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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CROP REPORT

Ottawa, June 1, 1946: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the Marketing Service 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.

SUMMARY

It is still exceedingly early in the season to predict the out-turn of the 1946 fruit crops, but in general prospects are somewhat brighter than last year. In the Maritimes the orchards have not bloomed yet, but with favourable weather during the remainder of the season, the crop should be about normal. Orchards in Quebec show the result of the unfavourable 1945 season and production, while larger than last year, will be much below normal. In Ontaria orchards have recovered considerably from the severe damage caused by frost and scab last season. The apple crop is expected to be about average while an above-average peach crop is looked for. The prospects for the plum and prune crop is still in doubt but pears and cherries will not be as good as the bloom indicated because of late frost damage.

Strawberry production will be heavier than last season, the increase ranging from 5% to 10% in Western Ontario to 20% in Eastern Ontario. Raspberries are about the same as last year. In Manitoba the fruit crops were seriously reduced by late frosts which affected the tree fruits particularly. The prospects for all crops in British Columbia are bright. Peaches and apricots are particularly promising.

From the present indications the outlook is for a 23% increase in potato production this season. Based on the farmers' intention to plant and an average yield per acre, the outlook is for a crep of 44,389,000 cwt.

FRUIT CROPS 1946

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

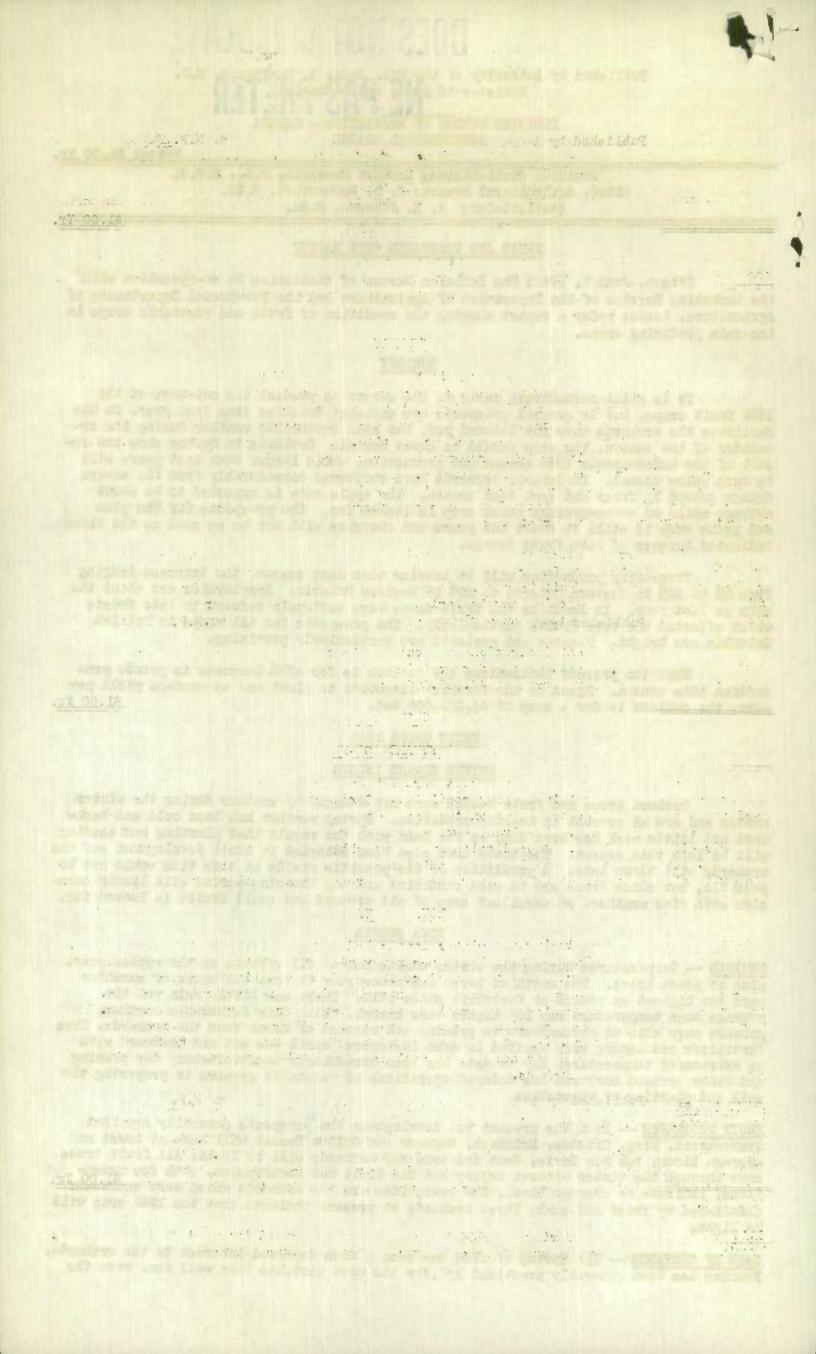
Orchard trees and fruit bushes were not damaged by weather during the winter months and are at present in healthy condition. Spring weather has been cold and backward and little work has been done on the land with the result that planting and seeding will be late this season. The trees have also been retarded in their development and the orchards will bloom late. A prediction of the possible yields at this time would not be possible, but since trees are in good condition and the blooming period will likely coincide with fine weather, an excellent crop of all orchard and small fruits is looked for.

