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Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report

Ottawa, October 31, 1941. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in cooperation with the Fruit Branch of the Department of Agriculture and the Provincial Departments of Agriculture, issues today the last seasonal report of the condition of fruit and vegetable crops in the main producing areas throughout Canada.

SUMMARY

The estimate of the Canadian apple crop has been reduced to 3,436,400 barrels, a decline of approximately 2 per cent during the month. Insufficient development of the fruit in Nova Scotia and losses in Ontario resulting from the gales in September were slightly offset by more favourable conditions in Quebec. The estimates of the New Brunswick and British Columbia crops are unchanged. The pear crop estimate is lower than a month ago, the decline being due to severe losses caused by the windstorm in Ontario. A crop of 510,400 bushels is now indicated. This is a reduction of 11 per cent from the 576,300 bushel crop produced in 1940. The plum and prune crop, on the other hand, is now estimated at 342,700 bushels compared with the September estimate of 251,700 bushels. The increase is due almost entirely to an upward revision in the estimate of the British Columbia prune crop. The prospective production of peaches in both Ontario and British Columbia is slightly above the September estimate, and the total crop for Canada is now raised from 855,200 bushels to 873,800 bushels. A slight increase in the estimate of the cherry crop in British Columbia brings the total for Canada to 222,800 bushels as compared with the 221,600 bushel crop indicated in September. An upward revision in the estimated production of strawberries in British Columbia increased the Canadian crop to 20,420,200 quarts compared with 19,656,200 quarts in September and 25,298,800 quarts in 1940. Raspberry production, on the other hand, declined from 8,719,900 quarts in September to 7,759,200 quarts, the revision being due entirely to a reduction in the British Columbia erop. The loganberry crop estimate of 2,329,600 pounds is slightly below the 1940 crop of 2,383,500 pounds. A downward revision of 10 per cent in the estimate of the grape crop in Ontario this year reduces the crop for Canada to 47,565,000 pounds as compared with the 1940 crop of 52,727,200 pounds.

Note: - Where condition figures are quoted in the following reports, the basis is as follows: 1-poor; 2-below average; 3-average; 4-above average; 5-exceptionally good.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (October 28)

The weather has been cool with frequent rains during the past month. Although there have been some strong winds, no serious damage has occurred. The colour of the apples is good, but with the abundance of moisture they have matured later than usual. Approximately 2,000 bushels, mostly of the McIntosh variety, will be available for the merket. The plum crop will be about average size. Brown rot, however, has caused considerable loss. With the exception of a few cucurbits, vegetable crops are generally good. The production of carrots, parsnips and beets is above average with substantial supplies available for fall and winter months. The commercial crop of turnips is about average size and of good quality.

NOVA SCOTIA (October 20)

The weather has been ideal for harvesting the apple crop. Although there were some strong winds during the month, no serious damage has resulted. Nearly all varieties have developed exceptionally good colour but the size of the fruit it somewhat below average. Insect damage has been generally slight, but leaf rollers, bud moth and codling moth larvae have been active in a few localities. Widespread damage has been caused by scab which, in some cases, was severe enough to cause cracking of the fruit.

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NOVA SCOTIA (Concluded) (October 20)

A further downward revision has been made in the estimate of the apple crop. The production of apples this year is now estimated at 1,148,000 barrels which is a reduction of 9 per cent from the 1,265,000 barrel estimate of a month ago. The pack-out is expected to be approximately 941,000 barrels.

NEW BRUNSWICK (October 22)

As a result of the extremely wet summer, a late outbreak of apple scab after the normal spraying season was over caused the fruit in some localities to be seriously affected. Insect damage, however, has been at a minimum. Although there were several strong windstorms during the month, losses from this cause were negligible. The estimate of the apple crop remains unchanged from a month ago at 67,000 barrels. The cranberry crop is now estimated at 150,000 quarts, but this estimate may be reduced somewhat as certain areas sustained some frost injury. The berries generally are of good average size and colour. Prices are substantially better than those obtained during 1940.

The weather throughout October was very favourable for the harvesting of all vegetable crops. The main root crops are expected to be out of the ground by the end of the month with the possible exception of a few fields of turnips. The yields of such crops as carrots, beets and turnips are about normal. However, a somewhat heavier demand throughout the summer and earlier fall may reduce the quantities going into winter storage. The quality of the commercial crop of turnips now being harvested is excellent. The squash crop, although slightly smaller than normal, is larger than in 1940. Excellent crops of cabbage and cauliflower are also being harvested. Although the cabbage crop is reported to be larger than that of last year, the purchases to fill military contracts have reduced the supplies which would normally be available for commercial sales.

