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Memorandum

F.V.R. No. 7

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FIRST ESTIMATE OF COMMERCIAL FRUIT PRODUCTION 1954 AND PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES
OF PLANTED ACREAGES OF CERTAIN VEGETABLES GROWN FOR SALE IN NOVA SCOTIA,
NEW BRUNSWICK, QUEBEC, ONTARIO AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Information on estimates of production of fruits and crop conditions as set out in this release is based on reports made as of the middle of August for Ontario and British Columbia and during the latter part of August for the Maritimes and Quebec. Accordingly all estimates apply to the situation as it existed at the time when the reports concerned were made.

Apples

The 1954 apple crop is now placed at 13.2 million bushels, an increase of 12 per cent from last year. Present conditions point to larger crops in all apple producing areas except British Columbia and New Brunswick where expectations for production are the same as in 1953. The largest proportional increase is in Nova Scotia where the 1954 crop is estimated to be twice as great as last year. The Quebec crop is about six per cent above 1953. In most apple growing districts crop prospects have improved somewhat from conditions one month ago. The rainfall in Ontario subsequent to a prolonged dry spell in July, and warmer weather in British Columbia have contributed to the improved conditions. Apples in Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia are reported to be sizing well.

Pears

Current estimates place the 1954 pear crop at 1.2 million bushels, 14 per cent less than in 1953. Decreased production is reported from both Ontario and British Columbia, the principal pear producing provinces. However, more favourable weather recently experienced in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia has resulted in some improvement in the pear crop in that province in recent weeks.

Plums and Prunes

The 1954 production of plums and prunes is estimated at 790,000 bushels, two per cent above that of last year. Plums and prunes are the only soft fruits to produce larger crops in 1954 than in 1953. This year's higher production is due almost entirely to an increased crop in British Columbia. Plums and prunes were not as severely damaged by late spring frosts as were other soft fruits in that province.

Peaches

The current estimate places the 1954 peach crop at 2.5 million bushels, 12 per cent less than in 1953. The Ontario crop of 2.2 million bushels is down from last year by four per cent while peach production in British Columbia, presently placed at 277,000 bushels, is just about half of that of last year.

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Apricots

The apricot crop, produced entirely in British Columbia, is estimated at 120,000 bushels, 27 per cent less than in 1953.

Cherries

Cherry production this year now stands at 404,000 bushels, ten per cent below 1953. Latest estimates for Ontario place the 1954 crop at 330,000 bushels, three per cent greater than 1953 while in British Columbia this year's crop is estimated at 74,000 bushels, 43 per cent less than last year. Present estimates in both Ontario and British Columbia are somewhat higher than those earlier in the year, reflecting improved conditions in these two provinces during the last few weeks.

Strawberries

Latest available figures place the 1954 strawberry crop at 28.5 million quarts, five per cent below 1953. Strawberry estimates in all provinces except Ontario remain unchanged from those published a month ago. In Ontario there has been a slight downward revision to 7.8 million quarts, 15 per cent less than last year. This year, dry weather at harvest time reduced the Ontario crop. Production in Quebec, however, was substantially higher at 8.5 million quarts, 89 per cent greater than in 1953. There were also increases in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick while the Nova Scotia crop was the same as in 1953.

Raspberries

A raspberry crop of 15.6 million quarts was harvested this year, three per cent higher than last year. The British Columbia production of 12.6 million quarts was 1,000,000 quarts or nine per cent higher than in 1953. Ontario's raspberry production of 2.5 million quarts was 21 per cent below that of 1953, dry weather during picking having brought about much of this decline. Raspberry crops in Quebec and New Brunswick were better this year than last and in Nova Scotia the 1954 production equalled that of 1953.

Regional Summary

Nova Scotia

The Nova Scotia apple crop is sizing and colouring well with a minimum of spot and insect damage reported. The crop is now estimated at 2.2 million bushels, about twice last year's small crop of 1.1 million bushels. Some of the early varieties were being harvested by August 25th with picking of Gravensteins expected to start by about the beginning of September.

The Nova Scotia raspberry crop is now placed at 37,000 quarts the same as in 1953. Rain during the last part of July was credited with the increase from previously anticipated levels of production. The blueberry crop is expected to be well above that of 1953. Harvesting has commenced throughout the province and berries have sized well with no worm damage reported in sprayed fields.

There have been no changes since the last report in the estimates of pears (40,000 bushels), plums and prunes (20,000 bushels) and strawberries (715,000 quarts) in Nova Scotia.

New Brunswick

It is now expected that apple production in New Brunswick will be unchanged from last year's relatively low crop of 260,000 bushels. Wet weather and lack of sunshine have been unfavourable factors in the apple situation this year.

