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

MAY 10 1934

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Dom stician: Chief, Agricultural Branch:

R. H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S. (Hon.), F.R.S.C.

T. W. Grindley, Ph.D.

Ottawa, May 9, 1934, 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.

SUMMARY.

Intentions to Plant, 1934.— If the intentions of farmers at May 1 are carried out, there will be a reduced acreage of spring grains sown in Canada for harvest in 1934. As in the previous year, the decrease is almost entirely due to a reduction of 2,112,800 acres (8 per cent) in the area intended for spring wheat. This would bring the Canadian spring wheat acreage back to the 1928 level and would be 3.3 million acres below the record high level of 1932. The intended acreages of oats and mixed grains are again above the figures for the previous years. Increases of 2 per cent are planned in the areas sown to oats, mixed grains and potatoes. If the intentions with regard to oats are carried out, the 1934 acreage in oats will be the highest since 1924. The intended acreages of barley, spring rye and flaxseed are all less than the acreages seeded in 1933. The 1934 acreage in flaxseed promises to be the lowest since 1909.

The contemplated reduction in spring wheat acreage is divided among the three Prairie Provinces - 101,000 acres in Manitoba (4 per cent), 1,622,000 acres in Saskatchevan (11 per cent), and 395,000 acres in Alberta (5 per cent). The other provinces, where spring wheat acreage is almost negligible, show little change.

Fall Wheat.- Winter-killing of fall wheat in Ontario was particularly severe and the percentage winter-killed (39) is the highest of any year on record, except the disastrous winter of 1917-18, when it was 56. The area to be harvested amounts to 385,000 acres compared with 559,000 acres last year. The reduction through winter-killing amounted to 246,000 acres.

The condition of fall wheat also suffered severly and at April 30, was only 65 compared with 95 on the same date last year. This also is the lowest condition figure at April 30 on record, excepting that of 1918.

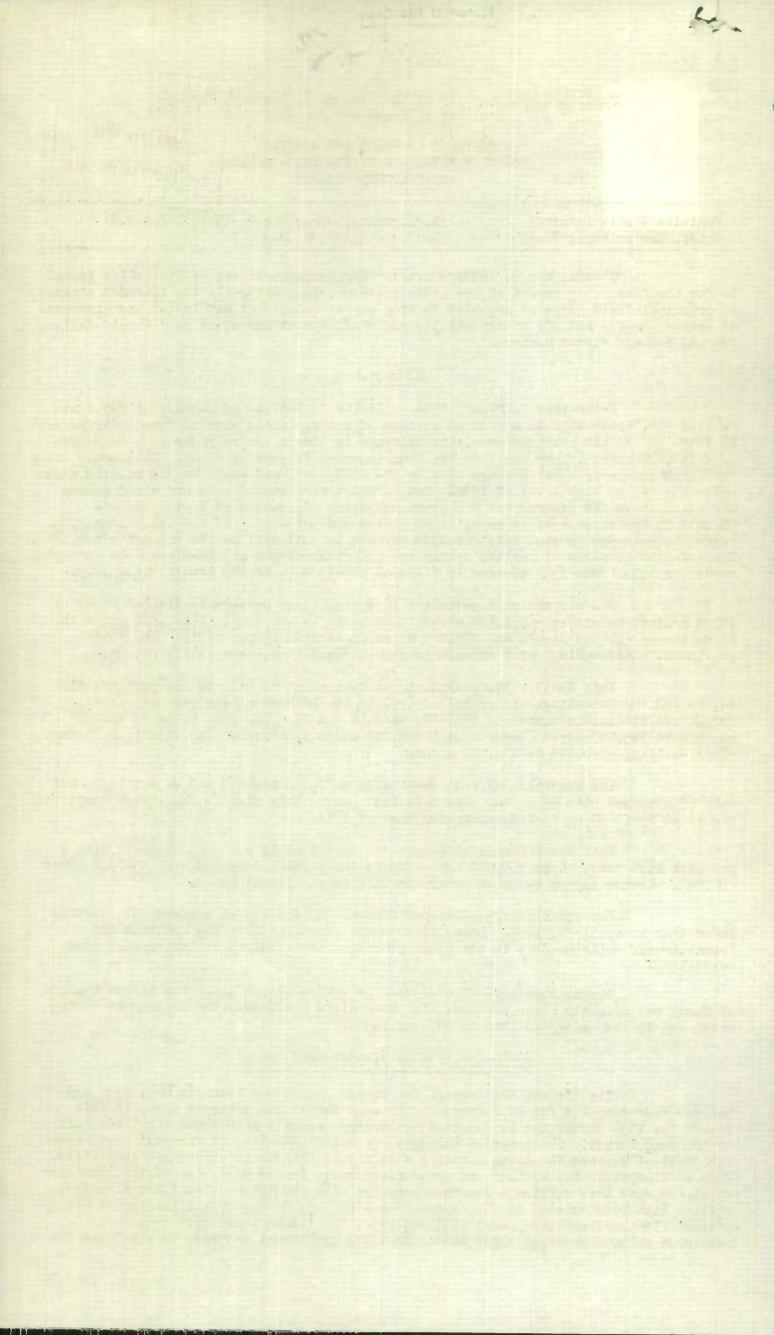
Fall Rye.- Winter-killed to the extent of 15 per cent compared with 8 per cent last year. Only 360,200 acres remain for harvest compared with 434,900 acres in 1933. Winter injury was most severe in Ontario and Saskatchewan.

