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FRUIT REPORT NO. 4.

Ottawa, September 26, 1935. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the Fruit Branch of the Department of Agriculture and Provincial Departments of Agriculture to-day issued a report showing the condition of fruit crops in Canada together with preliminary estimates of 1935 production.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND. - The weather during August was very dry and warm but during the first few weeks of September excessive rains occurred. Apples sized up well after the breaking of the drought and were also colouring nicely. Reports, however, state that apples are not as large and are not colouring as well as in previous years. Very little insect damage has been reported except from worms in a few orchards.

NOVA SCOTIA. - The drought during August resulted in decreasing the size of apples but since that time seasonable showers and sunshine have helped the sizing and colouring, especially of the McIntosh, Cortland and all red varieties. Shipments are now going forward to overseas markets. High winds on September 5 may materially reduce the size of the crop in certain sections, but in the Annapolis Valley damage was slight. Very little damage from insects and fungous pests was reported. A good clean crop of plums is expected in most districts although the hot weather caused early maturing. In spite of the reduction in the apple crop from drought and winds, production is still expected to be at least as high as that of last year.

NEW BRUNSWICK. - Exceptionally high temperatures during August caused some loss to the apple crop through premature dropping of early varieties. Apples are reported to be not quite normal in size but are colouring exceptionally well. The crop is clean and generally free from insect and disease damage in well-sprayed orchards. Considerable damage from worms is reported where orchards are unsprayed.

QUEBEC. - In the Montreal district climatic conditions have been generally favourable; McIntosh are of average size and the colouring is good. Picking of Wealthy is general and early varieties are almost finished. In general, crop is light. In Quebec district, conditions are normal, fruits are growing well; quality is fair and colouring very good. Yield will be about normal.

ONTARIO. - In Eastern Ontario apples are sizing slightly under average on account of the dry spell. There is plenty of moisture now, however. In Western Ontario apples are sizing and colouring very well. Commercial orchards are quite free from diseases and insect injury, but in many unsprayed orchards crops are practically unfit for sale. A severe and continuous drought has had the effect of reducing the size of tree fruits in the Niagara Peninsula, especially peaches, plums and pears. A very heavy peach crop is now being marketed but large sizes are scarce as most orchards were not properly thinned. With the dry weather conditions even a moderate thinning was not sufficient this year. The fruit is exceptionally free from rot and insect pests. Quite a number of older peach trees are reported dying. Pears are only a small crop, less than the short crop of last year, and are in fairly strong demand at higher prices. Plums are very clean but are sizing small. A heavy export movement of plums is reported with 60 cars being sent from Grimsby district, 30 cars from St. Catharines, and 10 or 15 cars from Burlington. Drought and hopper damage have affected the grape crop and forced a reduction in earlier estimates. The yield this year is expected to show a reduction of 10% from last year. The clusters of grapes are reported small.

BRITISH COLUMBIA. - The weather on Vancouver Island has been generally favourable so that apples have sized and coloured well. In the Okanagan Valley, the early apples were of medium size. Later varieties show considerable variation by districts, with some good clean crops and others damaged by scab and mildew. On the whole, quality will be high, especially McIntosh. In the Kootenay district, apples sized and coloured very rapidly in early September.

Preliminary Estimates of Production

Nova Scotia

	<u>1935</u>	<u>1934</u>
Apples (barrels)	1,800,000	1,800,000

New Brunswick

Apples (barrels)	35,000	30,000
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Quebec

Apples (barrels)	150,000	121,000
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Ontario

Apples (barrels)	426,000	320,610
Peaches (bushels)	674,800	337,432
Plums and Prunes (bushels)	80,000	66,390
Pears (bushels)	161,000	201,800

British Columbia

Apples (boxes)	4,975,200	4,857,100
Pears (boxes)	226,500	205,100
Plums and Prunes (crates)	354,490	345,300
Peaches (crates)	120,400	207,500
Apricots (crates)	122,300	224,200

CANADA

Apples (barrels)	4,069,400	3,891,000
Pears (bushels)	312,000	344,000
Plums and Prunes (bushels)	198,163	187,000
Peaches (bushels)	714,933	407,000
Apricots (bushels)	40,767	75,000

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