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DOMINIC 22-003
no. 5
1955
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Published by Au

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CANADA



Department of Trade and Commerce

NE PAS PRÊTER

Memorandum

September 7, 1955

F.V.R. No. 7

Price \$1.00 for 1955 series

SECOND ESTIMATE OF THE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF FRUITS, 1955,
AND REPORT ON CONDITIONS OF FRUIT CROPS IN AUGUST, 1955.

Apples: Latest estimates placed the 1955 apple crop at 17.98 million bushels, 3.5 million bushels or 24 per cent greater than last year. Indications pointed to larger crops in all producing provinces. Although the greatest proportional increase is anticipated in New Brunswick where the 1955 crop is expected to be 80 per cent above that of last year, the largest absolute increase in output is looked for in Nova Scotia where, if the crop forecast of 3.6 million bushels is realized, production will be more than 1.5 million bushels above last year. Increases of 23 per cent in Ontario, 27 per cent in Quebec and 6 per cent in British Columbia are also forecast.

Pears: The 1955 pear crop is estimated at 1.4 million bushels, 13 per cent above 1954. Increases of 12 per cent and 13 per cent are indicated in Ontario and British Columbia respectively. The present estimates are slightly smaller than those of last month in both of the two principal pear-producing provinces.

Plums and Prunes: The most recent estimates indicate a 1955 plum and prune crop of 768,000 bushels, 7 per cent above that of last year. Increases are expected in both British Columbia and Ontario, where most of these fruits are grown, as well as in Nova Scotia.

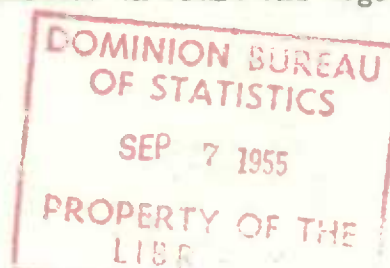
Peaches: The 1955 peach crop is estimated at 2.7 million bushels, 11 per cent above that of last year. A three per cent decline in the Ontario crop was more than offset by a very substantial increase in British Columbia where this year's production is more than double that of 1954. Last year's peach production in British Columbia was much smaller than usual due to spring frost damage.

Apricots: The apricot crop, produced entirely in British Columbia, is now estimated at 180,000 bushels, 53 per cent above last year.

Cherries: Cherry production this year now stands at 516,000 bushels, 3 per cent higher than in 1954. The Ontario crop of 402,000 bushels was two per cent below last year but the British Columbia output of 114,000 bushels was 27 per cent above last year.

1/ Material in this release is based on reports made on crop conditions during the latter part of August. This report was prepared in the Agriculture Division of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from information received from the various Provincial Departments of Agriculture and the Canada Department of Agriculture. The material for Ontario was submitted by the Ontario Committee on Fruit and Vegetable Statistics.

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Strawberries: Revised estimates during the last month have placed the 1955 strawberry crop at 22.5 million quarts, 20 per cent below that of last year. Production was up in the Maritime Provinces and Ontario but down in Quebec and British Columbia.

Raspberries: Latest figures indicate that the 1955 raspberry crop was 12.3 million quarts, 4 per cent below the previous year. Production was up in the important producing area of British Columbia where the 9.6 million quart crop was 4 per cent greater than in 1954, more than offsetting declines in production in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. There was also an increase in production in Nova Scotia.

Loganberries: The loganberry crop produced entirely in British Columbia was estimated at 1.5 million pounds, 39 per cent higher than last year.

Grapes: Latest estimates place the 1955 grape crop at 87.6 million pounds, 6 per cent below 1954. If the estimate of 85.6 million pounds for Ontario is realized, production will be 4 per cent below last year while in British Columbia the two million pound crop will exceed that of 1954 by 12 per cent.