Hay and Clover. The condition of hay and clover meadows was slightly lower than at April 30, 1933. Lower figures are given for Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, while meadows in the other provinces are equal to or better than 1933 conditions.

Soring Seeding. - The seeding of spring grains completed before the end of April was slightly above average. In the Prairie Provinces, the seeding of spring wheat was further advanced than in 1932 or 1933.

INTERPRETATION OF "INTENTIONS" REPORT

The 'Intentions' report for spring grains was begun in May, 1931 and has now been compiled for four years at the same date. The acreages shown in this report for 1934 should not be expected to compare exactly with those disclosed later by the June Survey. The intended acreages are only indicative of farmers' plans about the first of May and the areas actually sown may be altered by subsequent conditions, such as changes in the weather and price movements. In the past, the "Intentions" for wheat and oats have carried a low bias compared with the later-established acreages, while a high bias existed in the other crops - barley, spring rye, flaxseed and mixed grains. In the first two years, 1931 and 1932, the 'Intentions' were necessarily published without correction for bias. In 1933, an attempt was made to eliminate the



bias on the basis of experience in the two previous years. The success of the correction is proven by the close correspondence of the "Intentions" and June survey acreages of that year. With the exception of flaxseed, the "Intentions" in 1933 were not more than 2 per cent above or below the later-established acreages. The "Intentions" for flaxseed have been much higher than the June survey acreages in each of the past three years.

The 1934 "Intentions" for the spring wheat crop in the Prairie Provinces have been compiled and corrected for bias with particular care and it is not: expected that the June survey acreages will be any higher.

"Intentions to Plant" for potatoes are compiled this year for the first

GENERAL CROP CONDITIONS.

At the End of April. The reports of crop correspondents throughout Canada at the end of April indicated that prospects for the 1934 crops were below average. The most unfavourable conditions were reported in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Prospects in Ontario were reduced by severe winter-killing of fall wheat, clovers, alfalfa and fruit trees and by the limited growth of pasture during the cold, dry spring. In Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the crop prospects were lowered by the contraction of wheat acreage and the extremely unfavourable soil and weather conditions.

In the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, hay and pasture lands came through the winter with little or no injury and although growth was slow and seeding of spring grains retarded, conditions were very promising.

In Alberta, the spring season opened early. Soil-drifting was widespread but not as general nor as damaging as in the other Prairie Provinces. Rains fell at the end of the month to benefit crops already sown. British Columbia crops also had the benefit of an early start and subsequent growth was strong and rapid.