NOVA SCOTIA

GENERAL — Temperatures during the winter months had no ill effects on the apple, pear, plum or peach trees. The month of March was noteworthy in that the hours of sunshine were the highest on record at Kentville since 1912. There was little rain and the average mean temperature was 10° higher than normal. With this favourable weather, growers were able to concentrate on pruning and removal of brush from the orchards. Even fertilizer and manure were applied in some instances. April was wet and backward with no extremes of temperature. May to date has been exceedingly unsatisfactory for pruning and other orchard work and has delayed operations of vegetable growers in preparing the soil and planting of vegetables.

FRUIT PROSPECTS — From the present bud development the prospects generally are that Gravenstein, King, Ribsten, McIntosh, Wagener and Golden Russot will have at least an average bloom, but Ben Davis, Gano and some Spy orchards will be light. All fruit trees came through the winter without injury and the fruit bud development, with few exceptions, indicate an average bloom. The exceptions are the orchards which were seriously defoliated by frost and scab. These orchards at present indicate that the 1946 crop will be light.

CARE OF ORCHARDS -- The Spring of 1946 has seen a much improved interest in the orchards. Pruning has been generally practiced and for the most part, has been well done over the



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whole Valley. Possibly never in the history of the Valley has more attention been given to spraying for the control of fungous diseases. The majority of the growers have already applied two and some of the better growers will have put on four sprays by the bloom. Weather conditions during April were not particularly suitable for spraying oil for the control of cystershell scale, but most orchards were treated for this insect. Applications of nicotine for the control of aphids was hindered by high winds and unfavourable weather. Frequent rains have made it very difficult to move spray equipment through the orchards. In spite of this, fairly good jobs of spraying have been done. With the wot unfavourable weather, there has been almost continuous discharge of scab spores and spraying has not been too offective in controlling this disease. With infoction already showing on the foliage, there is a serious possibility that the crop will not be too clean unless weather conditions improve and future spray is more offective.

NEW BRUNSWICK

GENERAL -- Spring woather to date has been generally backward with frequent showers and continued cold weather since the latter part of April, which has retarded plant growth and seeding operations of all early crops.

APPLES -- The orchards are, for the most part, well budded particularly McIntosh and present indications are for a good crop if conditions remain favourable. The adverse weather of 1945 did not set the tree development back to any extent and the crop this year is expected to be only slightly reduced. The season is decidedly late and full bloom on McIntosh, Cortland and other principle varieties is not expected before the first week in June.

