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Agricultural Branch:

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Ottawa, May 12, 1931, 4 p.m. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issued to-day the first crop report of the present season, indicating (1) the intended acreage of principal field crops as reported by crop correspondents at May 1; (2) the progress of spring seeding and (3) winter-killing and condition at May 1, of fall wheat, fall rye and hay and clover meadows.

The report on intentions to plant field crops is the first undertaken by this Bureau, and it is important that it should secure a proper interpretation. It is to be regarded only as an indication of the seeding plans of farmers at May 1. The actual acreage sown may be changed by many later considerations, particularly by soil and weather conditions and by price movements. At the time of collecting the farm schedules, there was considerable uncertainty in the Prairie Provinces, where highly unfavourable soil conditions, low prices and inability to hire labour are serious factors. The seeding of coarse grains was just beginning, so less reliance should be placed on these figures than on the indicated seedings of the main cereal. Later estimates of actual seedings should not be expected to compare exactly with farmers' intentions at May 1.

The report of farmers' seeding intentions at May 1 shows the possibility of significant changes in crop acreages for 1931. A reduction of 8 per cent or nearly 2 million acres in wheat was intended, the large decreases being in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The eastern provinces and British Columbia show a relative constancy in seeding plans, while the uncertainty in the Prairie Provinces has led to lower intended seedings of most of the principal crops. For the whole of Canada, intended acreages at May 1 show increases compared with last year for oats, flaxseed and mixed grains and decreases for wheat, barley and rye.

The winter-killing of fall wheat in Ontario and British Columbia was less than last year and less than the ten-year average. In Alberta, winter-killing was slightly higher than both last year and the ten-year average.

In the eastern provinces and British Columbia, the condition of fall wheat and fall rye and of hay and clover meadows at May 1 is close to average, but in the Prairie Provinces, condition figures are the lowest in many years.

Spring seeding of the principal grains has progressed rapidly, with the promise of early completion.

WEATHER CONDITIONS SINCE MAY 1

The spring season in the Maritime Provinces and in Eastern Canada has continued generally favourable. In Nova Scotia, seeding has been somewhat hindered by cool and showery weather. Plentiful rains in Quebec and Ontario have encouraged growth. In the prairie provinces, precipitation of some benefit has been received, but there are still large and important areas in southern and central Saskatchewan and central Alberta in immediate need of rain for germination. Most of the agricultural regions of Manitoba received rain or snow in the first week of the month and in the same period, helpful precipitation was recorded in south-western and northern Alberta. Saskatchewan received no significant relief from the prevailing drought until the 7, when scattered and light rains fell over the province, heaviest in the north. In British Columbia, the prevailing weather has been warm and dry, so that the season is well advanced.

INTENDED ACREAGES OF PRINCIPAL CROPS.

For all Canada, the intended acreages for 1931 as reported at May 1 are as follows, with the 1930 acreages within brackets: spring wheat 22,152,300 (24,082,900); oats 23,335,000 (13,258,700); barley 4,734,000 (5,558,700); spring rye 292,150 (357,050); flaxseed 61,300 (581,800); mixed grains 1,210,800 (1,201,400).

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For the Prairie Provinces, the intended acreages for 1931, as compared with 1930 in brackets, are as follows: spring wheat 21,905,800 (23,836,000); oats 8,367,000 (8,286,000); barley 3,925,800 (4,755,000); spring rye 268,000 (332,000); flaxseed 651,000 (571,000); mixed grains 53,000 (55,400). By provinces the acreages are as follows: Manitoba - spring wheat 2,431,800 (2,470,000); oats 1,557,000 (1,590,000); barley 1,488,800 (1,991,000); spring rye 24,000 (30,000); flaxseed 109,000 (112,000); mixed grains 13,000 (14,500). Saskatchewan - spring wheat 13,180,000 (14,326,000); oats 4,667,000 (4,531,000); barley 1,714,000 (2,016,000); spring rye 152,000 (192,000); flaxseed 517,000 (431,000); mixed grains 23,000 (23,000). Alberta - spring wheat 6,294,000 (7,040,000); oats 2,143,000 (2,165,000); barley 723,000 (748,000); spring rye 92,000 (110,000); flaxseed 25,000 (28,000); mixed grains 17,000 (17,900).

INTENDED ACREAGES OF PRINCIPAL CROPS, MAY 1, 1931, IN PERCENTAGES OF 1930.