Regional Summary

Maritime Provinces: Latest estimates indicate an apple crop in Nova Scotia of 3.6 million bushels, 67 per cent greater than in 1954. Recent rains have improved moisture conditions and the fruit was sizing and developing satisfactorily although colouring had been backward. It is expected, however, that with the more adequate moisture supplies the colour will improve. Insects and apple scab were well under control and a crop of above average quality was expected. It is anticipated that picking of early varieties including Gravenstein would be general by about September 8th. The New Brunswick apple crop estimate of 450,000 bushels is also substantially above that of 1954 being 80 per cent greater. The fruit was showing good sizing and colour and growing conditions during the latter part of August were described as excellent. Insects and diseases were well under control in commercial orchards.

Nova Scotia pear orchards were showing good prospects in late August. Although the fruit was developing satisfactorily, the crop was described as irregular. Harvesting was expected to start during the first week of September. Indications pointed to an outturn of approximately 45,000 bushels, 12 per cent above 1954. The plum crop was being harvested during the latter part of August with production estimated at 30,000 bushels, 50 per cent above that of last year.

The Nova Scotia raspberry crop has been placed at 40,000 quarts, 80 per cent above last year. This was somewhat lower than earlier expectations since hot, dry weather, particularly in the Annapolis Valley area, during the picking season reduced the yield. The New Brunswick raspberry crop is estimated at 45,000 quarts, 10 per cent below that of 1954. The blueberry crop in Nova Scotia was not expected to exceed that of last year due to lower yields in Cumberland County because of drought. Strawberry estimates for the three Maritime provinces remain unchanged from those published in the last report.

Quebec: Latest estimates on apple production in Quebec remain unchanged from those of last month and indicate a crop of 3.2 million bushels, 27 per cent above that of 1954. Reports indicate that the fruit is generally sizing and colouring well. Some codling moth damage is reported.

Strawberry production also remains unchanged at 5 million quarts, 41 per cent below the 1954 output of 8.5 million quarts. Raspberry production was also down.

300,000 quarts, 14 per cent below last year. Small fruit crops were seriously reduced by drought conditions in Quebec this summer.

Ontario: Latest estimates indicate increases over 1954 in this year's Ontario production of apples, pears, plums and prunes as well as strawberries. However, a small decline in peaches, cherries and grapes and a more substantial reduction in the raspberry crop are indicated. Hot, dry weather prevailed throughout most of the province during the early part of August. In Eastern Ontario four inches of rain fell during the week of August 7th throughout most of the fruit growing district while on August 13th a general rainfall broke the drought in Western Ontario. The wind storm accompanying the rain on August 13th caused some damage to fruit orchards, particularly properties situated on the lake front in the Niagara District. Reports indicate, however, that the overall benefits outweighed damage. By August 15th all crops were making rapid recovery from the drought and prospects were nearly normal.

The mid-August outlook was for an apple crop of 3.8 million bushels, 23 per cent above that of 1954. Sizing resumed with the rain. Early varieties were either harvested or in the process or being harvested in the more advanced areas. The later varieties were reported to be showing some colour. Some local damage and loss due to the wind storm at the middle of August was reported. It is anticipated that the pear crop will reach 746,000 bushels, 12 per cent above last year. By August 15th a heavy crop of Bartletts was nearly ready for picking in the Niagara district, Norfolk County and the Burlington area. The quality was good except for some frost russeting in the early areas. Clapps Favourite were moving to market in quantity and a substantial volume of Kieffers was sizing as were all the other varieties. In Eastern Ontario conditions suggested a heavy crop of Bartletts and as a result the fruit will be on the small side. The plum crop in Western Ontario was affected by the drought to a greater extent than other tree fruits and crop prospects shrank somewhat during August. Estimates at August 15th were for a 516,000 bushel crop, 6 per cent lighter than in 1954. By August 15th the Burbanks and "early medium blues" were ready in volume. In Eastern Ontario small size was reported due to dry weather earlier in the season, with early varieties in good supply on local markets.