SMALL FRUITS -- Strawberries and raspborries wintered well, but growth to date has been slow. Stands of plants in the early producing areas, that is, the Grand Lake district, are not as thick as normal, due to the dry growing season in 1945, coupled with some winter: injury through exposure. Late producing areas, however, are expecting normal harvests. Raspberries wintered well and prospects for now plantings, to a certain extent, depend upon the available supplies of planting stock which is still below normal.

QUEBEC

Orchards and small fruit plantations wintered well and no injury of importance is reported. The apple crop will be considerably below average this season. By varieties, production is currently estimated as follows:— Late varieties, 80%-100% of normal; Fameuse, 50%-60% of normal, while McIntosh are expected; to be only 30%-40% of normal. This last variety suffered more than others from apple scab last season. It is reported that some orchards will harvest no McIntosh at all this season. The bloom is about finished and temperature was ideal for pollonation. Fractically no scab is apparent and insect damage is negligible.

The strawberry crop is promising in the Two Mountains and Laval sections. but will be 75% to 80% less than last year in Exprairie on account of ice, which covered the beds all winter. Strawberries will be in full bloom at the end of the week.

ONTARIO

GENERAL -- In Eastern Ontario, that is in the Counties east of York, the orchards are in good condition generally. There was some loss of apple and cherry trees, however, in a few orchards which were severely defoliated last season. Some bark splitting on trunks of younger trees is now apparent in a number of orchards. Severe frosts during the last week in April caused some fruit bud and foliage injury chiefly on low ground in the early sections.

In Western Ontario commercial orchards and vineyards wintered in good condition and with minimum 'rodont damage. Spring moisture and weather conditions to date have been favourable for good pruning, spraying and cultivation. Only in Feel-York do some trees show a weakened condition resulting from defoliation in 1945. Frosts in mid-April and early May caused varying damage to fruit blossoms in west Elgin, Middlesex, Essex, Kent, Brant and, to a lessor extent, in the Georgian Bay area with practically no damage in other districts.

APPLES — About two-thirds of the orchards in Eastern Ontario are showing a medium to heavy bloom. Trees that suffered foliage injury last season show a light patchy blossom. Early varieties carried an average bloom, while fall and early winter varieties range from average to above average, with winter varieties average. There is one exception, Baldwins, which are poor. Starks and Spys are generally patchy, but a few blocks of these varieties bloomed heavily. On the whole, the prospects are for a crop of 55% to 60% of average. In Western Ontario apple trees, with the exception of Baldwins and a few orchards which were defoliated in 1945, carried a fair to heavy load of bloom and

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early prospects are for an average crop. However, severe frost damage to bloom in west Elgin, part of Middlesex, Brant, Essex and Kent Counties has lowered the prospects considerably. Early and fall varieties, generally, are expected to be average while winter varieties will definitely be below average. By districts, prospects are as follows: Georgian Bay, slightly better than average: Peel-York, Norfolk and Elgin-Oxford, almost average, with all other areas below average.

PEARS — Prospects for the pear crop in Eastern Ontario are above average. The trace wintered in good condition and regular sprays have been applied. Most varieties are now in full bloom and are carrying a heavy blossom. In Western Ontario pear trees are generally healthy. There was a heavy bloom on all varieties, but frost damage was sorious in some districts. In the main producing area of Niagara, many orchards now give indications of poor prospects, particularly for Bartletts.

PLUMS --- The present plum prospects in Eastern Ontario are average. The trees are in good condition and are now in full bloom. Although some varieties are patchy, most kinds show a heavy blossom. In Western Ontario the show of bloom was excellent in all areas, but the set of fruit in the main producing area of Niagara is still uncertain. In the central and south-western districts, the crop will be below average as a result of frost damage.

CHERRIES — In Eastern Ontario, prospects for sour cherries are generally below average. Trees are in fairly good condition, but late frosts caused some bud injury. A few orchards showed a heavy load of bloom, while others were very irregular. In Western Ontario the present prospects are for an average crop in Niagara, Purlington, Norfolk and Peel-York districts. In other sections the outlook is poor because of frost injury. Sweet cherry prospects in Niagara are fair to good. In the less important districts, the crop was seriously reduced by frost damage.

