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FRUIT CROP REPORT

Ottawa, July 30, 1943.- 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 crops in the main producing areas.

SUMMARY

The first estimates of the 1943 tree fruit and grape crops indicate a big drop in total production of fruit from last season. Although the apple crop in Nova Scotia is 23 per cent larger than that of a year ago, reductions ranging from 2 per cent in New Brunswick to 29 per cent in British Columbia bring the Canadian total to 3,951,000 barrels, compared with 4,330,900 barrels in 1942. The pear crop also is substantially smaller than that of a year ago and is estimated at 475,200 bushels compared with 752,900 bushels. The decline occurred in the three producing provinces of Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia. The outlook for the plum and prune crop is the brightest of any of the fruits and is only slightly off from last year at 355,800 bushels. The 1942 crop was estimated at 365,500 bushels. Peach production this season shows a sharp drop of 67 per cent and is estimated at 647,900 bushels compared with 1,939,200 bushels in 1942. The reduction occurred in both Ontario and British Columbia where declines of 68 per cent and 59 per cent respectively are indicated. Apricots which are produced commercially only in British Columbia are off substantially at 15,700 bushels compared with 81,300 bushels last season. The cherry output is also much below that of a year ago. Estimated at 189,600 bushels the crop is 46 per cent smaller than the 1942 harvest of 348,500 bushels. Although the outlook for the grape crop is 22 per cent below the record harvest of 1942, the current estimate of 58,357,000 pounds is 32 per cent larger than the five-year average 1936-40, of 44,319,300 pounds.

Apples

The first estimate of the Canadian apple crop sets production at 3,951,000 barrels which is a reduction of approximately 9 per cent from the 1942 harvest of 4,330,900 barrels and 18 per cent below the five year, 1936-40, average of 4,813,800 barrels.

The present outlook for the crop in Nova Scotia indicates an increase of 23 per cent over the 1942 harvest or 1,606,300 barrels as compared with 1,305,900 barrels. The quality of the crop, however, is expected to be far below that of last year due chiefly to the excessive amounts of scab present in all but the most carefully sprayed orchards. While slight decreases in the size of the Gravenstein, McIntosh and Golden Russet crops are reported, increases of from 5 to 50 per cent are expected for the other major varieties. In New Brunswick a slight decrease of 2 per cent is at present anticipated bringing the crop to 80,000 barrels compared with 82,000 barrels a year ago. Early and fall varieties and Cortland are very promising but the outlook for McIntosh is only fair. The Quebec crop is considerably reduced from a year ago and is at present set at 300,000 barrels. Fire blight is particularly serious this season and scab in many orchards will materially reduce the quality of the fruit. The fruit at present is sizing well and is above average for this season of the year. The Ontario crop is approximately 5 per cent smaller than that of last season and is estimated at 585,000 barrels compared with 616,900 barrels. The greatest reduction took place in the eastern section of the province where considerable fire blight has affected susceptible varieties. Apple scab is prevalent throughout the province and insects

Apples (concluded)

are also active. Warm weather during the past two weeks has favoured development of both the trees and the fruit. The crop in British Columbia is now estimated at 1,379,700 barrels and is approximately 30 per cent smaller than that of last season. The fruit is growing rapidly and thinning is well under way. The movement of early varieties to market is in progress with Green Duchess available about the end of the month.

Pears

The 1943 pear crop estimated at 475,200 bushels is 37 per cent smaller than the harvest last year. The 1942 crop amounted to 752,900 bushels while the five-year, 1936-40, average is 539,200 bushels. The reduction occurred in all three commercial producing provinces.

Plums and Prunes

The plum and prune crop is only slightly smaller than that of last season being estimated at 355,800 bushels compared with 365,500 bushels. It is, however, 65 per cent larger than the five-year, 1936-40, average of 215,700 bushels. Substantial increases are indicated in both Nova Scotia and British Columbia where the crops are 25 and 40 per cent larger respectively. In Ontario, however, the crop is much below that of a year ago and is estimated at 112,000 bushels compared with 190,500 bushels.

Peaches

The Canadian peach crop of 647,900 bushels is only one-third as large as the 1942 harvest of 1,939,200 bushels. The reduction occurred in both Ontario and British Columbia with the greatest decline recorded in the former province. Winter injury is the chief factor affecting the size of the crop.

Apricots

Apricots are only produced in commercial quantities in British Columbia where severe winter weather resulted in damage to the trees and brought about a decline of 81 per cent in fruit production from 1942. The crop this year is estimated at 15,700 bushels compared with 81,300 bushels.

Grapes

The outlook for the grape crop is much below the bumper harvest of 1942. While the prospects of British Columbia are about the same as a year ago, a reduction of 22 per cent in Ontario, the heaviest producing province, brings the total to 58,357,000 pounds compared with 74,912,600 pounds last year. The crop, however, is still 32 per cent above the five-year, 1936-40, average of 44,319,300 pounds.

First Estimate of Fruit Production in Canada in 1943 and  
Final Estimates for 1942

Description		1942	1943
		bbl.	bbl.
APPLES -	Nova Scotia	1,305,900	1,606,300
	New Brunswick	82,000	80,000
	Quebec	390,000	300,000
	Ontario	616,900	585,000
	British Columbia	1,936,100	1,379,700
	CANADA	4,330,900	3,951,000
PEARS -		bu.	bu.
	Nova Scotia	21,700	17,400
	Ontario	412,100	261,900
	British Columbia	319,100	195,900
	CANADA	752,900	475,200
PLUMS AND PRUNES -	Nova Scotia	8,000	10,000
	Ontario	190,500	112,000
	British Columbia	167,000	233,800
		CANADA	365,500
PEACHES -	Ontario	1,620,000	518,400
	British Columbia	319,200	129,500
		CANADA	1,939,200
APRICOTS -	British Columbia	81,300	15,700
		CANADA	81,300
CHERRIES -	Ontario	272,200	113,100
	British Columbia	76,300	76,500
		CANADA	348,500
GRAPES -		lb.	lb.
	Ontario	72,000,000	56,160,000
	British Columbia	2,912,600	2,197,000
	CANADA	74,912,600	58,357,000

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