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Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report

Ottawa, September 25, 1942.- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in cooperation with the Fruit Branch of the Department of Agriculture and the Provincial Departments of Agriculture, issues today a report showing the condition of fruit and vegetable crops in the main producing areas for the month of September.

SUMMARY

The general outlook for fruit production in Canada improved during the month. An increase in the estimate of the apple crops in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario and a minor downward revision in British Columbia brings the total crop to 4,050,700 barrels, an increase of 13 per cent over the 1941 harvest of 3,578,400 barrels. The pear crop estimated at 573,100 bushels also improved slightly during the month. While prospects in Nova Scotia and British Columbia remain unchanged, the very large size of the fruit and the heavier yield of Bartlett's in Ontario raised the anticipated output in that province. Although a slight increase in the estimate of the plum and prune crops in Ontario increased the Canadian total to 326,300 bushels the crop is still much below the 1941 harvest of 447,100 bushels. Peach prospects remain relatively unchanged since a month ago at 997,500 bushels. Despite heavy losses from brown rot, the Ontario estimate is slightly above that of August. No change has been made in the estimate of the 1942 grape crop of 70,334,000 pounds. Favourable weather has prevailed in Ontario where the bulk of the crop is produced but a shortage of packages to move the fruit to market is causing some concern.

An abundance of most vegetables is reported in all producing provinces. Supplies for immediate consumption are good but a labour shortage in Quebec and Ontario may seriously reduce the output of such crops as canned tomatoes. The onion crop in British Columbia is reduced 15 to 20 per cent as the result of insect and disease damage.

APPLES: Prospective production of apples in Canada is now set at 4,050,700 barrels, an increase of 4 per cent since August. The present estimate is 13 per cent larger than the 1941 harvest of 3,578,400 barrels but is 16 per cent smaller than the five-year (1936-40) average of 4,813,800 barrels.

Growing conditions throughout the Dominion during the month of September have been generally satisfactory. In Nova Scotia the "set" of fruit was light but with favourable growing weather throughout the season, development continued well into September with the result that the September estimate of 1,126,400 barrels is 10 per cent above the August prospects. The season is very early and picking is well under way. The fruit, considering the season, is highly coloured and comparatively free of apple scab. The New Brunswick crop also showed an improvement during the month of September and is now estimated at 50,200 barrels. Heavy rains during the third week of September delayed picking, but harvesting of McIntosh apples is now well under way and will be followed by Fameuse, Wolf River and Cortland. Apple scab is at a minimum in all well sprayed orchards. An upward revision of 11 per cent in the Quebec estimate for August brings the crop to 366,600 barrels. The quality of the fruit is good with high colour and comparatively little insect or disease damage. In view of the exceptional development of the fruit throughout Ontario and improved prospects for McIntosh, Spy and Baldwins in western sections of the province, the August estimate has been increased 6 per cent to bring the crop to 520,200 barrels. In eastern Ontario the McIntosh and Fameuse varieties are lacking in colour. The fruit is ripening rapidly and in many sections dropping from the trees before it can be picked. Recent hot, humid weather has been conducive to the development of late scab, the McIntosh variety being the most seriously affected. In western Ontario a heavy infestation of late brood codling moth and scab is reported in many orchards lowering the yield. Winds caused some dropping of McIntosh and Wealthy in the York-Peel area. A minor downward revision in the British Columbia estimate brings the anticipated harvest to 1,987,300 barrels. A severe windstorm about the middle of September lowered the prospects in some sections of the Okanagan Valley. Harvesting of the fruit is progressing as rapidly as labour and weather conditions will permit. Picking of the McIntosh variety is now general.

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THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM THE RECORDS OF THE
BUREAU OF THE LAND OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., ON JANUARY 1, 1900.

THE LAND OFFICE HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT THE FOLLOWING
LANDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE FOLLOWING PRICES:

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Jefferson, State of Kentucky, containing 100 acres, more or less,
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Jefferson, State of Kentucky, containing 300 acres, more or less,
is available for sale at the price of \$1.00 per acre.

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is available for sale at the price of \$1.00 per acre.

PEARS: A further upward revision in the estimate of the Canadian pear brings the anticipated yield to 573,100 bushels. The current estimate is approximately 7 per cent above the 1941 harvest of 517,000 bushels and 6 per cent above the five-year (1936-40) average of 539,200 bushels.