QUEBEC (October 20)

The apple crop is now all harvested with a large proportion of the fruit going direct into consumption. The loss resulting from the windstorm in September is much smaller than was at first anticipated as most of the windfall fruit was readily disposed of to the pedlar trade. The short crop and the increased consumer purchasing power resulted in greatly increased prices. The downward revision of the losses caused by the windstorm, and the exceptional development of the fruit during September raised the estimate of production to 252,700 barrels.

Recent rains have materially improved the late cabbage crop and prospects are now for a crop of about the same size as was harvested in 1940. Although the planted acreage was about 20 per cent larger than that of the previous year, the severe drought in September caused the heads to mature too early resulting in many small cabbages. The acreage of late carrots is about 25 per cent smaller than that of last season. Due to the shortage of labour, digging has begun earlier than usual with the result that some loss resulted from heating in the storage bins. Harvesting of the beet crop is practically completed and sales to outside points have been heavy. The vegetable supplies for winter use are about the same as last year. The fall crop of cauliflower is 25 per cent larger than that of 1940. The quality has improved greatly with the continued rains and low temperatures. Brussel sprouts are very small as the rains came too late to promote normal development. The late crop of swede turnips is larger than that of last season, the roots being mostly medium to large in contrast with the large quantity of small roots last season. Turnips this year show less damage from worms. The parsnip crop also is larger than that of 1940 due to the large roots and increased acreage. The production of onions is 50 per cent smaller than last year, the size of the bulbs is small but the quality excellent. Large quantities of celery still remain in the field as the growers are unable to secure storage space. The quality is only fair as the stocks have become too ripe in many sections.

ONTARIO (October 27)

Eastern Ontario. - Ideal weather conditions for harvesting the apple crop prevailed until the heavy windstorm of September 25 when 25 per cent of the fruit still unharvested was blown to the ground. Fortunately three-quarters of the early varieties, including McIntosh and Fameuse, had already been picked. The quantity of windfalls marketed under the special windfall grade was not as large as anticipated as a large proportion of this fruit was sent to the processing plants. The quantity of fruit grading No. 1 is above average with the exception of those varieties which were seriously affected

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EASTERN ONTARIO (Concluded) (October 27)

by the windstorm. Harvesting was completed in most orchards during the week of October 25.

Vegetables.- Although lack of moisture early in the season delayed the development of all vegetable crops, abundant rains during the last two months have promoted good growth with the result that most crops are average or above average in size. Extremely wet weather has prevailed since early October making harvesting of root crops difficult. Some low-lying fields are at present under water. Blight rot of potatoes has been very serious in some areas this year. On the other hand, damage to the celery crop by late blight has not been as serious as usual. While the onion crop is only average in size, the quality of the bulbs is much better than last year. The quantities of corn, tomatoes and pumpkins moving to the processors were much larger than during 1940.

Western Ontario. - The gales of September 25 and 28 resulted in a loss of 4 per cent of the apple crop, or approximately 20,000 barrels. The loss was considerably reduced as there was an excellent demand for the windfall grade for the fresh market, and a heavy demand by the processors. The greatest losses occurred in the Spy, Baldwin and Stark varieties. Apart from slight hail damage in Peel-York and Elgin-Oxford and some side-worm injury in a few areas, the crop was generally clean and of fairly good colour. However, fruit held in common storage are not keeping as well as usual, but those in cold storage are in excellent condition. With the exception of a portion of the Reine Claude variety of plums which was unharvested in the Niagara district at the time of the heavy windstorms, no serious damage was sustained by the plum crop. As the peaches were all harvested prior to the gales there was no loss of fruit. However, orchards sustained considerable breakage in some localities. Severe losses amounting to 32 per cent of the Kieffer pear crop resulted from the windstorm. Other late varieties only suffered slight loss. Salvage of grounded Kieffers has not been as satisfactory as expected as the proportion suitable for processing varied greatly depending on the locality, the maturity of the fruit and the orchard practice. Wind damage seriously affected the quality of grapes intended for the fresh market, but an excellent demand by the wineries reduced the losses. The tonnage was not as great as previously expected with the result that a reduction of 10 per cent from the September estimate is now indicated.

The October Estimates of Fruit Crops in Ontario and the Final Estimates for 1940 are as follows:-

| Description | ollows: | Unit | 1940 | 1941 Crop as percent of 1940 | 1941 |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Apples | Eastern Ontario Western " TOTAL | bbl. | 297,000 486,200 783,200 | 62 76 71 | 184,100 369,500 553,600 |
| Pears | Eastern Ontario Western TOTAL | bu. | 3,700 260,600 264,300 | 125 61 62 | 4,600 159,000 163,600 |
| Plums and Prunes | Eastern Ontario Western " TOTAL | bu. | 2,100 70,400 72,500 | 70 122 121 | 1,500 8 5,900 87,400 |
| Peaches | Western Ontario | bu. | 595,000 | 110 110 | 654,500 654,500 |
| Cherries | Eastern Ontario Western "TOTAL | bu. | 10,400 77,300 87,700 | 75 198 183 | 7,800 153,100 160,900 |
| Strawberries | Eastern Ontario Western " TOTAL | qt. | 2,703,400 8,262,600 10,966,000 | 40 60 55 | 1,081,400 4,957,600 6,039,000 |
| Raspberries | Eastern Ontario Western " TOTAL | qt. | 3,114,000 2,750,700 5,864,700 | 65 70 67 | 2,024,100 1,925,500 3,949,600 |
| Grapes | Western Ontario | lb. | 49,900,000 | 90 90 | 44,910,000 |

