

# Crops Holding Up Well In The West

Wheat Harvesting Will Be General Next Week—Manitoba and Saskatchewan Have Already Commenced—Alberta a Little Backward—Rust and Hail Have Done Very Little Damage So Far, But There is Still a Possibility of Reduction in Quality From Those Causes

**C**ROP conditions in the west are very satisfactory in view of the weather conditions which have prevailed during the latter part of June and nearly all of July, according to the fifth crop report of the "Manitoba Free Press." The report shows that in Manitoba wheat cutting is general at 22 points and will be general at the remaining 52 shortly; 22 points report average yields of 18 bushels or better, many of these quoting 25 and 30; the lowest yield mentioned is 8 bushels, the highest 40, so the range is sufficiently wide; 45 points need rain to finish filling late wheat and coarse grains, and more than half these points report the need as urgent and damage accruing from the intense heat.

With regard to rust, it is reported present at 41 points out of the 74; only ten points report any considerable damage from it, only one point reports the damage serious. It is evident the rust has come too late to be a serious menace, but will take toll of the late grain.

Hail damage is very slight, as only one point reports it serious and four as considerable. The query as to frost was put in to satisfy a number of inquirers who were apprehensive of some of the nights round the full of the July moon. Every point in Manitoba reported "no frost." Coarse grains are a very mixed assortment and the returns as to flax conditions not very bright. Large numbers of harvest hands are needed, the greatest number for any one point in Manitoba being 300. A number of points report that farmers will not pay the wages asked and are managing amongst themselves. This is possible to some extent this year as crops are not all coming in together as they do sometimes.

## Wheat Harvesting General

Wheat harvesting in Saskatchewan is general and 46 out of 110 points report estimated averages of yield of 18 bushels and better. The highest estimate made is 30 and the lowest three; in regard to rain it is wanted at 46 points and practically all of them want it pretty badly for the filling of late wheat and coarse grains; only 16 points report rust and of these 12 report considerable damage already, especially to late wheat; a few points report rust on barley; hail damage is slight and appears to be confined to small areas in districts; one point reports slight frost damage. Coarse grains are similar to Manitoba and run all the way from very poor to excellent, but it is evident the oat and barley proposition in Saskatchewan is still very largely dependent on rain to help filling; flax is much in the same condition, quite a number of points reporting flax seriously injured by excessive heat. The demand for farm help runs very high and runs all the way from 20 to 2,000 at one point.

Wheat harvest will be slightly later in Alberta than in either Manitoba or Saskatchewan, and will hardly be general much before August 23rd. Estimate of wheat yield runs from five to 40 bushels, but 30 out of the 39 points heard from make the yield 18 bushels or better with the 25-bushel crops well in the lead. Rain is badly needed, as 23 points out of 38 indicate that unless there is more the shrink in coarse grains will be serious. No rust is reported from any point in Alberta. It will be remembered that in 1916, when rust was bad in the other provinces, Alberta was largely immune.

There is slightly more hail damage in Alberta than in the other provinces, though it is not very serious even there. No frost. Conditions as to coarse grains and flax are very similar to the other provinces. Demand for labor is large and runs from 20 at one point to 1,500 at another.

All the provinces report winter rye as cut and in stock and at a few points it is threshed. There is a lot of the early barley cut and a small percentage of early oats.

On the whole, this is a mighty good showing on the sample of weather which has been furnished. To a very considerable extent the wheat crop is made as to quantity, though there is still the possibility of reduction in quality from heat, rust and hail.

## Fall Wheat Yield

According to figures of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics based on conditions as at July 31 the preliminary estimate of the yield per acre of fall wheat for Canada is 23¼ bushels, as compared with 23¾ bushels last year and with 22½ bushels, the decennial average for the period 1910-19. The yield per acre is, therefore, ¾ of a bushel over average. The harvested area this year is 740,300 acres, as compared with 672,793 acres last year, and the total yield, in round numbers, is 17 million bushels, as against 16 million bushels last year. In Ontario the total yield for 1920 is 15,831,000 bushels from 688,300 acres, an average yield per acre of 23 bushels, as compared with 15,052,000 bushels from 619,494 acres, and an average per acre of 24.30 bushels last year. In Alberta the yield this year is 935,000 bushels as against 640,000 bushels last year, the yield per acre being 24.60 bushels as against 15¾ bushels. In British Columbia the yield is 357,000 bushels from 14,000 acres, as compared with 314,000 bushels from 12,699 acres last year, the respective yields per acre being 25.50 and 34.75.

The total yield of hay and clover in Canada is estimated at 1,2853,900 tons from 10,409,150 acres, an average per acre of 1.25 ton, as compared with last year's record total of 16,348,000 tons. Of alfalfa the total estimate is 388,700 tons for the first cutting, as compared with last year's final total of 494,200 tons.

## Condition of Other Field Crops

For spring wheat the condition at the end of July has fallen by 8 points as compared with a month ago, the figure now being 92 per cent. of the decennial average, as against 100, or just average a month ago. The deterioration has been caused by continued dry, hot weather during the earlier part of July in Saskatchewan where more than half the spring wheat crop is grown. In many districts, however, good rains fell about July 22 or 23, just in time to save a large proportion of the crops. The good effect of these rains should be reflected in the next report. In Saskatchewan the condition both for wheat and oats is 89, as compared with 100 last month and 73 at the end of July, 1919. In Manitoba the condition for spring wheat is 94 as against 103 last month and 92 on July 31, 1919, oats being 92 as against 102 in June and 92 in July, 1919. In Alberta spring wheat and oats are 98, as against 100 for wheat and 98 for oats last month and 70 for both crops in July last year. In the other provinces the condition of wheat and oats is as follows: Prince Edward Island—Wheat 102, oats 94; Nova Scotia—Wheat 96, oats 97; New Brunswick—Wheat and oats 99; Quebec—Wheat 102, oats 105; Ontario—Spring wheat 95, oats 105; British Columbia—Spring wheat 95, oats 96. For all Canada the condition of other crops in percentage of the decennial average is as follows, the figures for last month and for July 31, 1919, being given in brackets: Barley 95 (98 and 85); rye 95 (98 and 88); peas 102 (96 and 92); beans 103 (95 in 1919); buckwheat 101 (94 in 1919); mixed grains 105 (99 and 89); flaxseed 93 (74 in 1919); corn for husking 95 (86 in 1919); potatoes 104 (98 and 88); turnips, etc., 95 (88 in 1919); fodder corn 86 (93 in 1919); pasture 96 (94 and 93).