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FRUIT CROP REPORT

Ottawa, October 2, 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 estimates of the various fruit crops, with few exceptions, remain unchanged since the August report. Slight upward revisions in the estimates of the apple crops in Ontario and British Columbia increased the prospects approximately 1 per cent to bring the estimate to 4,044,600 barrels. If the present indications hold until after the harvest, the crop will be 7 per cent smaller than that of 1942 when 4,330,900 barrels were picked. Pears also showed a slight improvement during the month due chiefly to the somewhat brighter outlook in Nova Scotia where the crop is packing-out approximately 15 per cent better than was expected. The crop this year is now set at 508,800 bushels which is a decline of 32 per cent from the 752,900 bushels produced in 1942. No change whatever was made in the estimates of the plum, peach and grape crops from a month ago. The plum and prune crop is estimated at 331,500 bushels, a decline of 9 per cent from the 1942 harvest. Peaches are also a much smaller crop this year at 571,100 bushels compared with 1,939,200 bushels. The outlook for grapes indicates a decline of 22 per cent but the current estimate of 58,201,600 pounds is 31 per cent above the five year 1936-40 average crop of 44,319,000 pounds.

APPLES - The current estimate of the Canadian apple crop of 4,044,600 bushels is approximately 1 per cent above the August prospects of 3,994,400 bushels but is 7 per cent below the 1942 crop of 4,330,900 bushels. Some improvement is indicated in Ontario and British Columbia but the outlook in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec remains unchanged since a month ago. In Nova Scotia the weather conditions have been favourable for apple development and the size of the fruit is generally about normal. The estimate of the crop remains unchanged at 1,580,000 barrels which is a 21 per cent increase over the 1942 harvest. Although three gales have threatened the Atlantic coast during the month only one reached the Valley. It was of brief duration and the damage was of little or no importance. Apple scab is common throughout the Valley but is most serious in smaller orchards where spraying was not so well carried out. In New Brunswick the estimates of production remain unchanged from last month at 90,000 barrels which is a 10 per cent increase over the previous crop of 82,000 barrels. The fruit is colouring and sizing well and the picking of Dudleys and Wealthys is now in progress. Insects have been well controlled in the better orchards but scab is fairly general throughout the district. Some very fine crops of McIntosh, Lobo and Cortland and Alexander will be harvested. No change in the prospects for the apple crop in Quebec occurred during the month and the estimate remains at 300,000 barrels. Apple scab is particularly serious this season and the quantity of No. 1 Grade fruit is much reduced from normal. Some concern about the keeping quality of the affected apples is felt by growers as secondary fungus are developing as a result of the extremely wet weather early in the month. Ontario production is now estimated at 664,500 barrels which is an increase of approximately 6 per cent over the August estimate of 625,200 barrels. In Eastern Ontario the commercial crop is now set at 260,800 barrels, a decline of 3 per cent from the 1942 crop. McIntosh, Spy, Cranberry Pippin, Stark and Tolman Sweet are the most promising varieties. Weather conditions have favoured continued development of the fruit but the numerous showers have caused development of scab. Although the apples are generally much improved in size, some blocks of McIntosh, Snow and other varieties are still below average. Harvesting is under way in all sections and the colour of the fruit has been normal in most orchards. There is a great reduction in the amount of damage caused by codling moth larvae but green aphids and apple maggot have increased decidedly and have damaged much fruit of susceptible varieties. The

APPLES - concluded

estimate of the crop in Western Ontario shows an improvement of approximately 9 per cent since August due to the brighter prospects for Spy, McIntosh, Wealthy and Stark in the Georgian Bay, Burlington and Peel-York districts. Weather conditions have been good for fruit development and high colour. There has been no hail or frost damage and wind injury has been confined to the Norwich district. Scab damage is irregular, ranging from serious to slight depending on the locality. Codling moth damage has been fairly well controlled. In British Columbia a slight improvement in the outlook has increased the estimate to 1,410,100 barrels from 1,399,100 barrels in August. The crop this year, however, is still 7 per cent below the 1942 harvest. Picking of McIntosh is now in full swing and the colour and size of the fruit is about average.