Provinces	Spring Wheat	Oats	Barley	Spring Rye	Flaxseed	Mixed Grains
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
Prince Edward Island	101	98	101	-	-	102
Nova Scotia	96	101	98	100	-	100
New Brunswick	95	101	98	100	-	99
Quebec	100	101	99	99	94	101
Ontario	99	99	101	-	97	101
Manitoba	98	98	75	80	97	87
Saskatchewan	92	103	85	79	120	100
Alberta	89	99	97	84	91	98
British Columbia	102	103	105	90	100	102
CANADA	92	101	85	82	114	103

PROGRESS OF SPRING SEEDING

In the three Maritime Provinces little seeding had been done. In the other provinces, the percentages of seeding completed by April 30 are as follows, the figures for 1930 being given within brackets: spring wheat - Quebec 50 (-); Ontario 67 (48); Manitoba 79 (73); Saskatchewan 54 (61); Alberta 55 (64); British Columbia 76 (73). Oats - Quebec 37 (-); Ontario 61 (25); Manitoba 13 (11); Saskatchewan 10 (8); Alberta 13 (11); British Columbia 58 (58). Barley - Quebec 32 (-); Ontario 56 (18); Manitoba 8 (8); Saskatchewan 5 (4); Alberta 6 (3); British Columbia 64 (52). Of the total seeding, the percentages completed by the end of April, with last year's proportions in brackets, are as follows: Quebec 34 (-); Ontario 62 (23); Manitoba 43 (41); Saskatchewan 40 (48); Alberta 41 (52); British Columbia 54 (63).

WINTER-KILLING OF FALL WHEAT, FALL RYE AND HAY AND CLOVER MEADOWS

The area estimated last November as having been sown to fall wheat in Canada was 894,000 acres, of which 8 p.c. or 75,100 acres is now reported as winter-killed, leaving the area to be harvested at 818,900 acres. By provinces, the figures are as follows: Ontario, sown 766,000 acres, winter-killed 8 p.c. or 61,000 acres, to be harvested 705,000 acres; Alberta, sown 114,000 acres, winter-killed 12 p.c. or 14,000 acres, to be harvested 100,000 acres; British Columbia, sown 14,000 acres, winter-killed 1 p.c. or 100 acres, to be harvested 13,900 acres.

For fall rye, the area estimated as sown in Canada was 944,000 acres, of which 8 p.c. or 78,600 acres is reported as winter-killed, leaving the area to be harvested at 865,400 acres. By provinces, the figures are as follows: Ontario, sown 54,000 acres, winter-killed 1 p.c. or 500 acres, to be harvested 53,500 acres; Manitoba, sown 67,000 acres, winter-killed 6 p.c. or 4,000 acres, to be harvested 63,000 acres; Saskatchewan, sown 695,000 acres, winter-killed 9 p.c. or 62,600 acres, to be harvested 632,400 acres; Alberta, sown 128,000 acres, winter-killed 9 p.c. or 11,500 acres, to be harvested 116,500 acres.

CONDITION OF FALL WHEAT, FALL RYE AND HAY AND CLOVER MEADOWS

For 1931 and succeeding years, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has changed the basis of its condition reports to a long-time average yield. In previous years, condition was based upon the average yield of the previous ten years, a basis which was subject to change each year. Reports of condition during 1931 will give a comparison of 1930 and 1931, the 1930 figures being converted to the same yield basis as those of 1931.

The condition of fall wheat, fall rye and hay and clover meadows at the end of April, 1931, expressed as percentages of the long-time average, is reported as follows, the figures for 1930 being given within brackets: Fall wheat - Canada 97 (91); Ontario 98 (90); Alberta 87 (99); British Columbia 101 (93). Fall rye - Canada 86 (99); Ontario 100 (96); Manitoba 88 (93); Saskatchewan 84 (99); Alberta 87 (98). Hay and clover - Canada 97 (93); Prince Edward Island 104 (88); Nova Scotia 101 (92); New Brunswick 104 (94); Quebec 100 (98); Ontario 95 (91); Manitoba 80 (101); Saskatchewan 80 (93); Alberta 85 (95); British Columbia 101 (98).

GENERAL CONDITIONS AT THE END OF APRIL

MARITIME PROVINCES.- The season is considered two weeks earlier than usual. The soil is in good condition, but little preparatory work has been done owing to the cold and dry weather. Clover and grasses have a good appearance and have made some growth. Seeding should be under way about the first of May.

QUEBEC.- Hay and clover meadows have come through in splendid condition, little apparent damage resulting from ice which left the fields early this spring. The soil is in excellent condition for working and an unusually large amount of seeding has been done. The greater part of April was quite dry, but towards the end there were heavy falls of rain and snow which, while welcome, delayed seeding operations. Early sown grain appears to be coming up well. Live stock are reported to be in good condition.

ONTARIO.- The spring is early throughout the province, but growth has been slow on account of the dry, cool weather together with frosts at night which have checked the development of crops. New seeding is doing well, with the land in first class condition. Good progress has been made with field work. Hay and clover meadows have come through in fair condition with very little heaving. Water levels are low and rain is needed everywhere.

