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FRUIT CROP REPORT

Ottawa, November 3, 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 the last report of the season showing the condition of fruit crops in the main producing areas.

SUMMARY

The estimates of the late fruit crops with the exception of grapes are, for the most part, somewhat improved since the September report. Apples are now estimated at 4,225,100 barrels which is an increase of 4.5 per cent over the previous figure of 4,044,600 barrels. The improvement is due to the heavier packout in both Nova Scotia and Ontario. While some fruit was blown to the ground during the gale in mid-October in Nova Scotia, practically all these apples will be salvaged. The pear crop is also expected to be somewhat above the September prospects being currently estimated at 557,700 bushels compared with 508,800 bushels. This increase is the result of exceptional sizing of fruit in Ontario. The estimate of the plum and prune crops in Ontario also show an increase over the September outlook to bring the total for Canada to 354,400 bushels compared with 331,500 bushels. The peach harvest on the other hand remains unchanged at 571,100 bushels, which is a decline of 70 per cent from the 1,939,200 bushel harvest in 1942. The grape crop is now reduced to 53,881,600 pounds compared with 58,201,600 pounds indicated a month ago. This was due to the somewhat smaller bunch size in blue varieties in western Ontario where the bulk of this crop is grown.

Apples.- Substantial upward revisions in the September estimates of the apple crops in Nova Scotia and Ontario were only slightly offset by the minor reduction in the prospects for Quebec. The Canadian crop now stands at 4,225,100 barrels which is an increase of 4.5 per cent over the previous estimate of 4,044,600 barrels. Production this year is now expected to be 2.5 per cent below the 1942 harvest of 4,330,900 barrels but 12.2 per cent below the 5-year 1936-40 average of 4,813,800 barrels. The crop in Nova Scotia is packing out in greater volume than early estimates predicted. The October estimate sets the crop at 1,690,000 barrels, an increase of 7 per cent over the September estimate of 1,580,000 barrels. Autumn varieties, particularly Gravenstein, were above normal in size. Winter varieties in well fertilized orchards are of good size but are small in poorly fertilized plantings. There was heavy frost about the middle of the month but only a few orchards show any apparent damage. The gale on the night of October 17 caused a heavy drop of fruit which has been estimated as high as 250,000 barrels. Most, if not all, of this fruit will be salvaged however. Orchards adjacent to the Minas Basin received the full force of the storm with losses much lighter further up the valley. Annapolis County reports only slight damage. In addition to the loss caused by the storm, insect and scab damage has been heavy in many orchards. There is no change in the report of the crop in New Brunswick. A harvest of 90,000 barrels is indicated and the fruit is of good quality and colour. McIntosh appears to be exceptionally good. The fruit in Quebec failed to develop as expected with the result that a slight downward revision in the September estimate has been made to bring the crop to 292,000 barrels as compared with 300,000 barrels a month ago. The colour has been excellent but due to heavy scab about 50 per cent of the fruit was graded Domestic. The apples moved to

market rapidly and very little of the crop still remains in the growers hands. In eastern Ontario, ideal weather during the past month greatly facilitated harvesting under present labour conditions. All varieties developed high colour but in many orchards the size of the fruit was below average. Scab reduced the **grade of a** considerable volume of fruit. The bulk of the crop in western Ontario was harvested under favourable conditions with practically no frost, wind or hail damage. The colour in the area is also exceptional but sizing is somewhat irregular. No further reports on the British Columbia crop have been received since September when the harvest was indicated to be 1,410,100 barrels.

Pears.- An improvement in the prospects for the pear crop in Ontario brought the estimate for Canada to 557,700 bushels, an increase of 9.6 per cent over the September estimate of 508,800 bushels. While the Nova Scotia and British Columbia estimates remain at 20,000 bushels and 205,800 bushels respectively, the Ontario estimate is now increased to 331,900 bushels compared with 283,000 bushels of a month ago. General good sizing and yields from the young bearing trees resulted in the production of Kieffers and Bartletts being much better than early report indicated.

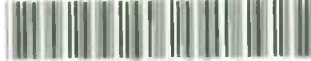
Plums and Prunes.- The estimate of Canadian plum and prune crop has been revised upward from 331,500 bushels in September to 354,400 bushels as a result of the somewhat improved size of the fruit generally and the heavier yields of prunes and European varieties in western Ontario. While the Nova Scotia and British Columbia estimate remains unchanged from September, the Ontario crop is now set at 131,100 bushels compared with 108,200 bushels a month ago.

Peaches.- No change in the estimate of the peach crop has been made since September when production was set at 571,100 bushels. This was a decline of approximately 70 per cent from the 1942 crop of 1,939,200 bushels. The reduction took place in both Ontario and British Columbia with the crop in the former being set at 437,400 bushels and in the latter at 133,700 bushels. In Ontario very little loss from rot was suffered by the Elbertas but insect damage was the most serious in many years.

Grapes.- A reduction in the estimate of the grape harvest in Ontario brings the Canadian total to 53,881,600 pounds, as compared with 58,201,600 pounds in September. The current crop is approximately 28 per cent smaller than the harvest of 74,912,600 pounds of last season. The crop in Ontario is now indicated to be 51,840,000 pounds compared with 56,160,000 pounds last month due largely to the somewhat lighter yields of Concords. All varieties produced well-filled bunches but many of the Blues were of small size. The quality was excellent and harvesting was completed under favourable conditions.

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

| Description | | 1 9 4 2 | 1 9 4 3 |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------|------------|
| | | bbl. | bbl. |
| <u>APPLES</u> - | Nova Scotia | 1,305,900 | 1,690,000 |
| | New Brunswick | 82,000 | 90,000 |
| | Quebec | 390,000 | 292,000 |
| | Ontario | 616,900 | 743,000 |
| | British Columbia | 1,936,100 | 1,410,100 |
| | CANADA | 4,330,900 | 4,225,100 |
| | | bu. | bu. |
| <u>PEARS</u> - | Nova Scotia | 21,700 | 20,000 |
| | Ontario | 412,100 | 331,900 |
| | British Columbia | 319,100 | 205,800 |
| | CANADA | 752,900 | 557,700 |
| <u>PLUMS AND PRUNES</u> - | Nova Scotia | 8,000 | 10,000 |
| | Ontario | 190,500 | 131,100 |
| | British Columbia | 167,000 | 213,300 |
| | CANADA | 365,500 | 354,400 |
| <u>PEACHES</u> - | Ontario | 1,620,000 | 437,400 |
| | British Columbia | 319,200 | 133,700 |
| | CANADA | 1,939,200 | 571,100 |
| <u>APRICOTS</u> - | British Columbia | 81,300 | 17,600 |
| | CANADA | 81,300 | 17,600 |
| <u>CHERRIES</u> - | Ontario | 272,200 | 107,700 |
| | British Columbia | 76,300 | 76,500 |
| | CANADA | 348,500 | 184,200 |
| | | qts. | qts. |
| <u>STRAWBERRIES</u> - | 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 |
| <u>RASPBERRIES</u> - | 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. |
| <u>LOGANBERRIES</u> - | British Columbia | 1,949,100 | 1,702,600 |
| | CANADA | 1,949,100 | 1,702,600 |
| <u>GRAPES</u> - | Ontario | 72,000,000 | 51,840,000 |
| | British Columbia | 2,912,600 | 2,041,600 |
| | CANADA | 74,912,600 | 53,881,600 |



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