PEARS -

The Canadian pear crop is now indicated to be 508,800 bushels which is slightly above the August prospects but is still below the 1942 harvest of 752,900 bushels. In Nova Scotia the outlook is somewhat improved to bring the estimate to 20,000 bushels compared with 17,400 bushels last month. Clapps Favourite are now being marketed and Bartletts are nearing the harvesting stage. The estimate for Ontario remains practically unchanged from a month ago at 283,000 bushels. In the eastern area of the province the fruit has sized rapidly and is fairly free of insect damage. While no change is being made in the estimate of the crop in Western Ontario continued sizing of the Kieifers may result in an upward revision in October. In the main producing area at Niagara, the fruit is clean and fairly free of insect damage. The estimate of production in British Columbia remains unchanged at 205,800 bushels. This is a decline of 36 per cent from the 1942 harvest of 319,100 bushels. The season is now well advanced and late varieties will soon be ready for packing.

PLUMS AND PRUNES -

The August estimate of plum and prune production remains unchanged at 331,500 bushels. In Eastern Ontario the crop is very light but the size of the fruit is good and insect damage is at a minimum. In Western Ontario growing conditions have been generally good. Curculio damage has been much less in evidence in the late varieties than in the early kinds. Prunes are of good size and quality and are now being harvested and the yields are much better than last year. In British Columbia the crop is still estimated at 213,300 bushels which is an increase of 28 per cent from the 1942 crop.

PEACHES -

The estimate of peach production this season remains unchanged from a month ago at 571,100 bushels. This represents a decline of 71 per cent from the 1942 harvest of 1,939,200 bushels. In Ontario, the main producing province, the crop is estimated at 437,400 bushels compared with 1,620,000 bushels a year ago. While the size of the fruit has been good, damage caused by Curculio, peach moth and brown rot have made very heavy culling necessary, particularly to Elberta and other late varieties which are now being harvested in Niagara. The British Columbia estimate is also unchanged from last month at 133,700 bushels. The harvest is nearing a close with the late varieties moving to market in volume.

GRAPES -

The crop this year is estimated at 58,201,600 pounds compared with 74,912,600 pounds in 1942. This year's harvest, however, is well above the five year 1936-40 average of 44,319,000 pounds. In Western Ontario where the bulk of the grapes are grown, the quality has been good and no insect damage has so far been reported.

THIRD ESTIMATE OF FRUIT PRODUCTION IN CANADA IN 1943 AND
THE FINAL ESTIMATE FOR 1942

Description		1 9 4 2	1 9 4 3
		bb1.	bb1.
APPLES -	Nova Scotia	1,305,900	1,580,000
	New Brunswick	82,000	90,000
	Quebec	390,000	300,000
	Ontario	616,900	664,500
	British Columbia	1,936,100	1,410,100
	CANADA	4,330,900	4,044,600
		bu.	bu.
PEARS -	Nova Scotia	21,700	20,000
	Ontario	412,100	283,000
	British Columbia	319,100	205,800
	CANADA	752,900	508,800
PLUMS AND PRUNES -	Nova Scotia	8,000	10,000
	Ontario	190,500	108,200
	British Columbia	167,000	213,300
	CANADA	365,500	331,500
PEACHES -	Ontario	1,620,000	437,400
	British Columbia	319,200	133,700
	CANADA	1,939,200	571,100
APRICOTS -	British Columbia	81,300	17,600
	CANADA	81,300	17,600
CHERRIES -	Ontario	272,200	107,700
	British Columbia	76,300	76,500
	CANADA	348,500	184,200
		qts.	qts.
STRAWBERRIES -	Nova Scotia	983,300	1,130,800
	New Brunswick	1,258,100	1,258,000
	Quebec	2,727,000	3,408,700
	Ontario	5,447,300	5,177,800
	British Columbia	5,649,300	2,952,600
	CANADA	16,065,000	13,927,900
RASPBERRIES -	Nova Scotia	60,000	105,000
	New Brunswick	50,000	50,000
	Quebec	1,732,000	866,000
	Ontario	4,375,000	4,156,500
	British Columbia	3,114,500	3,245,700
	CANADA	9,331,500	8,423,200
		lb.	lb.
LOGANBERRIES -	British Columbia	1,949,100	1,702,600
	CANADA	1,949,100	1,702,600
GRAPES -	Ontario	72,000,000	56,160,000
	British Columbia	2,912,600	2,041,600
	CANADA	74,912,600	58,201,600

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