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ACREAGE AND CONDITION OF FIELD CROPS, 1924.

Ottawa, July 10, 1924, 4.30 p.m. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issued to-day a bulletin giving (1) a preliminary estimate of the areas sown to the principal cereals and to potatoes for the season of 1924, and (2) a report on the condition of all field crops at the end of June. A comparative statement in tabular form of the estimated area and condition of all field crops in Canada, by provinces, as at June 30, 1924, is in course of preparation for issue within the next few days.

Canadian Acreage of Principal Cereals and of Potatoes.— According to the returns made by crop correspondents at the end of June, the total area sown to wheat in Canada for the season of 1924 is 21,676,200 acres, as compared with 22,671,864 acres, the finally reported area for 1923. The decrease thus shown is 995,664 acres, or 4 p.c. Fall wheat is represented by 733,700 acres, as compared with 815,706 acres, the area harvested in 1923, the decrease being thus 82,006 acres, or 10 p.c. Of spring wheat the area for 1924 is placed at 20,942,500 acres, as compared with 21,856,158 acres in 1923, the decrease being therefore 913,658 acres, or 4 p.c. For oats the area sown is 14,168,000 acres, as compared with 14,387,807 acres last year, a decrease of 219,807 acres, or 2 p.c. Barley occupies 2,879,000 acres, as against 2,784,571 acres, an increase of 94,429 acres, or 3 p.c. Rye shows 1,277,450 acres, as against 1,448,142 acres, a decrease of 170,692 acres, or 12 p.c. Fall rye is 965,100 acres, as compared with 1,097,982 acres, and spring rye is 312,350 acres, as against 350,160 acres. Flaxseed shows an increase of 134,562 acres, or 21 p.c., the area for 1924 being 764,500 acres, as compared with 629,938 acres in 1923.

Acreage of Grain and of Potatoes in Prairie Provinces.— For the three Prairie Provinces the acreages sown to the principal grains and to potatoes are estimated as follows, the final estimates for 1923 being given within brackets: Wheat 20,728,500 (21,665,276); oats 9,001,000 (9,032,821); barley 2,294,400 (2,180,472); rye 1,139,700 (1,303,210); flax 754,900 (620,172); potatoes 112,800 (115,852). By provinces, the acreages are: Manitoba, Wheat 2,352,000 (2,915,915); oats 1,871,000 (1,824,504); barley 1,249,000 (1,156,212); rye 330,000 (337,528); flaxseed 170,000 (139,519); potatoes 23,000 (28,524). Saskatchewan, Wheat 12,369,000 (12,721,000); oats 4,853,000 (4,898,771); barley 661,400 (640,402); rye 450,700 (568,924); flaxseed 270,300 (465,653); potatoes 46,800 (47,368). Alberta, wheat 5,977,500 (5,938,361); oats 2,277,000 (2,299,546); barley 334,000 (333,858); rye 358,000 (396,753); flaxseed 14,600 (15,000); potatoes 28,000 (29,950).

Condition of Field Crops at end of June.— Throughout eastern Canada reports are general as to the extraordinary lateness of the season. Cold and droughty conditions prevailed generally during the earlier part of June, but during the last week of the month timely rains fell, resulting in good warm growing weather, which proved exceedingly beneficial. At the end of June, prospects have greatly improved, and are on the whole quite favourable. In the Prairie Provinces the crops are late, having been kept back by cold and drought. In Manitoba the season is from two to three weeks late. Wheat is well rooted, and generally of good colour. Where sufficient rain has fallen crops are making rapid growth. In many districts rain was badly needed. In Saskatchewan the weather in June was generally too cool for good growth, consequently the crops are all late. Frosts on the nights of the 20th, 21st and 22nd were reported in the northwestern part of the province, but little damage has been reported. In the southern districts there has been an ample rainfall, and the crops are in good condition. In the central and northern districts dry weather prevailed throughout the month, and the crops in these districts are badly in need of rain. There has been slight damage from cutworms in scattered patches all over the province. In Alberta the condition of grain crops is reported as fair on the whole; but cold and drought were retarding growth, and pastures are poor. In many districts rain was badly needed. In some parts, June frosts

damaged late sown crops, potatoes and garden produce. In British Columbia showers in mid-June proved very beneficial. The last days of the month were exceptionally warm, and rain was greatly needed.

Expressed numerically in-percentage of the average yield per acre for the decennial period 1914-23, the condition of field crops for the whole of Canada on June 30, with the corresponding condition for 1923 in brackets, is reported as follows: Fall wheat 99 (95); spring wheat 92 (106); all wheat 92 (105); oats 93 (102); barley 93 (100); fall rye 92 (92); spring rye 94 (101); all rye 92 (100); peas 97 (97); beans 96 (97); buckwheat 99 (98); mixed grains 95 (93); flaxseed 95 (101); corn for husking 92 (95); potatoes 96 (97); turnips, etc. 96 (97); hay and clover 96 (97); alfalfa 98 (102); fodder corn 94 (97); sugar beets 95 (95). In the Prairie Provinces the condition of the principal cereals and of potatoes numerically expressed was on June 30 as follows: Wheat: Manitoba 91 (100); Saskatchewan 91 (105); Alberta 93 (111). Oats: Manitoba 94 (98); Saskatchewan 92 (105); Alberta 92 (112). Barley: Manitoba 94 (97); Saskatchewan 90 (102); Alberta 95 (108). Rye: Manitoba 93 (95); Saskatchewan 90 (99); Alberta 93 (104). Flaxseed: Manitoba 96 (98); Saskatchewan 94 (102); Alberta 99 (102). Potatoes: Manitoba 89 (96); Saskatchewan 92 (101); Alberta 91 (106).

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