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Dominion Statistician:	R. H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S. (Hon.)
Chief, Agricultural Branch:	T. W. Grindley, Ph.D.
In Charge, Horticultural Statistics:	R. E. Johnson, M.Sc.

Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report

Ottawa, September 21, 1938 - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the Fruit Branch of the Department of Agriculture and the Provincial Departments of Agriculture issues to-day a report showing the condition of fruit and vegetable crops throughout Canada with prospects for the current season. Preliminary estimates of production are given along with the revised estimates of the 1937 fruit crops.

SUMMARY

The general prospects of the Canadian fruit crop are very bright. The only crop showing any appreciable reduction from last year is grapes and a sharp decline in the estimates in Ontario accounted for the reduction in the Dominion totals. The only other province producing grapes is British Columbia, where a slight gain is shown. The apple crop continues to develop exceedingly well in all districts and the estimates show the crop to be only slightly below that of last year. A big improvement in crop prospects this month over last month is reported in Ontario, where an increase over last year is recorded. The crop throughout Canada is reported to be of high colour and the fruit is of better than normal size. Although side-worms and scab have caused some injury, chiefly in British Columbia and Ontario, the crop as a whole is reported to be generally clean. The pear crop throughout the Dominion is reported to be of exceptionally fine quality and estimates show a substantial increase over last year. Peaches, plums and cherries also record some increase over the 1937 crop and the quality is reported to be better than average. The vegetable crops have not responded to this year's growing conditions as well as the tree fruits. In Quebec and Ontario growers have experienced considerable difficulty in raising the late cabbage and cauliflower crops. The celery crop in Quebec was also adversely affected by the hot, dry weather in August, which produced a considerable loss from heart rot and seeding stems. The onion crop has suffered materially in Ontario and Quebec during September as a result of the wet weather. The lack of drying weather has caused some losses from rot. On the other hand, there has been ideal drying weather in both British Columbia and Manitoba.

Prince Edward Island

The weather has been generally cool with considerable rain. Winds during the past month have caused some dropping of the apples, reducing the marketable volume. The size of the fruit varies considerably, depending on the district. Insects and disease are reported to be generally well controlled, but some poorly sprayed orchards are reporting considerable loss from scab.

Nova Scotia

The weather for the most part has been fair and cool with scattered showers and occasional light frosts. The apples, as a result, are sizing exceptionally well. Although the colour is only moderately good on late varieties, the fall and early winter varieties are showing excellent colour. The crop is reported to be generally clean with only light infections of scab and side-worm. Provided weather conditions remain favourable during harvesting, the crop should equal that of 1937 in size, with some improvement in quality. The pear crop is also reported to be in very excellent condition, the fruit being very clean and of good size. The plum crop also is reported to be better than average in quality. Both plums and pears are now being exported and are in fine shipping condition. Apples are also beginning to move to European points with Gravenstein and Cox Orange being the chief varieties shipped at present.

The reports show that the vegetable crops are generally in good condition and heavy supplies are arriving continually on all local markets.

New Brunswick

Although the estimates of the apple crop are considerably below those of last year, the fruit is reported to be clean and sizing nicely. With cooler weather the fruit is colouring fairly well and insect and disease damage are at a minimum. The picking of Duchess is completed and the Dudleys are well under way. Apples are the only fruit crop showing a decrease from last year. This year's crop is now estimated to be 28,000 barrels, a reduction of 36 per cent from last year. The raspberry crop showed a substantial gain and is estimated at 60,000 quarts, an increase of 33 per cent over the previous crop. Strawberries also showed a gain estimated at 15 per cent over the 1937 crop with an estimated production of 1,500,000 quarts.

The tomato crop is considerably retarded by adverse weather conditions, the fruit ripening slowly and unevenly.

Most vegetable crops are reported to be growing well and are in good supply on the local markets. Cauliflowers, however, are scarce.

Quebec

Although the weather had been generally cool and rain storms frequent and heavy, the apple crop has developed normally and is showing very fine colour throughout the province. The fruit from all well-cared-for orchards is reported to be very clean and free from damage from either insects or disease. Although conditions are very favourable in most sections, in the Montreal area heavy winds are producing a considerable quantity of windfalls in exposed orchards. Light frosts in most sections did little or no damage, although peppers, beans and melons suffered somewhat in the Montreal section.

The tomato crop has been exceedingly fine this year, with supplies being abundant on all markets. Both cabbage and cauliflower have suffered considerably from the hot, dry weather during July and August, but with the cooler weather and abundant moisture, the cauliflower is improving in quality. Supplies, however, are still light. Cabbages, although firmer, are still small in size. With the continued wet weather growers are experiencing great difficulty in drying the onion crop. As a result losses from decay are considerable and only a fair crop is expected. The celery crop is also greatly affected by the weather with heart rot and seeding stems reducing the yields. Beets and carrots, on the other hand, are of exceedingly fine quality and the crop is expected to be heavy.