Latest estimates indicate a peach crop of 2.1 million bushels, 3 per cent smaller than last year. Drought and heat had hampered sizing and brought about a considerable amount of one-sided ripening by the middle of August. Hot weather hastened maturity and the normal ripening intervals of the different varieties was not as apparent as usual this year. As a result an unusually heavy volume reached the market by August 15.

The total cherry crop was estimated at 402,000 bushels, 2 per cent below the 1954 production. Western Ontario sweet cherry orchards produced a heavy crop of excellent size and quality. The output of 87,000 bushels was 30 per cent above last year's crop. Sour cherry production was down considerably in the Niagara District which more than offset increases elsewhere, especially in the Georgian Bay area. Total production of this fruit was 296,000 bushels in Western Ontario. In Eastern Ontario sour cherry production, at 18,000 bushels, was 40 per cent above 1954. This was a better crop than had been anticipated earlier in the season due to the fruit having sized well in most orchards.

Latest estimates place the strawberry crop at 8.6 million quarts, 8 per cent above that of last year. Production was up in Western Ontario and down very considerably in the Eastern Counties where the crop of 633,000 quarts was only 55 per cent of that harvested in 1954. Dry weather was largely the cause of this reduction. In Western Ontario, plantations were seriously affected by the heat, with stolon formation being very slow; however plants were showing improvement after the rains of August 13th. Latest estimates place the 1955 raspberry crop at 2.3 million quarts, 27 per cent below 1954. This reduction is attributed to heat and drought in July. A grape crop estimated at 85.6 million pounds

was 6 per cent down from last year. The earliest varieties were expected to be harvested immediately after August 15th. All other varieties showed satisfactory developments except for localized hail damage and some berry moth in certain vineyards.

British Columbia: The weather throughout British Columbia was generally fine and warm during August with some very hot weather in the interior. All crops benefited but the season is still unusually late. Latest estimates indicate increases in the production of all fruit crops this year, with the exception of strawberries. The apple production estimate at 6.98 million bushels is 7 per cent above last year. All varieties are sizing well. Harvesting of Transparent and Duchess is nearly over and Wealthies are almost ready. Losses are reported due to scab in some orchards in the Kootenay area. Pear production at 631,000 bushels is 13 per cent above 1954. Some Bartletts have been harvested at the southern end of the Okanagan Valley. All varieties are sizing well.

Indications point to a plum and prune crop of 222,000 bushels, 6 per cent over 1954. Peaches at 597,000 bushels, are 120 per cent up from last year. This increase is due to the fact that the 1954 crop was much smaller than usual having been drastically reduced by spring frost that year. The early varieties of peaches are nearly finished and the "V's" are starting in most districts. The apricot crop, estimated at 180,000 bushels is 53 per cent greater than in 1954. Harvesting of apricots was under way in the Summerland area during the latter part of August and was finished at the southern end of the Valley. Quality and size were described as excellent in the Penticton district. The 1955 cherry crop in British Columbia has been placed at 114,000 bushels, 27 per cent above that of last year.

Strawberry production at 6.4 million quarts was 31 per cent below that of 1954. Infestation of two-spotted mites and aphids are reported in the Lower Mainland strawberry plantations. The raspberry crop, at 9.6 million quarts was 4 per cent above last year. Raspberry picking was practically over in the Fraser Valley by August 22nd. Fruit mould in some areas caused losses but cleared up with drier weather which saw an improvement in the quality of the fruit. By August 22nd the harvesting of loganberries was underway in the Fraser Valley and well past the peak on Vancouver Island. This crop was estimated at 1.5 million pounds, 38 per cent above last year. Grape production in British Columbia, estimated at almost 2 million pounds, will be 13 per cent higher than last year.