Harvesting of the pear crop continues under favourable weather conditions in all three producing provinces. The Nova Scotia crop estimated at 21,700 bushels is exceptionally clean and the fruit is larger than average. In Ontario an upward revision of 7 per cent in the August estimate brings production to 215,800 bushels. Moisture and temperature conditions were ideal for the continued development of the fruit. Although generally there was little insect or disease damage in the main producing areas, young orchards in Norfolk County are showing the effects of damage by pear psylla and fire blight. The Bartlett crop was heavier than was indicated earlier in the season. The August estimate of the British Columbia crop remains unchanged at 335,600 bushels. Strong winds about the middle of September caused damage in some areas of the Okanagan Valley but the loss has not as yet been estimated. Harvesting of the Bartlett and Flemish Beauty varieties is about completed and picking of Bosc and Anjou will begin in a week to 10 days.

PLUMS AND PRUNES: The increase in the estimate of plum and prune production over that of a month ago is due entirely to the improved position in Ontario. The current estimate of 326,300 bushels is still well below the previous harvest of 447,100 bushels but is 51 per cent larger than the five-year (1936-40) average of 215,700 bushels. Plum harvest is now past the peak in the three producing provinces. The crop is practically all picked in Nova Scotia and the fruit has been of good quality with little insect or disease damage. The dry weather caused some losses but the estimate remains unchanged from a month ago at 8,000 bushels, an increase of 45 per cent over that of last year. In Ontario an increase in prospects of approximately 7 per cent during the month brings the estimate to 111,700 bushels. The present estimate, however, is still 22 per cent below the 1941 harvest. Although the fruit generally has been of good quality, brown rot has caused considerable loss in a few areas. The improvement during the month is due entirely to the brighter outlook for European varieties. There was no change in the August estimate of plums and prunes in British Columbia which is set at 206,600 bushels.

PEACHES: The upward revision in the estimate of production in Ontario brings the Canadian total to 997,500 bushels. This is an increase of 7 per cent over the 1941 crop of 932,900 bushels. The five-year (1936-40) average is 703,300 bushels.

Despite heavy losses from brown rot in the late V and Elberta varieties and labour and container shortages, the Ontario crop is now estimated at 728,000 bushels, an increase of approximately 1 per cent during the month. As previously reported the crop has been exceptionally heavy in the Niagara, Essex, Burlington and Middlesex districts but 90 per cent lighter than in the previous year in Norfolk County. Although the weather was favourable for both fruit and tree development, it also favoured a heavy development of brown rot. A considerable volume of fruit is moving to the United States markets from Niagara and Essex in hampers and other large containers. The harvesting of the British Columbia crop is practically completed. Production this year is set at 269,500 bushels, an increase of 16 per cent over the 1941 harvest. The five-year (1936-40) average for the province is 133,200 bushels.

GRAPES: The estimate of the Canadian grape crop, the bulk of which is produced in Ontario, still stands unchanged from a month ago at 70,334,000 pounds. As previously pointed out this year's crop is the largest on record. The crop in 1941 amounted to 47,151,300 pounds while the five-year (1936-40) average is only 44,319,300 pounds.

Harvesting of the crop in Ontario is now in full progress. To date conditions have favoured full development of the fruit and no frost damage has been reported from any area. Shipments to the wineries has commenced and an export movement to the United States is anticipated. The shortage of packages to move the fruit to market, however, is causing some concern. The British Columbia estimate of 2,834,000 pounds is unchanged since August. The present estimate is 32 per cent larger than the 2,151,300 pound crop produced a year ago and is 36 per cent larger than the five-year (1936-40) average of 2,083,700 pounds.

VEGETABLES

The vegetable crops throughout Canada are generally above average in size and quality. While there is an abundance of vegetables for immediate consumption a shortage of labour for the canning crops in both Quebec and Ontario is causing some difficulty and may result in a reduction in the size of the harvest.