The apple crop estimates have again been reduced with production now placed at 142,000 barrels as compared with 177,000 barrels of a year ago, or a reduction of 20 per cent.

Ontario

Fruit - In eastern Ontario very favourable growing conditions have prevailed during the past month and the sizing and colour of most varieties of apples are above average. The codling moth, apple maggot, and white leaf hopper have caused considerable damage, but thorough spraying in most commercial orchards has resulted in very clean crops. The demand for export apples is reported by eastern Ontario to be quite keen with sales for local markets rather slow except in the St. Lawrence Valley district where there is a good demand at prices equal to last season.

In western Ontario, apples have developed well with size and colour stated to be exceptionally good, although some scab and infestation of side-worm is in evidence in many orchards. Fungus and insect pests are generally well controlled in commercial orchards where spraying was thoroughly carried out.

The total production of apples in Ontario this season is estimated at 825,400 barrels, which is an increase of 11 per cent above the 745,300 barrels picked in 1937. A gain of $37\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in eastern Ontario's crop more than offsets a 23 per cent decline in the anticipated production for western Ontario.

The plum crop is practically harvested with the exception of very late varieties. The quality and size are good. Total production is estimated at 57,700 bushels as against 56,000 last year. With the exception of some loss to peaches by brown rot, particularly in the Rochester variety, and a greater than usual amount of split-pits, the quality of the peach crop has been generally good. The September estimate places the yield at 552,000 bushels, a gain of approximately 5 per cent over a year ago.

The sizing and quality of pears are above average and there is very little insect injury. Late varieties will be harvested within the next two weeks. The August estimated production of 188,500 bushels has been raised to 192,600 bushels and represents an increase of 3 per cent over 1937.

Grapes generally have a 1 and 2-bunch set as compared with a 2 and 3-bunch set last year. As a result, the crop is estimated at 30 per cent below that of last year. Slight mildew, together with considerable leaf hopper injury, is expected to affect the development and the maturity somewhat. Blue grapes show a reduction of 31 per cent, whites 10 per cent and reds 2 per cent.

September Estimate of Fruit Production in Ontario Year 1938,
compared with the final figures for 1937.

	1937	Percentage Change		1938
		Increase	Decrease	
		p.c.	p.c.	
Eastern Ontario -				
Apples barrels	244,400	37½		336,000
Cherries bushels	16,400	5		17,200
Plums "	3,500		25	2,600
Peaches "	-			-
Pears "	8,000		10	7,200
Grapes tons	-			-
Western Ontario -				
Apples barrels	500,900		23	489,400
Cherries bushels	85,500	30		111,150
Plums "	52,500	5		55,100
Peaches "	525,700	5		552,000
Pears "	177,500	5		186,400
Grapes tons	26,000		30	18,200
Province -				
Apples barrels	745,300	11		825,400
Cherries bushels	101,900	26		128,350
Plums "	56,000	3		57,700
Peaches "	525,700	5		552,000
Pears "	185,500	5		192,600
Grapes tons	26,000		30	18,200

The estimated percentage changes from last year in the production of apples, by varieties, are as follows:

	Increase	Decrease
	p.c.	p.c.
Toronto East -		
Early varieties	No change	
Wealthy	5	
Snow	5	
McIntosh	10	
Baldwin		5
Greening	No change	
Spy	300	
Stark	15	
Other late varieties	20	
All Apples	37½	
Toronto West -		
Early varieties		20
Wealthy		25
Snow		7
McIntosh		10
Baldwin		24
Greening		15
Spy	25	
Stark		10
Other late varieties		10
All Apples		23

Vegetables - In western Ontario weather and moisture conditions during the past month have been generally favourable for good growth, with the exception of some frost damage to vine crops in the Bradford and South Simcoe districts. Heavy rains and humid weather earlier in the season in Essex, Kent and Lambton caused considerable damage to the onion crop, resulting in heavy loss by skin and heart rot which may materially affect the storing quality. The late potato crop is comparatively free from blight. The tuber set is below normal and production will be below average. The quality, however, is good. Tomatoes have improved considerably in quality. In eastern Ontario tomatoes have yielded an average crop but the quality has been slightly below normal, due chiefly to destruction of foliage by tomato worms and too much wet weather causing cracks. Yellow ends have been very general also. Potatoes are expected to yield above average with quality excellent. Onions, sweet corn, celery and carrots are all particularly good, but late cauliflower is below average.