Second Estimate of Fruit Production, 1955, with Comparable
Figures for 1954

| Kind of Fruit | Production in Volumetric Units | | Production in Tons 1/ | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Unit | 1954 '000 | 1955 '000 | 1954 tons | 1955 tons |
| Canada - | | | | | |
| Apples | bu. | 14,500 | 17,981 | | |
| Pears | bu. | 1,261 | 1,422 | 31,525 | 35,550 |
| Plums and prunes | bu. | 716 | 768 | 17,900 | 19,200 |
| Peaches | bu. | 2,425 | 2,683 | 60,625 | 67,075 |
| Apricots | bu. | 118 | 180 | 2,950 | 4,500 |
| Cherries | bu. | 500 | 516 | 12,500 | 12,900 |
| Strawberries | qt. | 27,971 | 22,479 | 18,633 | 14,847 |
| Raspberries | qt. | 12,839 | 12,265 | 9,178 | 8,862 |
| Loganberries | lb. | 1,056 | 1,463 | 528 | 732 |
| Grapes | lb. | 92,774 | 87,596 | 46,387 | 43,798 |
| Prince Edward Island - | | | | | |
| Strawberries | qt. | 780 | 790 | 488 | 494 |
| Nova Scotia - | | | | | |
| Apples | bu. | 2,157 | 3,600 | | |
| Pears | bu. | 40 | 45 | 1,000 | 1,125 |
| Plums and prunes | bu. | 20 | 30 | 500 | 750 |
| Strawberries | qt. | 715 | 825 | 447 | 516 |
| Raspberries | qt. | 37 | 40 | 23 | 25 |
| New Brunswick - | | | | | |
| Apples | bu. | 250 | 450 | | |
| Strawberries | qt. | 775 | 850 | 484 | 531 |
| Raspberries | qt. | 50 | 45 | 31 | 28 |
| Quebec - | | | | | |
| Apples | bu. | 2,500 | 3,175 | | |
| Strawberries | qt. | 8,500 | 5,000 | 5,312 | 3,125 |
| Raspberries | qt. | 350 | 300 | 219 | 188 |
| Ontario - | | | | | |
| Apples | bu. | 3,071 | 3,779 | | |
| Pears | bu. | 664 | 746 | 16,600 | 18,650 |
| Plums and prunes | bu. | 486 | 516 | 12,150 | 12,900 |
| Peaches | bu. | 2,154 | 2,086 | 53,850 | 52,150 |
| Cherries | bu. | 410 | 402 | 10,250 | 10,050 |
| Strawberries | qt. | 7,992 | 8,638 | 4,995 | 5,399 |
| Raspberries | qt. | 3,170 | 2,306 | 1,981 | 1,441 |
| Grapes | lb. | 91,000 | 85,600 | 45,500 | 42,800 |



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Second Estimate of Fruit Production, 1955, with Comparable
Figures for 1954

| Kind of Fruit | Production in Volumetric Units | | Production in Tons 1/ | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Unit | 1954 '000 | 1955 '000 | 1954 tons | 1955 tons |
| British Columbia - | | | | | |
| Apples | bu. | 6,522 | 6,977 | | |
| Pears | bu. | 557 | 631 | 13,925 | 15,775 |
| Plums and prunes | bu. | 210 | 222 | 5,250 | 5,550 |
| Peaches | bu. | 271 | 597 | 6,775 | 14,925 |
| Apricots | bu. | 118 | 180 | 2,950 | 4,500 |
| Cherries | bu. | 90 | 114 | 2,250 | 2,850 |
| Strawberries | qt. | 9,209 | 6,376 | 6,907 | 4,782 |
| Raspberries | qt. | 9,232 | 9,574 | 6,924 | 7,180 |
| Loganberries | lb. | 1,056 | 1,463 | 528 | 732 |
| Grapes | lb. | 1,774 | 1,996 | 887 | 998 |

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 (except in British Columbia where the rate of 1 quart = 1.50 pounds was used) and one bushel of all other fruits = 50 pounds (net weight.)