Raspberry production is estimated at 50,000 quarts, 32 per cent above that of last year. Wet weather resulted in softening of the fruit which meant somewhat smaller production than had been anticipated earlier. Strawberry estimates remain unchanged at 775,000 quarts, 11 per cent above the 1953 crop. An average blueberry crop is expected in New Brunswick. In the Charlotte County area berries are of a good size and quality, and reports indicate somewhat better production than last year. In Gloucester and Northumberland Counties, however, the crop is reported to be below average with only one half of last year's production expected in some areas.

Quebec

Latest estimates place the 1954 apple crop in Quebec at 1.8 million bushels, six per cent higher than in 1953. Heavy winds prevailed during the latter part of August and were responsible for more windfall losses. Although the most severely affected varieties were those which had reached maturity, the later varieties including McIntosh suffered to some extent. Apples are sizing in a satisfactory fashion in orchards planted on gravelly soils, but sizing is disappointing on heavy soils. Some damage from hail and scab infection is reported. However, on trees in well sprayed orchards the fruit is reported to be good to excellent in quality.

Melbas are now being picked. It is reported that in the principal Melba producing district the crop is somewhat less than had previously been expected.

The production of strawberries and raspberries in Quebec remains unchanged from the previous estimates of 8.5 million quarts of strawberries, 89 per cent above the 1953 production and 350,000 quarts of raspberries, 17 per cent above last year.

Ontario

Production this year of apples, cherries and grapes is estimated to be above 1953 while crops of all other fruits are placed somewhat lower. Dry weather experienced during early and mid-July was unfavourable for most fruit crops in Ontario. Rains later that month and in August overcame the effects of the drought to some extent.

Apple production in Ontario in 1954 is estimated at 2.8 million bushels, seven per cent higher than in 1953. In western Ontario where approximately two-thirds of the crop (1.9 million bushels in 1954) is produced, reports indicate improved sizing as better supplies of moisture followed the drought existing at mid-July. However, codling moth activity and scab and windfall losses have to some extent offset the more favourable weather. Colouring is reported to be satisfactory in currently maturing varieties. In eastern Ontario it is estimated that the apple crop will be about 973,000 bushels, a 27 per cent increase over last season's production. McIntosh and Spy varieties particularly appear to have a heavier crop than reported earlier. In the section from Toronto to Kingston sizing was retarded due

to dry weather in the latter part of June and most of July. However, rain during the early part of August improved the situation and McIntosh and other late varieties are showing good development in most orchards. Moisture conditions in the St. Lawrence counties have been satisfactory. All varieties are colouring well. It is reported, however, that scab on the fruit will result in downgrading of a proportion of the crop. Late sprays have been applied to prevent secondary scab infection of the fruit. Insects are well controlled in most orchards. It is expected that McIntosh picking will be at least one week earlier than usual this year.

Total production of pears in Ontario is placed at 674,000 bushels, 11 per cent below 1953 but the quality is expected to be good. Fireblight and psylla damage is lighter than in 1953. All varieties of pears are showing considerable improvement in size in western Ontario but prospects for Bartletts and Kieffers are below last year. The Bartlett crop is estimated at 220,000 bushels and Kieffers at 370,000 bushels. Certain varieties are now ready in the Niagara district. In eastern Ontario, pear yields are estimated at 40 per cent less than in 1953. The total crop in this section is estimated at only 4,500 bushels.

The 1954 Ontario crop of plums and prunes is estimated at 482,000 bushels, six per cent less than in 1953. In western Ontario the harvest of Japanese types is practically completed. European varieties are now producing in volume but size and quality of the fruit are reported to be quite variable. A heavy crop of prunes is in good condition. In eastern Ontario all varieties of plums and prunes are light this year.

The Ontario cherry crop estimate for 1954 has now been placed at 330,000 bushels, three per cent higher than the 1953 crop. Final production of sweet cherries at 67,000 bushels was slightly better than had been expected earlier in the season although still below last year. Sour cherry production in western Ontario is now estimated at 255,000 bushels, up this year by about 12 per cent. The set of fruit had been heavy in most areas but dry weather curtailed sizing. In eastern Ontario the total crop of sour cherries is placed at 8,000 bushels, about 50 per cent of the previous season's yield.

Latest estimates place the 1954 Ontario strawberry crop at 7.8 million quarts, 15 per cent less than in 1953. This is slightly below previous figures. Excessive heat and lack of adequate moisture prior to picking, particularly in western Ontario, reduced the crop this year. It is reported, however, that new plantings in western Ontario are in good condition in most of the important producing areas.

The Ontario raspberry crop is estimated at 2.5 million quarts, 21 per cent down from 1953. Raspberries were seriously affected by drought during the harvest.