	Percentage Change in Acreage from last year		1938 Estimated production per acre	1938 September 15 Condition
	Increase	Decrease		
	p.c.	p.c.		
TORONTO EAST -				
Cabbage (late)		5	10 tons	3.0
Cauliflower (late)		10	500 dozen	2.6
Carrots (late)	5		10 tons	3.0
Celery (late)		5	450 crates	3.0
Corn (sweet)		10	750 dozen	3.7
Lettuce	No change		1,300 dozen	3.7
Onions	5		200 cwt.	3.5
Spinach	No change		4 tons	3.0
Tomatoes (processing)		40	350 bushels	3.0
TORONTO WEST -				
Cabbage (late)	3		11 tons	3.0
Cauliflower (late)	3		500 dozen	2.9
Carrots (late)	2		11 tons	3.0
Celery (late)		3	475 crates	3.0
Corn (sweet)	5		800 dozen	3.2
Lettuce		2	1,500 dozen	2.7
Onions	10		130 cwt.	2.7
Spinach	7		8 tons	3.5
Tomatoes (processing)		4	250 bushels	3.0

Note: Under condition 1 = poor; 2 = below average; 3 = average; 4 = above average; 5 = excellent.

Manitoba

All vegetables are developing slowly due to extremely dry weather. Diseases and insects, however, are not doing any appreciable damage. Conditions on the whole are reported average. Cabbage and cauliflower are suffering most from the continued dry spell, but the weather has been ideal for curing the onion crop.

The condition of vegetable crops on September 14 when 1 = poor; 2 = below average; 3 = average; 4 = above average; 5 = excellent, was as follows:

Beans, snap	4	Cucumbers	2.3
Beets	3.8	Lettuce	2.5
Cabbage, late	1.3	Onions	3.1
Cauliflower, late	1.8	Parsnips	3.3
Carrots	3.4	Tomatoes	4
Celery	2.6	Other vegetables	3.1
Corn	3.8		

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
JANUARY 1954
MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

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British Columbia.

Recent heavy rains in all coast districts have helped to improve a very dry situation. With fine weather again prevailing conditions are now excellent for harvesting. In the Vancouver Island and Lower Mainland district the blackberry crop is pretty well over. The early varieties of pears have already been harvested, with picking commencing on the late varieties. Everbearing strawberries continue to move in quantity from lower mainland points. In the Okanagan districts, apples are colouring well with picking of Wealthies practically completed. McIntosh shipments have started in this area. Hale and Elberta peaches are practically over, while cantaloupes are finished. Canneries are working on tomatoes and will continue until frost. In the Kootenay area fruit is moving in carload lots to both domestic and export markets. In all districts weather conditions are excellent for harvesting with somewhat higher temperatures than is usual at this time of year.

The latest estimates show that fruit crops to be generally larger than those of last year. The apple crop is the only exception and is now estimated at 8 per cent below the 1937 crop with the production of 5,352,000 boxes. On the other hand pears show an increase of 13 per cent with the production of 342,000 boxes. Plums and prunes show a small increase, estimates now putting the crop at 415,000 crates or an increase of 6 per cent over last year. Apricots also show a gain, the crop now being estimated at 177,000 crates. The peach crop is somewhat higher than the previous crop and indicates the production of 462,000 crates. Cherries are estimated at an increase, the crop being set at 179,000 crates or an increase of 12 per cent. The strawberry crop shows the biggest gains with the production of 615,000 crates or 22 per cent increase. Raspberries, on the other hand, show a 10 per cent increase or a crop of 182,000 crates. Loganberries now indicate a substantial increase over last year of 16 per cent or a crop of 1,788,000 pounds. Grapes are practically the same as last year, showing a gain of only 1 per cent, the crop being now estimated at 2,404,000 pounds.

England and Wales

The following is taken from the Weekly Fruit Intelligence Notes issued by the Imperial Economic Committee on September 7:

Apples - The Bramley's Seedling crop is now reported to be very bad to fair mostly very bad, while Cox's Orange Pippin is reported as bad to very bad mostly bad.

The vegetable crops are also reported with beans, Brussels sprouts and cabbage varying from fair to good mostly fair. Carrots ranged from bad to good mostly fair. Parsnips, on the other hand, ranged from fair to good, while peas for canning are reported good in all districts. The only region reporting onions showed the crop as fair.

United States

The following is an extract of a crop report issued by the United States Department of Agriculture on September 1:

Apples - Prospective apple production for the 1938 season declined about 2 per cent during August and is now indicated to be 132,231,000 bushels, compared with 210,673,000 bushels produced in 1937 and the 10-year (1927-36) average of 150,728,000 bushels. Prospects were reduced in New York, Illinois, Idaho and Washington, largely as a result of heavy insect damage. Indicated production in West Virginia and North Carolina is also below that of a month ago. In Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Virginia and Oregon, apple prospects improved during August.

