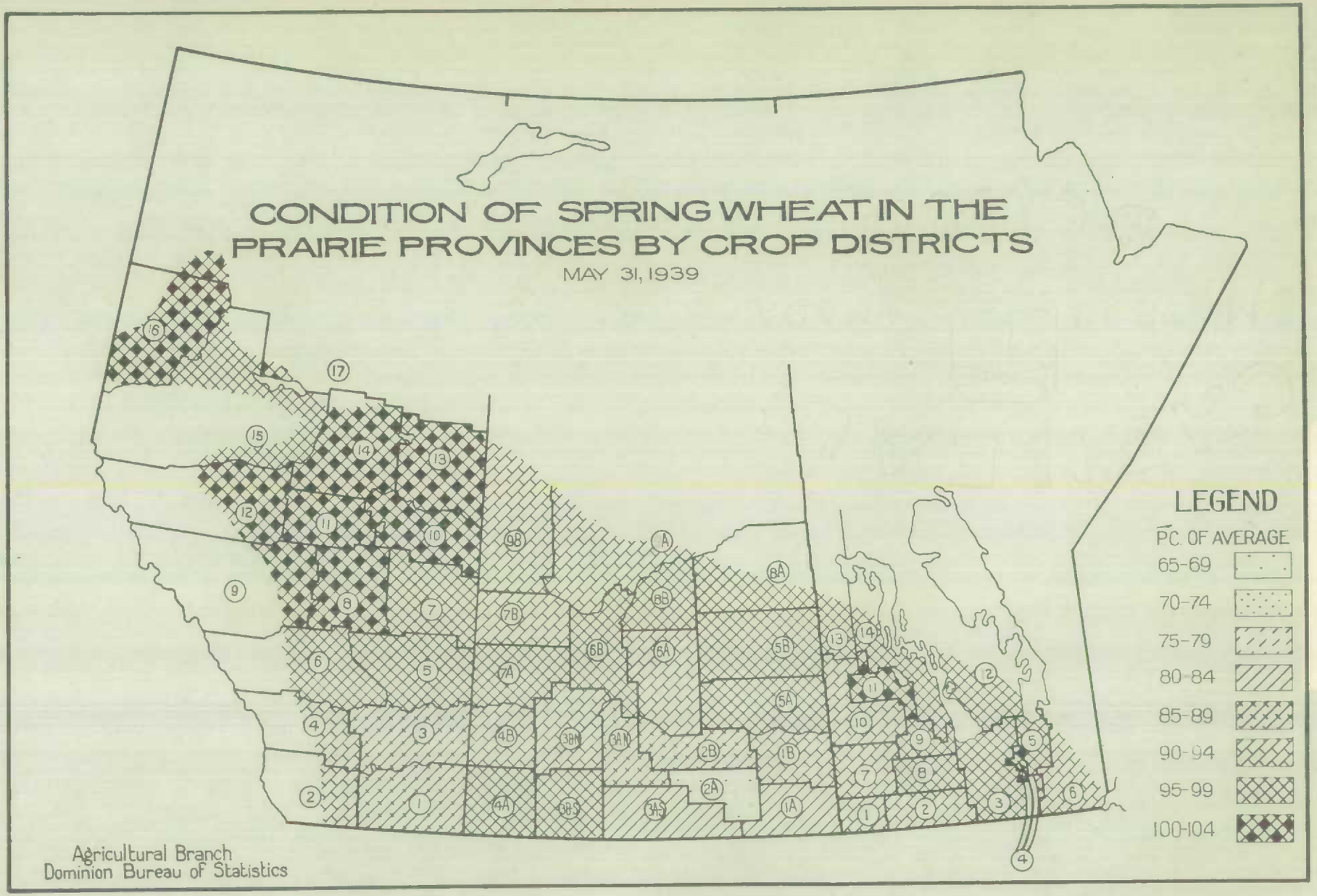
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