Present indications are that the 1954 grape crop will be 86.0 million pounds, 10 per cent higher than last year. Reports state that bunches are plentiful although mildew is causing some losses of individual berries.

British Columbia

The 1954 British Columbia apple crop is now placed at 6,000,000 bushels, the same as in 1953. Production of all tender tree fruits except plums and prunes is substantially lower than last year. Production of all small fruits except raspberries is also down.

Mid-August reports from the interior of British Columbia stated that during the first two weeks of August the weather had been generally warm and clear. Apples in the Kelowna district were reported to be sizing well and the outlook was more favourable than it had appeared earlier. Yellow transparents had been harvested in some orchards; the first mature Duchess apples were being picked by about the middle of August in the Vernon district. Farther north in the Okanagan final thinning operations had been completed prior to the middle of August. In the Salmon Arm section the apple scab situation was extremely variable. Growers were applying sprays to control codling moth and scab in this district.

Pears were sizing slowly in the Kelowna district with some fire-blight reported in a few orchards. Farther south in the Summerland section of the Okanagan Valley, the pear crop is shaping up fairly well. Harvesting of Bartlett pears was expected to start soon after August 15th near Osoyoos. Although the British Columbia cherry crop is placed at 74,000 bushels, 43 per cent less than last year's, good crops were harvested in the district around Summerland. The crop, however, was very late in that section. Apricots were maturing slowly by about mid-August. Because of the light crop the fruit tends to be large. The apricot harvest was described as well advanced during the early part of August at the southern end of the Okanagan Valley. Apricot production in British Columbia is placed at 120,000 bushels, 27 per cent less than in 1953. The British Columbia peach crop estimated at 277,000 bushels is only about 50 per cent as large as in 1953. Some peaches had started moving prior to mid-August and picking in volume was anticipated during the latter part of the month.

Weather conditions during the two weeks ending August 10th were clear and dry on Vancouver Island. The Lower Fraser Valley reported similar weather until August 3rd when there was rain followed by lower temperatures and overcast skies. Strawberries were over with the exception of everbearers in the Lower Fraser Valley which were developing a good crop. The crop estimate is placed at 9.9 million quarts, 30 per cent down from 1953. Raspberries were almost over on Vancouver Island but harvesting was at the peak in the Lower Mainland area at the time of reporting. Quality was good but in some areas yields were lower than expected. The 1954 raspberry crop is estimated at 12.6 million quarts, nine per cent above 1953. Loganberry production is estimated at 1.5 million pounds, ten per cent below 1953. Grape production at 2.0 million pounds is twelve per cent below 1953.

This report was prepared in the Agriculture Division of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from information received from the various Provincial Departments of Agriculture, the Quebec Provincial Bureau of Statistics and the Canada Department of Agriculture. The material for Ontario was submitted by the Ontario Committee on Fruit and Vegetable Statistics.

First Estimates of Fruit Production, 1954, with Comparable
Estimates for 1953

Kind of Fruit	Production in Volumetric Units			Production in Tons ^{1/}	
	Unit	1953	1954	1953	1954
		'000	'000	tons	tons
Canada -					
Apples	bu.	11,731	13,182		
Pears	bu.	1,435	1,227	35,375	30,675
Plums & prunes	bu.	775	790	19,375	19,750
Peaches	bu.	2,893	2,532	72,325	63,300
Apricots	bu.	165	120	4,125	3,000
Cherries	bu.	449	404	11,225	10,100
Strawberries	qt.	30,075	28,543	18,797	17,839
Raspberries	qt.	15,113	15,551	9,446	9,719
Loganberries	lb.	1,687	1,518	844	759
Grapes	lb.	80,533	88,002	40,266	44,001
Prince Edward Island -					
Strawberries	qt.	708	780	442	488
Nova Scotia -					
Apples	bu.	1,087	2,244		
Pears	bu.	32	40	800	1,000
Plums & prunes	bu.	10	20	250	500
Strawberries	qt.	715	715	447	447
Raspberries	qt.	37	37	23	23
New Brunswick -					
Apples	bu.	260	260		
Strawberries	qt.	700	775	438	484
Raspberries	qt.	38	50	24	31
Quebec -					
Apples	bu.	1,740	1,840		
Strawberries	qt.	4,500	8,500	2,812	5,312
Raspberries	qt.	300	350	188	219
Ontario -					
Apples	bu.	2,642	2,833		
Pears	bu.	754	674	18,850	16,850
Plums & prunes	bu.	513	482	12,825	12,050
Peaches	bu.	2,350	2,255	58,750	56,375
Cherries	bu.	319	330	7,975	8,250
Strawberries	qt.	9,255	7,835	5,784	4,897
Raspberries	qt.	3,182	2,518	1,989	1,574
Grapes	lb.	78,268	86,000	39,134	43,000