Since May 1.- Over most of the Dominion high temperatures and limited rainfall have been experienced since May 1. In eastern Canada and the Maritimes, the weather was very warm during the first four or five days of the month and wherever moisture was sufficient, growth quickened considerably. Seeding of spring grains has proceeded normally and in Ontario, there was some improvement in the pastures which were ravaged by drought and frost injury. Heavy rains and warm weather are still needed.

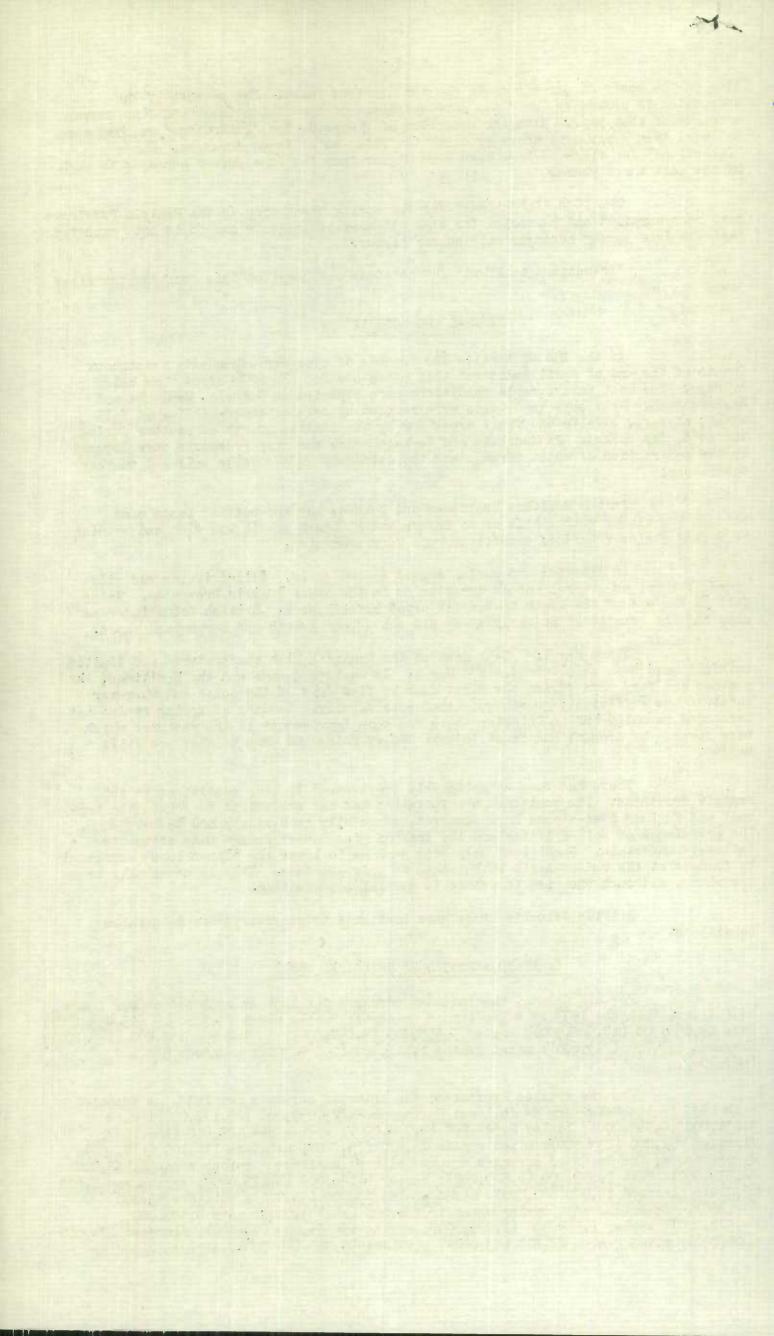
There has been no noticeable improvement in crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces. The scattered precipitation was not sufficient to settle the top-soil and further dust-storms have occurred, especially in Manitoba and Saskatchevan. The prevalence of soil-drifting and the fear of grasshopper damage make prospects extremely uncertain. Conditions have been such as to lower the "Intentions" expressed by farmers at the end of April rather than to increase them. This is especially true for wheat, although the rise in prices is partial compensation.

