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CONDITION OF FRUIT CROPS IN JUNE, 1951S U M M A R Y

As it is still too early to obtain estimates of production of the fruit crops in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec, no Canadian totals are as yet available. The general indications are that in these provinces good crops of apples and strawberries will be harvested. However, apple scab is reported throughout the area and the final outturn may be affected as a result. In Ontario all fruit crops, with the exception of grapes, will be heavier than in 1950 according to the first estimates. Although grapes show a decline since last year a very heavy crop is still in prospect. In British Columbia the apple, cherry, strawberry and loganberry crops are all expected to be lighter than those of a year ago. On the other hand, substantial increases in pears, peaches and apricots are in prospect with moderate improvement expected in plums and prunes, raspberries and grapes.

The outlook for the fruit crops in Nova Scotia is generally promising although it is too early to indicate the size of the crops. While heavy frosts in the Annapolis Valley caused some injury to apple blossoms only Gravenstein were seriously affected. Canker worn and tent caterpillar damage is reported in a few orchards that have not been sprayed. Elsewhere, however, trees are practically free of insect damage. Apple scab is also reported but as yet the damage is only slight. The trees generally are growing rapidly as a result of abundant moisture supplies. Pear trees were not affected by the frost at the beginning of the month and a good crop of fruit is looked for. Early strawberry blossoms, however, were destroyed and there is some uncertainty as to the size of the crop. Due to the prolonged cool, wet weather picking has been delayed and is one week behind last year. In New Brunswick, it is still too early to estimate the size of the apple crop as the "drop" will continue for some time yet. It is expected that the McIntosh variety will be lighter than that of a year ago but the Cortland variety will produce the heaviest crop ever harvested in the province. Apple scab is reported in most orchards. The outbreak is thought to have started during the wet weather that prevailed during the blooming period. While no estimates of the size of the strawberry crop are as yet available production is expected to exceed that of last year. Picking commenced during the third week of June and should be at the peak at the end of the month. Raspberry canes are growing well but no estimates of production have yet been made. In Quebec it is also still too early for estimates to be made of the fruit crops. In the apple orchards the "drop" is in progress and will continue for some time. Apple scab is reported generally throughout the fruit growing areas and is the result of frequent rains. The strawberry production in the Montreal area has been heavy and the season has lasted longer than expected. A heavy crop is also looked for in the lower St. Lawrence district. No reports are yet available on the prospects for raspberries. In Ontario good growing has been general throughout the province since the last report. All types of fruit trees are in good

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- 2 -

growing condition and present indications are that the 1951 crops will be heavy. Frequent rains and cool weather have promoted the development of apple scab and the disease is general throughout the province. Most growers are therefore applying additional sprays. The fruit crops, with one exception, are all expected to be heavier than in 1950. The exception is the grape crop which is at present estimated at one percent below the 1950 level. The first estimates of production by kinds, with comparable figures for 1950 in brackets are as follows: Apples 3,415,000 bu. (2,855,000 bu.); pears 505,000 bu. (483,000 bu.); plums and prunes 314,000 bu. (276,000 bu.); peaches 1,249,000 bu. (1,139,000 bu.); cherries 280,000 bu. (275,000 bu.); strawberries 9,729,000 qts. (8,702,000 qts.); raspberries 4,023,000 qts. (3,292,000 qts.); grapes 106,670,000 lb. (107,730,000 lb.).

In British Columbia the current estimates of production of fruit in 1951 show declines for apples, cherries, strawberries and loganberries. The decline in apple production is the result of the continuing effect of the severe winter of 1949-50. The June estimates of production in 1951, by kinds, with the latest estimates for 1950 in brackets are as follows: Apples 6,774,000 bu. (8,782,000 bu.); pears 567,000 bu. (359,000 bu.); plums and prunes 306,000 bu. (268,000 bu.); cherries 76,000 bu. (91,000 bu.); peaches 492,000 bu. (81,000 bu.); apricots 62,000 bu. (21,000 bu.); strawberries 9,191,000 qts. (11,208,000 qts.); raspberries 7,503,000 qts. (7,356,000 qts.); loganberries 829,000 lb. (953,000 lb.); grapes 1,570,000 lb. (1,539,000 lb.).