MANITOBA.- Very little snow having fallen during the past winter, there has been scarcely any moisture stored up, particularly on stubble land where the soil is generally very dry. With high winds prevailing during the month, this condition has resulted in considerable soil drifting, making it difficult to get work done. However, a large proportion of the seeding has been completed, this operation being earlier than in 1930. There are hard frosts at night which have increased the difficulties in getting seeding fully under way. The growth of pastures and hay lands has been retarded by the cold, dry weather. Feed is still plentiful.

SASKATCHEWAN.- The weather in April has been dry with some high winds which resulted in severe dust storms and some soil drifting. Wheat seeding was a little better than half completed at the end of the month with the soil in most of the southern and central districts in need of rain.

ALBERTA.- The soil is stated to be in good condition for seeding. Summer-fallowed land is being seeded at present as stubble is considered too dry. The seeding of wheat in many areas is nearly complete, but there are several reports of high winds and soil drifting which have necessitated resowing. Much of the grain, in fact, is being stubbled in on account of this factor. Rain is greatly needed. There has been some winter-killing of clover meadows and fall-sown grain. The appearance of cutworms is reported. Live stock are in good condition. Pastures are rather short owing to the dryness of the soil.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.- The very mild and open winter has resulted in fall wheat and hay and clover meadows coming through in splendid condition. The first part of April was cold and wet, but since the middle of the month very favourable weather has resulted and seeding is proceeding rapidly. In southern Vancouver Island, the season is at least a fortnight earlier than the average. Insect damage to truck and fruit crops is reported.

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Intended Acreages of Principal Crops, May 1, 1931, as
compared with 1930.

Field crops	Area 1930	Intended Area 1931	Field crops	Area 1930	Intended Area 1931
	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>
CANADA -			ALBERTA -		
Fall wheat	815,000	818,900	Fall wheat	124,000	100,000
Spring wheat	24,082,900	22,152,300	Spring wheat	7,040,000	6,294,000
All wheat	24,897,900	22,971,200	All wheat	7,164,000	6,394,000
Oats	13,258,700	13,336,000	Oats	2,165,000	2,143,000
Barley	5,558,700	4,734,000	Barley	748,000	723,000
Fall rye	1,091,000	865,400	Fall rye	137,000	116,500
Spring rye	357,050	292,150	Spring rye	110,000	92,000
All rye	1,448,050	1,157,550	All rye	247,000	208,500
Flaxseed	581,800	661,300	Flaxseed	28,000	25,000
Mixed grains	1,201,400	1,210,800	Mixed grains	17,900	17,000
P. E. ISLAND -			BRITISH COLUMBIA -		
Spring wheat	26,500	26,800	Fall wheat	14,000	13,900
Oats	174,700	171,000	Spring wheat	47,000	48,000
Barley	5,400	5,500	All wheat	61,000	61,900
Mixed grains	30,600	31,000	Oats	91,000	94,000
NOVA SCOTIA -			Barley	10,000	10,500
Spring wheat	5,800	5,600	Spring rye	7,000	6,300
Oats	115,200	116,000	Flaxseed	300	300
Barley	10,800	10,600	Mixed grains	5,000	5,100
Spring rye	200	200			
Mixed grains	4,700	4,700			
NEW BRUNSWICK -					
Spring wheat	9,900	9,400			
Oats	223,000	225,000			
Barley	10,800	10,600			
Spring rye	350	350			
Mixed grains	4,000	4,000			
QUEBEC -					
Spring wheat	58,700	58,700			
Oats	1,899,800	1,919,000			
Barley	156,700	155,000			
Spring rye	17,500	17,300			
Flaxseed	5,300	5,000			
Mixed grains	143,700	145,000			
ONTARIO -					
Fall wheat	677,000	705,000			
Spring wheat	99,000	98,000			
All wheat	776,000	803,000			
Oats	2,469,000	2,444,000			
Barley	610,000	615,000			
Fall rye	53,000	53,500			
Flaxseed	5,200	5,000			
Mixed grains	958,000	968,000			
MANITOBA -					
Spring wheat	2,470,000	2,431,800			
Oats	1,590,000	1,557,000			
Barley	1,991,000	1,488,800			
Fall rye	83,000	63,000			
Spring rye	30,000	24,000			
All rye	113,000	87,000			
Flaxseed	112,000	109,000			
Mixed grains	14,500	13,000			
SASKATCHEWAN -					
Spring wheat	14,326,000	13,180,000			
Oats	4,531,000	4,667,000			
Barley	2,016,000	1,714,000			
Fall rye	818,000	632,400			
Spring rye	192,000	152,000			
All rye	1,010,000	784,400			
Flaxseed	431,000	517,000			
Mixed grains	23,000	23,000			

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