British Columbia crops have continued to progress under favourable conditions.

INTENDED ACREAGES OF PRINCIPAL CROPS

For all Canada, the intended acreages for 1934 as reported at May 1 are as follows, with the 1933 acreages within brackets: Spring wheat 23,319,300 (25,432,100); oats 13,855,500 (13,528,900); barley 3,555,700 (3,658,000); spring rye 138,900 (148,200); flaxseed 208,700 (243,600); mixed grains 1,188,400 (1,167,300); potatoes 540,100 (527,700).

For the Prairie Provinces, the intended acreages for 1934, as compared with 1933 in brackets, are as follows: Spring wheat 23,059,000 (25,177,000); oats 9,231,000 (8,945,000); barley 2,924,000 (3,032,000); spring rye 129,600 (138,800); flaxseed 201,000 (235,900); mixed grains 76,200 (75,700); potatoes 114,100 (114,100); By provinces, the intended acreages are as follows: Manitoba - spring wheat 2,435,000 (2,536,000); oats 1,549,000 (1,504,000); barley 1,126,000 (1,173,000); spring rye 8,600 (9,000); flaxseed 16,000 (20,200); mixed grains 33,000 (31,900); potatoes 36,800 (36,400). Saskatchewan - spring wheat 13,121,000 (14,743,000); oats 4,525,000 (4,571,000); barley 1,142,000 (1,228,000); spring rye 66,000 (72,800); flaxseed 174,000 (205,000); mixed grains 22,800 (23,000); potatoes 45,000 (45,700). Alberta - spring



wheat 7,503,000 (7,898,000); oats 3,157,000 (2,870,000); barley 656,000 (631,000); spring rye 55,000 (57,000); flaxseed 11,000 (10,700); mixed grains 20,400 (20,800); potatoes 32,300 (32,000).

PROGRESS OF SPRING SEEDING

As usual in the Maritime Provinces and in Quebec, practically no seeding had been done at the end of April. In the other provinces, the percentages of seeding completed by April 30 are as follows, with the figures for 1933 in brackets: Spring wheat - Ontario 7 (18); Manitoba 51 (22); Saskatchewan 30 (13); Alberta 48 (10); British Columbia 60 (43); Oats - Ontario 9 (19); Manitoba 9 (2); Saskatchewan 7 (2):--1 British Columbia 53 (40). Barley - Ontario 6 (17); Manitoba 6 (1); Saskatchewan 3 (-):1 Alberta 6 (-); British Columbia 35 (35).

Alberta 15 (2);---1

WINTER KILLING AND CONDITION OF FALL WHEAT. FALL RYE AND HAY AND CLOVER MEADOWS

In Ontario, where 631,000 acres of fall wheat were seeded last autumn, 246,000 acres or 39 p.c. are estimated as winter-killed, leaving an area of 385,000 acres to be harvested, as compared with a harvested area of 559,000 acres in 1933.

Of the 422,100 acres of fall rye sown in Canada, 61,900 acres or 15 p.c. are estimated as winter-killed, leaving 360,200 acres to be harvested, as compared with 434,900 acres in 1933. In Ontario, 16,300 acres or 29 p.c. of the 56,300 acres sown were winter-killed, leaving 40,000 acres for harvest. In Manitoba, 2,100 acres or 6 p.c. of the 34,400 acres sown were winter-killed, leaving 32,300 acres for harvest. In Saskatchewan, 240,000 acres were sown, 38,000 acres or 16 p.c. were winter-killed and 202,000 acres remain to be harvested. Of the 91,400 acres of fall rye sown in Alberta, 5,500 acres or 6 p.c. were winter-killed, leaving 85,900 acres for harvest.

The percentages of hay and clover reported as killed during the winter of 1933-34 are as follows, with the corresponding figures for last year in brackets: Canada 12 (10); Prince Edward Island 4 (9); Nova Scotia 4 (5); New Brunswick 1 (7); Quebec 2 (13); Ontario 29 (9); Manitoba 5 (3); Saskatchewan 10 (2); Alberta 3 (3); British Columbia 1 (8).