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Supplies of tomatoes in Quebec remain heavy as the extreme heat last week ripened the main crop very rapidly. Some growers are ploughing in their fields as the canneries are unable to handle the contracted quantities owing to the labour shortage. Limited supplies of potatoes are now reaching the market as the crop has been considerably reduced by disease. The onion crop is somewhat larger than that of 1941 and is at present drying in favourable condition. The increase in the crop this year is due to the larger size of the bulbs. The cauliflower crop is bigger than that of last year and is moving to market in volume. Harvesting is expected to be at the peak about October 1. Beets also will be a larger crop than last year. Digging of the main crop has commenced as growers fear a labour shortage. The carrot crop is maturing rapidly and harvesting will begin about the first of the month. The very large size of the cabbage heads this year has increased the yield considerably above that of last year. Late corn varieties are now at the peak. Corn borer damage has been much lighter than it was in 1941. Local supplies of celery are heavy and meeting the steady demand. Late lettuce is increasing but the extreme heat of last week produced loose heads.

In eastern Ontario the hot, humid weather favoured the development of blight in the potato fields and considerable rot has begun to appear on the tubers. Leafhoppers are also reported in many districts and the outlook for the crop is not as promising as it was a month ago. A large percentage of the onion crop is now harvested and yields and quality are a little above average. The corn crop has been much better than expected earlier in the season. Processing of the crop began last week. Yields of tomatoes were heavier than previously reported but unfavourable weather caused heavy losses in the canning crop. A shortage of workers for the canneries has increased the difficulties. The weather in western Ontario has been generally excellent for the development of most vegetables. However, in Middlesex and Essex-Kent districts heavy rains and hot weather adversely affected the crops, especially tomatoes. Slight frost damage occurred in Norfolk county earlier in the month and as yet an undetermined amount of damage was caused by frost on the nights of September 20 and 21 in certain areas in south-western Ontario. Potato blight continues to be serious in most of the main producing areas but only a slight infestation is reported in the Georgian Bay district. The labour shortage has been quite serious, particularly at the processing plants necessitating the holding back of the normal deliveries of tomatoes. In Manitoba the yield and quality of most crops has been excellent. The cool, moist season has particularly favoured such crops as potatoes, cabbage and cauliflower. Corn has been fair although it was late. Tomatoes ripened slowly but are now a bumper crop. Although squash and pumpkins have been quite good, such crops as muskmelons and watermelons have been disappointing. Late blight has shown up quite widely in potato fields. If present wet weather conditions continue to delay the harvest, it is expected that this disease may become serious. In Saskatchewan the weather during the month has been unsettled and changeable with frequent light to heavy showers. Temperatures have been lower than usual and several heavy frosts have occurred. Garden produce has been relatively free from insect pests and very little damage has resulted therefrom. The potato crop is ample for local requirements and is of good quality. Practically all districts anticipate some surplus. Production of common vegetables is sufficient for home needs and surplus quantities of cabbage, turnips, carrots, beets, onions and parsnips are reported in most districts. Severe frost damaged the gardens in many northern points early in September. Heavy frosts also occurred over most of the provinces centering on September 17 and tomatoes cucumbers and other susceptible plants were severely injured and in some areas supplies of these products are short of local requirements. The supply position in British Columbia is only fair. Tomatoes are still moving to the canneries but with a late start and with the shortage of labour the pack is not expected to be as heavy as usual. The second crop of greenhouse tomatoes are progressing favourably in the coastal areas but production is not expected to begin for some time. The onion harvest in the Okanagan Valley is now well advanced and a decrease of 15 to 20 per cent in the anticipated tonnage as a result of insect and disease damage is in prospect.

September Estimates of the 1942 Fruit Crops in Canada,
by Provinces, Compared with the Final Estimate
for 1941

	<u>1 9 4 1</u>	<u>1 9 4 2</u>
	barrels	
<u>Apples -</u>		
Nova Scotia	1,148,000	1,126,400
New Brunswick	67,000	50,200
Quebec	255,600	336,600
Ontario	614,900	520,200
British Columbia	1,492,900	1,987,300
Total	3,578,400	4,050,700
<u>Pears -</u>	bushels	
Nova Scotia	17,400	21,700
Ontario	167,200	215,800
British Columbia	332,400	335,600
Total	517,000	573,100
<u>Plums & Prunes -</u>		
Nova Scotia	5,500	8,000
Ontario	143,500	111,700
British Columbia	298,100	206,600
Total	447,100	326,300
<u>Peaches -</u>		
Ontario	700,000	728,000
British Columbia	232,900	269,500
Total	932,900	997,500
<u>Grapes -</u>	pounds	
Ontario	45,000,000	67,500,000
British Columbia	2,151,300	2,834,000
Total	47,151,300	70,334,000



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