Peaches - Total peach production for the United States is indicated to be 52,780,000 bushels compared with 59,724,000 bushels produced in 1937 and with the 10-year (1927-36) average of 52,498,000 bushels.

Pears - The indicated pear production as of September 1 is 31,799,000 bushels which is 8 per cent larger than the 1937 production of 29,548,000 bushels and 31 per cent above the 10-year (1927-36) average of 24,326,000 bushels.

Grapes - Total grape production for the 1938 season is indicated to be 2,520,570 tons compared with a crop of 2,776,770 tons in 1937 and with the 10-year (1927-36) average production of 2,196,516 tons.

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Plums and Prunes - The indicated 1938 production of plums and prunes for fresh use and for canning in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Michigan totals 150,700 tons, compared with 133,100 tons in 1937, and the 10-year (1927-36) average of 129,510 tons. Prospective production of prunes for drying in California, Oregon and Washington is indicated to be 292,500 tons (dry basis), compared with 256,200 tons in 1937 and the 10-year average of 226,930 tons.

Apricots - The California apricot crop is now indicated to be slightly less than was estimated on August 1, with an estimated total production of 176,000 tons, compared with the 1937 record crop of 311,000 tons and with the 10-year (1927-36) average of 221,600 tons.

Cranberries - The prospective production of cranberries in 1938, as indicated by growing conditions on September 1, totals 529,600 barrels compared with 877,300 barrels in 1937 and with the 10-year (1927-36) average of 562,190 barrels. The indicated average yield per acre is well below last year and is slightly below average. In Massachusetts the bloom was only fair and heavy rains reduced the set of fruit. Sizes are better than usual for this time of year, but worms and rot have caused considerable loss. The New Jersey crop is light as a result of late frosts and excessive rains. The Wisconsin production is indicated to be slightly more than half of last year. In the Pacific Northwest, indicated production is above average but is less than that of last season due to late frosts in the Columbia River districts of Oregon and Washington.

Estimate of Fruit Production in Canada, 1938, with Revised Figures for 1937

<u>APPLES</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>
Nova Scotia	2,250,000 brl.	2,250,000 brl.
New Brunswick	44,000 "	28,000 "
Quebec	177,000 "	142,000 "
Ontario	745,300 "	825,400 "
British Columbia	5,798,300 boxes	5,352,000 boxes
CANADA	5,149,100 brl.	5,029,400 brl.
<u>PEARS</u>		
Nova Scotia	6,500 bu.	5,900 bu.
Ontario	185,500 bu.	192,600 bu.
British Columbia	302,600 boxes	342,000 boxes
CANADA	446,200 bu.	485,800 bu.
<u>PEACHES</u>		
Ontario	525,700 bu.	552,000 bu.
British Columbia	417,300 crates	462,000 crates
CANADA	664,800 bu.	706,000 bu.
<u>PLUMS AND PRUNES</u>		
Nova Scotia	11,500 bu.	9,800 bu.
Ontario	56,000 "	57,700 "
British Columbia	392,700 crates	415,000 crates
CANADA	198,400 bu.	205,800 bu.
<u>CHERRIES</u>		
Ontario	101,900 bu.	128,350 bu.
British Columbia	153,300 crates	179,000 crates
CANADA	153,000 bu.	188,000 bu.
<u>STRAWBERRIES</u>		
Nova Scotia	1,400,000 qts.	1,120,000 qts.
New Brunswick	1,300,000 "	1,500,600 "
Quebec	7,909,000 "	6,168,300 "
Ontario	6,880,300 "	6,401,900 "
British Columbia	502,900 crates	615,000 crates
CANADA	23,524,100 qts.	22,570,200 qts.
<u>RASPBERRIES</u>		
Nova Scotia	86,000 qts.	68,800 qts.
New Brunswick	45,000 "	60,000 "
Quebec	2,443,000 "	2,800,400 "
Ontario	4,043,200 "	4,371,400 "
British Columbia	165,300 crates	182,000 crates
CANADA	8,600,800 qts.	9,484,600 qts.
<u>GRAPES</u>		
Ontario	52,000,000 lb.	36,400,000 lb.
British Columbia	2,384,800 "	2,404,000 "
CANADA	54,384,800 lb.	38,804,000 lb.

Estimates for British Columbia have been converted on the following basis: Apples, three boxes to the barrel; pears, box 42 lb.; bushel 50 lb.; plums and prunes, peaches, apricots and cherries, three crates to the bushel; strawberries and raspberries, 12 quarts to the crate.



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