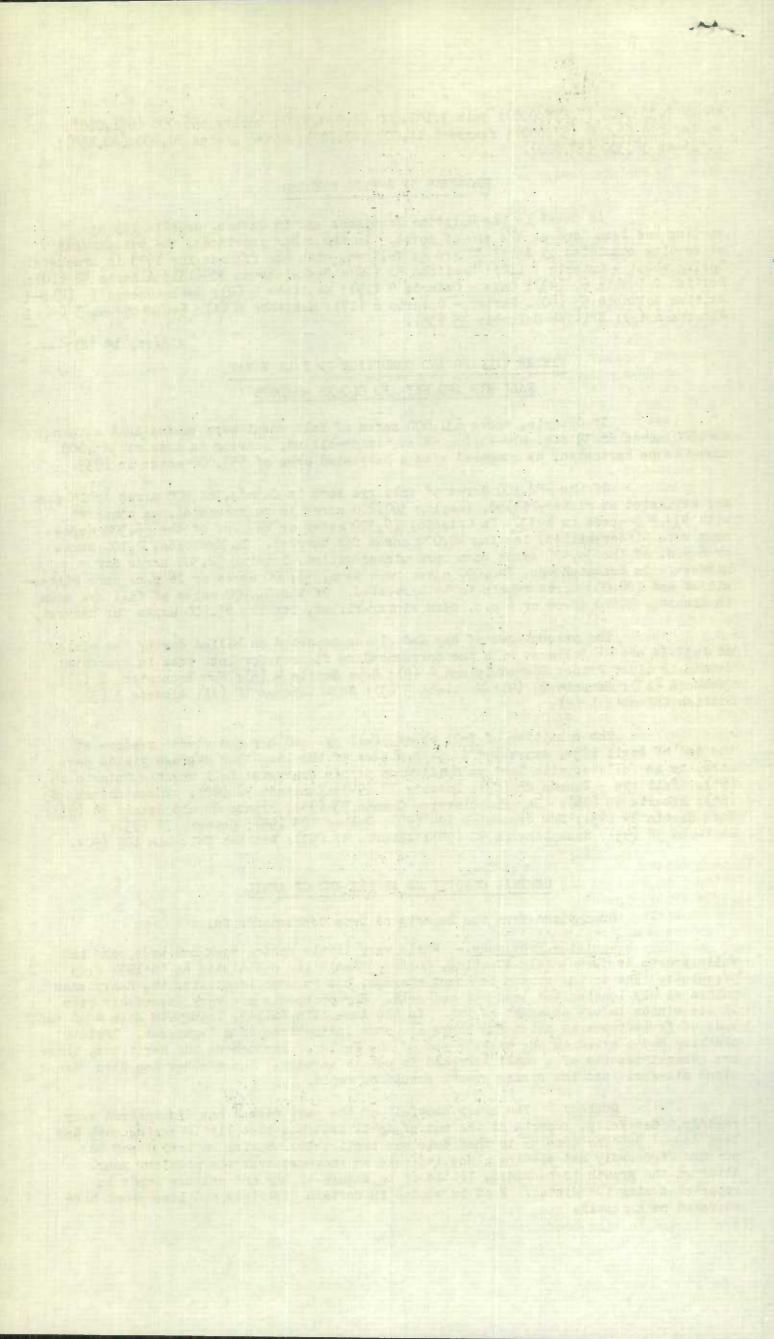
The condition of fall wheat, fall rye and hay and clover meadows at the end of April 1934, expressed as percentages of the long-time average yields per acre, is as follows, with last year figures within brackets: Fall wheat - Ontario 65 (95). Fall rye - Canada 85 (89); Ontario 72 (94); Manitoba 90 (92); Saskatchewan 83 (85); Alberta 95 (96). Hay and clover - Canada 93 (94); Prince Edward Island 98 (95); Nova Scotia 99 (93); New Brunswick 104 (90); Quebec 103 (95); Ontario 78 (93); Manitoba 92 (93); Saskatchevan 90 (95); Alberta 97 (97); British Columbia 105 (90).

