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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CROP REPORT

Ottawa, August, 1945.- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the Marketing Service of the Department of Agriculture and the Provincial Department of Agriculture, issues today a report showing the condition of fruit and vegetable crops in the main producing areas.

SUMMARY

According to the third estimate of the fruit crops in Canada, little change in the size of the various crops occurred during the past month. A decline of approximately 1 per cent in the prospect for the apple harvest brings production this season to 7,626,000 bushels compared with the July estimate of 7,716,000 bushels. The current estimate places production at 57 per cent below the 1944 level, making this crop the smallest in the past 20 years. The anticipated pear crop improved some 5,000 bushels during the month to bring the present estimate to 593,000 bushels. This estimate indicates a decline of 34 per cent from the previous harvest of 894,000 bushels. The crop this season is the smallest since 1937. Plum and prune prospects declined 5 per cent during the month due to the less favourable outlook in British Columbia. The total crop is now set at 348,000 bushels or 31 per cent smaller than the 1944 harvest of 503,000 bushels. Declines from the previous crop are reported in all three commercial producing provinces. A slight improvement in the outlook for peaches in both Ontario and British Columbia brings the Canadian total to 1,491,000 bushels or 13,000 bushels above the July prospects. The current estimate is still 12 per cent below the 1944 level of production. Apricots are produced in commercial quantities only in British Columbia where a decline of 1 per cent since July brings the harvest to 151,000 bushels. There was no change in the July estimate of the cherry crop when production was set at 183,000 bushels. The present crop is 36 per cent smaller than the 285,000 bushel harvest of 1944. Grape production shows a slight improvement since the last report and the estimate now stands at 68,460,000 pounds. This is 12 per cent above the 1944 level and is the third largest crop on record exceeded only by those of 1928 and 1942.

The Canadian potato crop this season which is currently estimated at 42,600,000 hundredweight, is 14 per cent below the 1944 level of production of 49,409,000 hundredweight but is still 8 per cent larger than the five-year 1938-42 average of 39,310,000 hundredweight. Although the average yields per acre in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan are somewhat higher than those of last season, yields in the Maritime Provinces and Alberta are sharply reduced.

Apples

A further decline in the prospects for the apple crop since July brings the Canadian total to 7,626,000 bushels. Declines took place in Ontario and British Columbia while prospects in New Brunswick, Quebec and Nova Scotia show no change. In Nova Scotia the crop in the Annapolis Valley, taken as a whole, is almost a complete failure and amounts to only 975,000 bushels. In the majority of orchards the set of fruit is light. Frost injury, insect and disease damage are widespread and have combined to reduce the quality of the crop to such an extent that it is now felt that not more than 50 per cent of the fruit will meet the grade requirements. Rain which began to fall on August 24 and continued through August 25 greatly relieved

the rather serious drought conditions which prevailed throughout the month. In New Brunswick no change occurred during the month and the previous estimate of the crop of 119,000 bushels still stands. This year's harvest is 60 per cent smaller than that of last season and the fruit is of much poorer quality. Scab and russetting are quite general and not more than 60 per cent of the fruit is expected to meet grade requirements. In Quebec the anticipated harvest is still set at 80,000 bushels or 91 per cent smaller than the 1944 crop of 900,000 bushels. The present crop is the smallest in the past 20 years and the quality of the fruit is much below normal as a result of insect and disease damage. The crop in Ontario is now set at 642,000 bushels, a decline of 11 per cent during the month. In eastern Ontario temperatures have been ideal but moisture supplies are variable. Insect damage and scab have combined to further reduce the crop prospects. Most varieties are now taking on colour but the size is still below average and much of the fruit is deformed. In western Ontario also, a decline in prospects occurred during the month. The weather was generally favourable for fruit development except in southwestern countries and in Peel-York where it was hot and dry. Except in a few orchards, scab is severe and codling moth injury is widespread. Wealthies are the most promising variety and harvesting is now under way. The British Columbia crop is now estimated at 5,810,000 bushels or 14,000 bushels smaller than the July prospects. The crop this season is one-third smaller than the record harvest in 1944 of 8,750,000 bushels and the reduction is shown in all varieties. The crop this year, however, is of good quality and colour.

Pears

The Canadian pear harvest is currently estimated at 593,000 bushels and indicates an increase of approximately 1 per cent since July. The present estimate shows a reduction of 34 per cent from the previous crop, the decline being due to the poor set of fruit in Ontario.

The Nova Scotia harvest is now estimated at 38,000 bushels which is 27 per cent greater than that of the 1944 season. Clapps Favourite and Bartlett, which make up the bulk of production are, generally speaking, a moderate crop. They have sized and coloured well but are more or less scabbed and in some places are attacked by codling moth. Late varieties are generally not so good. In Ontario there was no change in the pear prospects during the month and the crop still stands at 48,000 bushels. The present crop is 87 per cent smaller than the 1944 harvest. In eastern Ontario the fruit is below average size and severely damaged by insects. In western Ontario the trees are healthy and the foliage and wood growth is satisfactory. British Columbia prospects increased slightly since July to bring the anticipated harvest to 507,000 bushels. The fruit is of good quality and size and Bartletts are now moving to market.

Plums and Prunes

The prospects for this fruit declined some 5 per cent during the month due to the somewhat poorer outlook in British Columbia. The estimate now stands at 348,000 bushels compared with 365,000 bushels a month ago, and 503,000 bushels in 1944.

