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THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE

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A Weekly Journal for Progressive Farmers

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The Guide is absolutely owned and controlled by the organized farmers—entirely independent, and not one dollar of political, capitalistic or special interest money is invested in it.

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WESTERN CROP CONDITIONS

The outstanding feature of the crop situation is the remarkable difference that exists between localities. The rains so far do not appear to have been general. In many districts there has been prolonged drought, unbroken since the snow went. In these districts the condition of the crop is serious, particularly the late sown grain. Crops that were sown early are doing well even in the dry districts. Another serious disadvantage affecting the late sown crops has been the high winds that have prevailed. In some parts of southern Manitoba the top soil has been entirely removed from exposed fields, in some cases to the lower lying land, smothering the grain there.

As an instance of the localized character of the rains Brandon has had practically no rain this spring and for an area of about 25 miles around the city the pastures are dried up and the late sown crops are at a standstill. At points just outside this radius good rains have been received. Northern Manitoba appears to have had a fair amount of rain but in southern Manitoba the crops on the whole have suffered as a result of dry weather.

Saskatchewan, as a whole, seems to be the most favored province so far this year. In the Saskatoon district rains have come just about when needed and on June 15 conditions were about ideal. The crops around Regina were not quite so far advanced but recent good rains have brought along the crop in the Regina and Moose Jaw districts very well. Conditions in the Swift Current and Maple Creek districts and along the Goose Lake line are also reported to be good. The North Battleford district has experienced a prolonged drought this year. On June 15 the crops were looking very backward and pasture was practically burned up.

From early in May until the first week of June rain in central western Alberta were almost continuous. The district affected extended from High River to Red Deer and east to the centre of the province. Over this field too much rain was recorded and seeding was considerably retarded. Up to the middle of June not more than 10 per cent. of the crop was sown in some localities where there would still be time to sow oats and barley. Up to June 1 the Medicine Hat and Edmonton districts were having rather dry, sunny weather. Rains, however, were recorded in both places during the first week in June, and from that time on, conditions have been fairly promising.

Looking at the situation over the whole three-prairie provinces, it is certain that there will be poor crops in some districts, if not partial crop failures; while other districts bid fair to have crops practically equalling the best of those of the last two years. Other districts again will have just medium crops. It is inadvisable, of course, to attempt any prophecy at this season, because western Canada has such a remarkable power of recovery that a forecast based on conditions in the middle of June may be very materially, if not entirely, altered by the end of the season.

Denmark is a farmer state. It has a farmer parliament, a farmer ministry, a farmer point of view. Its legislation is that of the farmer, too.—Frederick C. Howe.

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