GENERAL CONDITIONS AT THE END OF APRIL

Summarized from the Reports of Crop Correspondents.

Maritime Provinces. While very little spring work has been done and while growth is just barely starting, correspondents are optimistic as to 1934 crop prospects. The spring season is about average, but in some localities the heavy snow melted slowly leaving the land wet and cold. Hay prospects are very favourable with little winter injury apparent as yet. In the Annapolis Valley, injury to both wood and buds of fruit trees is noted and there are some indications of a light set. Protato planting has started in the western end of the Valley. Throughout the Maritimes, there are general reports of a small increase in potato acreage. The weather has been warmer since mid-April and the spring growth should be rapid.

Quebec. The heavy snowfall of the past winter has disappeared very rapidly. Generally, reports at the end of April indicate that little spring work has been done. Seeding done up to that date was negligible. Spring work will now be pursued vigorously and seeding plans indicate an increase over the previous year. Although the growth is backward, little or no damage to hay and pasture lands is reported during the winter. Feed is scarce in certain districts and live stock have suffered as a result.



Ontario. The outstanding feature of Ontario farm conditions at the end of April was the heavy winter damage to fall wheat, alfalfa, clover and fruit trees. With one exception, (1918) the winter-killing of fall wheat is the greatest on record. Total losses are quite common and many fields will be re-seeded to barley or spring wheat. Winter-killing of alfalfa and clovers is not so severe, but is extremely serious in certain western counties and in Eastern Ontario.

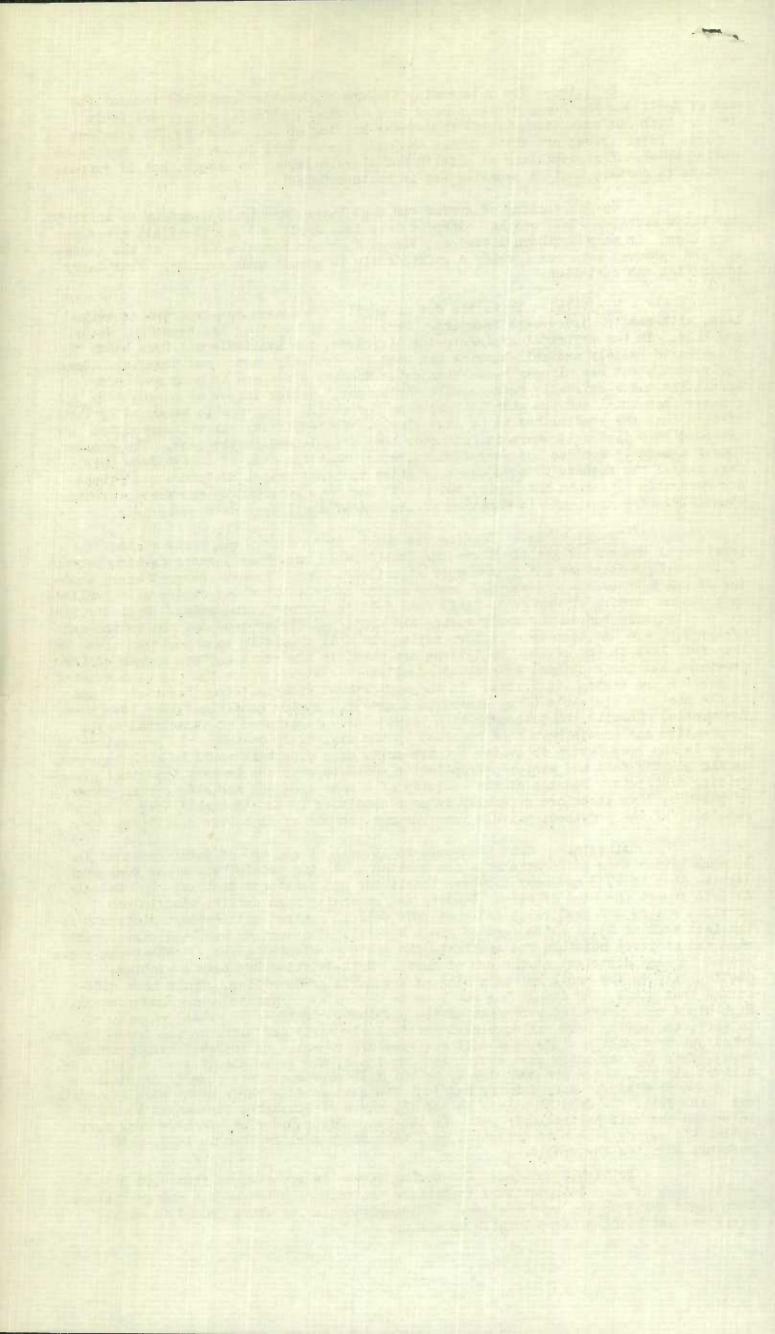
Spring seeding of grains was much later than in 1933 and up to April 30, far below average. Cold weather extended late into April and growth of all crops was very slow. In many southern districts, stored feed was becoming scarce at the monthend and pastures were not developed sufficiently to permit much grazing. Thus dairy production was curtailed.