Plum production in Nova Scotia remains at 8,000 bushels or 27 per cent below the 1944 harvest. The crop in the area west of Kentville is very light but is much better in the Avonport-Fallmouth section. Both European and Japanese varieties show a decline from last year. Red June and Burbank are now being picked and the size of the fruit is about average. The anticipated plum harvest in Ontario remains unchanged since July at 30,000 bushels. The present crop is 79 per cent smaller than that of last season and is the smallest crop since 1926. The estimate in British Columbia declined 5 per cent during August and the harvest is now expected to amount to 310,000 bushels. The crop this season is 11 per cent smaller than that of last year.

Peaches

An improvement in the prospects since July in both Ontario and British Columbia amounting to 13,000 bushels brings the total to 1,491,000 bushels for the Dominion. The current estimate is 12 per cent smaller than the 1944 harvest of 1,698,000 bushels. In western Ontario where this crop is grown the estimate now stands at 829,000 bushels or 29 per cent below the 1944 level. The trees are generally healthy and the fruit is sizing well. There is little evidence of brown rot but Oriental peach moth injury in most orchards in the Niagara District is causing heavy culling. Split pits are also prevalent in some varieties. Movement of the seasonal main crop varieties is now under way with a proportion moving to the processors. The British Columbia crop is now estimated at 662,000 bushels or 2,000 bushels above the July prospects. The present crop is the largest on record and exceeds the unusually large crop in 1944 by 26 per cent.

Apricots

This fruit is grown commercially only in British Columbia where prospects declined slightly since July to bring the estimate to 151,000 bushels. Harvesting is now completed for the season.

Cherries

There was no change in the estimate of the cherry crop in either British Columbia or Ontario since the last report when production was set at 183,000 bushels. In Ontario the crop is estimated at 41,000 bushels or 71 per cent smaller than the 1944 harvest of 140,000 bushels. In western Ontario some orchards are being attacked by Shot Hole Fungus and Yellow Leaf causing defoliation, which in some instances, is quite serious. The British Columbia crop remains at 142,000 bushels or slightly smaller than the 1944 harvest of 145,000 bushels.

Grapes

The grape crop which is currently estimated at 68,460,000 pounds is 12 per cent above the 1944 level of production of 60,862,000 pounds. The crop in Ontario, where the bulk of the fruit is produced, is now set at 64,830,000 pounds. The vineyards are in excellent condition and the grapes are sizing well. Control sprays have been applied for mildew. In British Columbia production is expected to amount to 3,630,000 pounds or 3 per cent greater than the 1944 harvest.

POTATOES

According to a tentative estimate based on a survey just completed, production of potatoes in Canada this season will amount to approximately 42,600,000 hundredweight or 14 per cent below the previous crop of 49,409,000 hundredweight. Average yields per acre in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan are slightly higher than those of last season but yields in the Maritime Provinces and Alberta are considerably below the 1944 level. This estimate is based on early indications and favourable weather during the next month could increase yields considerably.

In Prince Edward Island the crop suffered from lack of moisture and first diggings have yielded many small tubers. Potato bugs which were troublesome early in the season are now under control. Blight, however, is common in some sections. In Nova Scotia early yields were disappointing. Cold,

backward weather leached away fertility and prevented satisfactory working of the soil. Late potatoes vary, some promising, while others are patchy. Rain on August 24 and 25 will be very beneficial. Spraying has been thoroughly done and very little blight is in evidence. In New Brunswick welcome rains fell on August 25. Early diggings were disappointing and yielded many small tubers. Insect and disease damage are causing concern and large producers are continuing to spray.

The Quebec crop also suffered from the continued dry weather. Growers are having some trouble in meeting grade requirements. The late potatoes in the lower St. Lawrence section look good but the dry weather is causing concern. In eastern Ontario yields of early potatoes are only fair. Recently insects and disease have caused considerable damage to the late crop. In western Ontario the early crop is now practically all harvested. Late potatoes are showing severe infestations of aphids, leaf hopper, flea beetles and some blight on unsprayed fields. As a result of the insect and disease damage, the crop will be lighter than previously expected.

In Manitoba the early favourable prospects were considerably reduced by the drought. Dry weather also affected the yields in Saskatchewan. Early indications in British Columbia are that the early and second-early crop are running seven tons to the acre. Late crop potatoes, however, will be on the light side.

Third Estimate of Fruit Production in Canada, 1945 and Final Estimate for 1944

Kind and Province		1 9 4 4	1 9 4 5
		bushels	
Apples	- Nova Scotia	5,262,000	975,000
	New Brunswick	297,000	119,000
	Quebec	,900,000	80,000
	Ontario	2,620,000	642,000
	British Columbia	8,750,000	5,810,000
	Canada	17,829,000	7,626,000
Pears	- Nova Scotia	30,000	38,000
	Ontario	372,000	48,000
	British Columbia	492,000	507,000
	Canada	894,000	593,000
Plums and Prunes	- Nova Scotia	11,000	8,000
	Ontario	144,000	30,000
	British Columbia	348,000 <u>1/</u>	310,000 <u>1/</u>
	Canada	503,000	348,000
Peaches	- Ontario	1,174,000	829,000
	British Columbia	524,000	662,000
	Canada	1,698,000	1,491,000
Apricots	- British Columbia	146,000	151,000
Cherries	- Ontario	140,000	41,000
	British Columbia	145,000	142,000
	Canada	285,000	183,000
		pounds	
Grapes	- Ontario	57,340,000	64,830,000
	British Columbia	3,522,000 <u>2/</u>	3,630,000
	Canada	60,862,000	68,460,000

1/ Revised since July on basis of new conversion factors.

2/ Revised since July

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