First Estimates of Fruit Production, 1954, with Comparable
Estimates for 1953

Kind of Fruit	Production in Volumetric Units			Production in Tons ^{1/}	
	Unit	1953	1954	1953	1954
		'000	'000	tons	tons
British Columbia -					
Apples	bu.	6,002	6,005		
Pears	bu.	649	513	16,225	12,825
Plums & prunes	bu.	252	288	6,300	7,200
Peaches	bu.	543	277	13,575	6,925
Apricots	bu.	165	120	4,125	3,000
Cherries	bu.	130	74	3,250	1,850
Strawberries	qt.	14,197	9,938	8,873	6,211
Raspberries	qt.	11,556	12,596	7,222	7,872
Loganberries	lb.	1,687	1,518	844	759
Grapes	lb.	2,265	2,002	1,132	1,001

^{1/} The original estimates secured by the Bureau were stated in measures of volume (except loganberries and grapes). These were converted to tons at the following rates; 1 quart of strawberries or raspberries = 1.25 pounds and 1 bushel of all other fruits = 50 pounds (net weights).

Estimated Planted Acreages for Commercial Production
of Certain Vegetables, 1954.

The accompanying tables show preliminary estimates of planted commercial acreages of the thirteen vegetables specified, in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia for 1954 with comparable figures for 1953. All estimates include acreage planted for processing and for sale on the fresh market. Not included are any crops grown either on farms or elsewhere for home consumption only. The estimates for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec were based on the response received to a mail-questionnaire survey of a random sample of growers reporting sales of vegetables to the 1951 census. Estimates were prepared in co-operation with the provincial departments of Agriculture and the Quebec Bureau of Statistics. Vegetable acreage estimates for Ontario were prepared by an inter-departmental committee on fruit and vegetable statistics. The British Columbia estimates are those published by the Provincial Department of Agriculture.

Total planted acreage in the provinces for which estimates are available was very close to that of 1953 although there were some variations in the different crops and different areas. The planted acreage in 1953 was considerably lower than in 1952 due to substantially reduced plantings of three of the most important canning crops; corn, peas and tomatoes. This was particularly significant in Ontario the most important vegetable producing province. In 1954 the total acreage of these three crops (excluding Manitoba and Alberta) was practically the same as in 1953.

It is anticipated that estimates of planted commercial vegetable acreages in Manitoba and Alberta will be published later this year.

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Preliminary Estimates of Planted Commercial Acreages of Certain
Vegetables in 1954 with Comparable Figures for 1953.

	<u>Canada^{1/}</u>		<u>Nova Scotia</u>		<u>New Brunswick</u>	
	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954
	- acres -					
Asparagus	3,000	3,080 ^{2/}				
Beans	8,220	7,440	420	400	140	150
Beets	3,130	3,280	100	70	100	170
Cabbage	5,730	5,490	240	300	130	120
Carrots	6,570	7,590	620	620	150	150
Cauliflower	2,320	1,970				
Celery	2,260	2,580				
Corn	32,340	31,830	400	300	150	130
Lettuce	4,510	5,460				
Onions	6,080	5,520				
Peas	32,300	36,130	1,290	1,720	270	270
Spinach	1,380	1,410				
Tomatoes	41,040	36,830	200	290	150	180
Totals	148,880	148,610	3,270	3,700	1,090	1,170

	<u>Quebec</u>		<u>Ontario</u>		<u>British Columbia</u>	
	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954
	- acres -					
Asparagus	280	400	2,540	2,680	180	3/
Beans	4,600	3,470	1,620	1,950	1,440	1,470
Beets	1,330	1,410	1,240	1,290	360	340
Cabbage	1,900	1,470	2,900	3,020	560	580
Carrots	1,940	2,800	2,960	3,150	900	870
Cauliflower	900	550	990	1,020	430	400
Celery	530	1,020	1,100	1,000	630	560
Corn	8,900	8,410	20,740	20,830	2,150	2,160
Lettuce	1,310	1,860	2,510	2,960	690	640
Onions	920	990	4,170	3,760	990	770
Peas	5,750	7,950	20,950	21,950	4,040	4,240
Spinach	230	320	710	750	440	340
Tomatoes	7,880	7,230	30,040	27,360	2,770	1,770
Totals	36,470	37,880	92,470	91,720	15,580	14,140

^{1/} Does not include area planted for commercial purposes in Manitoba and Alberta where acreages are not yet available.

^{2/} Excluding British Columbia.

^{3/} Not available.