Manitoba. - Up to the end of April, the season was reported as very late, with seeding and growth backward. Generally, the weather has been dry, windy and cold. In the principal grain-growing districts, the available moisture has disappeared rapidly and soil-blowing has been particularly severe and damaging. Some early-sown wheat has already been blown out. Seeding proceeded in many southern localities under extremely unfavourable conditions. Winter losses of horses were greater than usual and the animals remaining for spring work were so weakened by lack of feed that the seeding had to be done slowly. Soil-drifting was widespread and extended into districts where it had never been troublesome in the past. The grass-hopper menace is serious and many farmers report that the fear of damage from this pest caused the seeding of more wheat relative to other crops. Moisture conditions are generally better in the north, but growth has been retarded by the frosty nights. Generally, crop prospects in Manitoba at the end of April were distinctly poor.

Saskatchewan. Seeding was under way in nearly all parts of the province at the end of April. There was considerable uncertainty among farmers because of the serious moisture and grasshopper situations. Some farmers favoured early seeding of wheat to escape grasshopper damage as far as possible while others were inclined to postpone seeding of any grain until rain fell to improve germination. Soil-drifting was particularly bad in the early spring and continued during seeding. Up to the end of April, there had been no effective spring rainfall except in some northern areas and this fell late in the month. Conditions are worst in the south-eastern corner of the province, but the continual exhaustion of moisture reserves since 1928 is also evident in western and central districts. In the east-central district (Crop District 5) and in the northern districts (Crop Districts 8 and 9), spring conditions have been more favourable. Despite the extremely high temperatures registered on occasional days, germination and growth have been retarded by the dry, windy weather. If general rains occur in the near future to settle the top-soil, crop prospects would be much improved as the heavier fall and winter precipitation added to reserves in many important graingrowing districts. Because of the scarcity of winter feed and the slow spring growth of pasture, live stock are generally in poor condition in the 'drought' area. In the remainder of the province, animals came through the winter in better condition.

Alberta. - Crop prospects in Alberta at the end of April appeared to be much better than in Saskatchevan and Manitoba. Spring precipitation has been much lighter than in 1933 and many southern localities and scattered districts in central Alberta report the need of rain. Seeding was generally much earlier than in the previous spring and good rains and some snow fell in central and northern districts in the last week of April which were of great benefit. The weather has been unseasonably warm and wherever moisture was available, the grain germinated quickly. Wheat was above ground in many districts at the end of April. Soil-drifting has been a problem, particularly in the south but extending as far north as Vermilion. While more widespread than usual, the damage has not been so severe as in Manitoba and Saskatchevan. High winds have prevailed over most of the province. In the area south and east of Calgary, the soring work was completed particularly early and although the top-soil was dried out by the high winds, sub-soil reserves are reported as improved over previous years. When the secondary root system has developed, the grain should grow rapidly. In central Alberta, there are some dry spots but most correspondents regard the season as early and promising. Many farmers had just finished seeding their wheat when the monthend rains fell. In Grop Bistricts 14 and 15, north of Edmonton, the season is much later and the soil particularly wet. In the Peace River District, farmers were very optimistic as the season is described as 3 to 4 weeks earlier than in 1933, with moisture supplies favourable.