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ONTARIO (Concluded)

The Condition of the Vegetable Crops in Ontario during the third week of October and the Percentage Change in Acreage from last year are as follows:

| | Percentage change in acreage from last year | | Condition | |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Description | Western Ontario | Eastern Ontario | Western Ontario | Eastern Ontario |
| Beets (topped) | 0 | + 1 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Cabbage (late) | + 2 | + 3 | 3.0 | 3.1 |
| Cauliflower (late) | 0 | - 2 | 3.0 | 3.1 |
| Carrots (topped) | - 12 | - 3 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Celery (late) | - 2 | + 1 | 3.1 | 3.0 |
| Corn (sweet) | + 3 | - 1 | 3.0 | 3.2 |
| Corn (processing) | + 31 | + 41 | 3.0 | 3.4 |
| Cucumbers | - 2 | - 10 | 3.0 | 3.5 |
| Lettuce | + 15 | + 2 | 3.1 | 3.0 |
| Onions | - 7 | + 6 | 3.0 | 3.1 |
| Potatoes (late) | - 12 | + 2 | 2.8 | 2.8 |
| Tomatoes (fresh consumption) | + 6 | + 1 | 3,0 | 3.1 |
| Tomatoes (canning) | + 6 | 5 | 3.2 | 3.3 |

MANITOBA (October 27)

The weather continued to be wet until the first week in October. Meteorological records reveal that more rain fell during September of this year than in any other September since 1912. However, the past fourteen days have been exceptionally fine with nearly continuous sunshine. Frosts have held off remarkably well. On only two or three occasions have temperatures dropped below freezing, and then only a few degrees of frost were registered. This has been a great help in enabling the growers to remove their crops and get them into winter storage. The wet weather and lack of sufficient help have delayed all harvesting operations. The abundance of soil moisture has promoted the development of considerable rot, particularly in potatoes and carrots. Many fields of potatoes will never be dug and only part of the carrot crop will be harvested. Late blight is particularly serious in the potato producing area north of Winnipeg. It is estimated that approximately 20 to 25 per cent of the tubers in the principal producing areas will be affected by the disease. Although the prospects early in the summer were for very high yields of potatoes, losses from disease and the growers' inability to dig some acreages are expected to reduce the crop to approximately the same size as that of last year. Supplies of root crops including turnips, carrots, beets and parenips are equal to or better than those of a year ago. The quality of these crops is very good and in most cases harvesting has been completed. Late cabbage are also very good and while supplies are not as large as usual due to the smaller acreage planted, they are sufficient to meet local market requirements for most of the winter. The quality of the late cauliflower crop is also oxcellent due to the cool weather and the abundance of moisture. Some difficulty was encountered in harvesting the onion crop. Heavy rains during the drying period, after the onions had been pulled, caused much trouble but most of the crop was harvested successfully. Large quantities of onions have been shipped to Ontario markets with the result that there may be a local shortage towards spring.

ALBERTA (October 22)

Vegetables: Due to unusual circumstances arising from the presence of large forces of men in training, it is very difficult to appraise the supply situation in Alberta. The crops are of fair to good quality and supplies are sufficient to carry through a normal year. However, under present conditions they are not expected to last beyond January 1942.

BRITISH COLUMBIA (October 29)

The weather still continues to be mild. Heavy rains which fell during the past eight weeks have been followed by comparatively fine weather. Harvesting in all sections has been completed with a heavy movement to both domestic and export markets. Canning operations are completed in all districts but the season has been most unsatisfactory.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA (Concluded) (October 29)

The October estimates of fruit production in British Columbia for 1941 and the final estimates for 1940 are as follows:

| Description | Unit | 1940 | 1941 |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Apples Pears Plums and Prunes Peaches Apricots Cherries Strawberries Raspberries Loganberries Grapes | box n crate n n n n n n | 5,942,900 345,600 401,700 575,900 169,200 209,200 680,600 245,300 2,383,500 2,827,200 | 4,245,200 392,200 749,500 658,000 203,900 185,600 716,000 193,300 2,329,600 2,655,000 |

UNITED STATES

The following statements are taken from a crop report issued by the United States Department of Agriculture on October 10:

Apples (Commercial Crop). - Production of apples in the commercial areas of the United States is now placed at 124,754,000 bushels compared with 114,391,000 bushels in 1940 and the 6-year (1934-39) average of 125,310,000 bushels.