British Columbia. The spring season is reported as from 2 to 3 weeks earlier than usual. Soil moisture conditions are generally favourable and growth has been rapid owing to the warm weather. Spring-sown wheat is above ground in many districts and looking exceptionally promising.



Intended Acreages of Principal Crops, May 1, 1934, as compared with 1933.

Field Crops	Area 1933	P.C. of 1933	Intended area 1934	Field Crops	Area 1933	P.C. of 1933	Intended area 1934
	acres	P.C.	acres		acres	P.C.	acres
CANADA -				MANITOBA -			
Fall wheat 1/ Spring wheat All wheat Oats Barley Fall rye 1/ Spring rye All rye Flaxseed Mixed grains Potatoes	559,000 25,432,100 25,991,100 13,528,900 3,658,000 434,900 148,200 583,100 243,600 1,167,300 527,700	69 92 91 102 97 83 94 86 86 102 102	385,000 23,319,300 23,704,300 13,855,500 3,555,700 360,200 138,900 499,100 208,700 1,188,400 540,100	Spring wheat Oats Barley Fall ryel/ Spring rye All rye Flaxseed Mixed grains Potatoes	2,536,000 1,504,000 1,173,000 36,700 9,000 45,700 20,200 31,900 36,400	103	2,435,000 1,549,000 1,126,000 32,300 8,600 40,900 16,000 33,000 36,800
P. E. ISLAND -				SASKAT CHEWAN -			
Spring wheat Oats Barley Mixed grains Potatoes NOVA SCOTIA -	23,400 154,000 3,900 22,000 37,600	100 101 100 100 103	23,400 156,000 3,900 22,000 39,000	Spring wheat Oats Barley Fall rye Fall rye All rye Flaxseed Mixed grains Potatoes	14,743,000 4,571,000 1,228,000 232,200 72,800 305,000 205,000 23,000 45,700	99	13,121,000 4,525,000 1,142,000 202,000 66,000 268,000 174,000 22,800 45,000
Spring wheat Oats Barley Mixed grains Potatoes	3,400 89,500 7,900 5,000 20,500	99 96 95 96 102	3,400 86,000 7,500 4,800 21,000				
NEW BRUNSWICK -				ALBERTA -			
Spring wheat Oats Barley Mixed grains Potatoes	13,500 210,500 12,300 5,000 46,900	100 100 100 100 103	13,500 210,500 12,300 5,000 48,000	Spring wheat Oats Barley Fall ryel/ Spring rye	7,898,000 2,870,000 631,000 112,000 57,000	110 104 77 97	7,503,000 3,157,000 656,000 85,900 55,000
QUEBEC -				All rye Flaxseed	169,000	105	140,900
Spring wheat Oats Barley Spring rye Flaxseed	58,200 1,718,000 130,800 5,100 1,800	106 101 104 98 96	62,000 1,735,000 136,000 5,000 1,700	Mixed grains Potatoes BRITISH COLUMB:	20,800 32,000	98	20,400
Mixed grains	109,200	102	111,000	Spring wheat	59,600	101	60,000
ONTARIO - Fall wheat Spring wheat All wheat Oats Barley Fall rye Flaxseed Mixed grains Potatoes	559,000 97,000 656,000 2,316,000 461,000 54,000 5,500 947,000 157,500	69 101 74 101 100 74 102 102	385,000 98,000 98,000 483,000 2,339,000 461,000 40,000 5,600 966,000 161,000	Oats Barley Spring rye Flaxseed Mixed grains Potatoes	95,900 10,100 4,300 400 3,400 18,000	102 105 99 93 101 108	98,000 11,000 4,300 400 3,400 19,000



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A CONTRACTOR