Peaches. Total production of peaches in 1941 is estimated at 69,659,000 bushels, compared with 54,430,000 bushels in 1940, and the 10-year (1930-39) average of 54,356,000 bushels.

Pears. Total pear production in the United States, on the basis of October 1 conditions, is placed at 30,907,000 bushels. This indicated production is 2 per cent less than the 31,622,000 bushels produced in 1940, and is 13 per cent above the 10-year (1930-39) average production of 27,278,000 bushels. Prospects declined during September in practically all areas except the Pacific Coast group of States.

Grapes.- Indicated production of grapes totals 2,664,490 tons compared with 2,543,910 tons in 1940 and the 10-year (1930-39) average of 2,264,062 tons. Production in California is larger than that of last season and above average, but in the producing areas bordering the Great Lakes is less than last season and below average.

Cranberries.— Growing conditions during September were relatively favorable for the development of cranberries, and prospective production in 1941 is now indicated to be 7 per cent larger than the estimate of September 1. Total production is placed at 725,100 barrels, compared with 580,300 barrels in 1940, and the 10-year (1930-39) average production of 603,820 barrels.

...... THE RESERVE

| | | | 1940 | 1941 |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|---|
| A | | | ba | rrels |
| Apples - | Nova Scotia | | 1,151,000 | 1,148,000 |
| | New Brunswick | | 53,600 | 67,000 |
| | Quebec | | 323,500 | 252,700 |
| | Ontario | | 783,200 | 553,600 |
| | British Columbia | | 1,981,000 | 1,415,100 |
| | To worder of will but | Canada | 4,292,300 | 3,436,400 |
| | | 74.324 GA | | shels |
| ears - | | | bu | auera |
| | Nova Scotia | | 21,700 | 17,400 |
| | Ontario | | 264,300 | 163,600 |
| | British Columbia | | 290,300 | 329,400 |
| | | Canada | 576,300 | 510,400 |
| Plums and Prunes | 7 1 2 5 1 1 1 | | | , , , , , |
| | Nova Scotia | | 7,900 | 5,500 |
| | Ontario | | 72,500 | 87,400 |
| | British Columbia | | 133,900 | 249,800 |
| | | Canada | 214,300 | 342,700 |
| Peaches - | | | | |
| | Ontario | | 595,000 | 654,500 |
| | British Columbia | | 192,000 | 219,300 |
| | | Canada | 787,000 | 873,800 |
| | | W 2022 04 04 04 | , | 0,0,000 |
| pricots - | D-24-1-1 0-7 11- | | | |
| | British Columbia | | 56,400 | 68,000 |
| | | Canada | 56,400 | 68,000 |
| herries - | | | | |
| | Ontario . | | 87,700 | 160,900 |
| | British Columbia | | 69,700 | 61,900 |
| | | Canada | 157,400 | 222,800 |
| | | | qı | arts |
| strawberries - | None Costin | | 3 054 000 | 1 404 700 |
| | Nova Scotia | | 1,254,200 | 1,404,700 |
| | New Brunswick | | 1,275,000 | 1,657,500 |
| | Quebec | | 3,636,000 | 2,727,000 |
| | Ontario | | 10,966,000 | 6,039,000 |
| | British Columbia | | 8,167,600 | 8,592,000 |
| aspberries - | | Canada | 25,298,800 | 20,420,200 |
| aspuerries - | Nova Scotia | | 74,000 | 66 600 |
| | New Brunswick | | | 66,600 |
| | Quebec Quebec | | 40,000 | 37,800 |
| | Ontario | | 2,771,200 | 1,385,600 |
| | British Columbia | | 5,864,700 | 3,949,600 |
| | British Columbia | 0 | 2,943,300 | 2,319,600 |
| | | Canada | 11,693,200 | 7,759,200 |
| oganberries - | | | po | ounds |
| | British Columbia | | 2,383,500 | 2,329,600 |
| | | Canada | 2,383,500 | 2,329,600 |
| rapes - | | | | ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, |
| | Ontario | | 49,900,000 | 44,910,000 |
| | British Columbia | | 2,827,200 | 2,655,000 |
| | | | , , | -,000,000 |

Note: British Columbia estimates are converted on the following basis: Apples, three boxes to the barrel; Pears, boxes 42 lb., bushels 50 lb; Plums and prunes, peaches, apricots and cherries, 3 crates to the bushel; Strawberries and raspberries 12 quarts to the crate; Loganberries 18 lb. to the crate.



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Total Sale

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