PEACHES -- Peaches are grown only in Western Ontario where the trees are in excellent condition. Following a heavy bloom, the crop prospects are average to above average in Niagara, Burlington and Norfolk, but are below average in Middlesex and Essex.

STRAWBERRIES — In Eastern Ontario, frost damaged early blooms in some localities. However, a 20% increase over the 1945 crop is looked for if weather conditions continue favourable. Considerable new planting was done last year and most patches are developing good growth and are looking well after recent rains. In Western Ontario it is probable there will be an increase of from 5 to 10% in production this season. In general, the condition of the beds is good and plant growth has been rapid. An increase in the bearing acreage is reported in Niagara, Burlington and Peel-York districts, but there is a decrease in Norfolk, Brant and Georgian Bay sections. In Middlesex, Head of the Lakes and South-Western Counties, no changes are noted.

RASPBERRIES -- Crop prospects are slightly below average in Eastern Ontario. Some beds are looking well but others show heavy winter damage. In this district there was a considerable increase in new plantings. In Western Ontario, the crop is expected to be at least equal to that of last year if present favourable weather conditions prevail. Plants are generally in good condition and the acreage shows a slight increase since last year.

GRAPES - It is still too early to estimate the possible grape harvest in Western Ontario but vineyards are in excellent condition and vines are growing rapidly.

MANITOBA

FRUIT — Tree and bush fruits were very heavily damaged by frost early in May and there will be a complete failure of most tree fruits. In addition there will likely be some loss of trees owing to severe winter injury. Smaller fruits, such as currants and goose-berries, survived quite well, although yields will be below normal Raspberries suffered last fall from frosts which killed back upper portions of the cames and severe frosts this Spring, in most cases, killed the young fruiting shoots. Production of raspberries is therefore expected to be very light. Strawberries were in part winter-killed but generally survived. Ever-bearing is the common variety and frosts caught the first fruit buds to be formed.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

GENERAL — The winter in the main fruit producing areas was, for the most part, mild and with only short periods of freezing temperatures. With an early start this Spring, cool weather retarded plant development and growth is now only one week in advance of last season. Moisture supplies vary from poor to good with irrigation water being applied in some sections. Spring frosts were generally light and had little offect, except in the case of cherries in some sections of the Okanagan Valley which were seriously

affected by frost on the night of April 30th.

TREE FRUITS — All varieties of fruit blossomed well and although it is still too early to determine the set of fruit, good crops are locked for. Apples will be a heavier crop than last year, but plums in some sections are spotty. Sweet cherries appear to be the only exception with Bings being on the light side. Peaches and apricots are expected to carry full crops and pears have also set well. Small fruit crops are very promising and fair to heavy yields are anticipated. Strawberries are in full bloom and the earliest varieties will be marketed about the first week in June. Raspberry beds are developing rapidly and the canes are making strong growth. Loganberry and blackberry production is expected to show an increase over last year as new acreage is coming into bearing.

VEGET ABLES

Cool, backward weather in the Maritime Provinces has retarded planting and seeding operations. Development of crops has been slow and very little produce has yet appeared in the local markets.

In the Montreal area of <u>Quebec</u> the asparagus crop has been late, due to the bad weather. Heavy supplies, however, are now on the market. With an increase of 10% in acreage over last year, if the weather continues fine, total production will be good. Beans are just emerging as cold weather has retarded germination. The acreage this season will be about the same as last year. There will be no change in acreage of beets and growth to date has been slow. The acreage of early cabbage will be 20% larger than last year. This crop has grown fairly well and looks fairly promising. The acreage sown to early carrots is expected to be 20 to 25% larger than last season. This crop also has been slow in developing. Planting of early cauliflower has just been completed and the acreage will be 25% larger than in 1945. It is still too early to predict what the crop will be but growth so far has been good. Sweet corn is being sown for the second time as early seeding rotted in the ground because of excessive moisture. Hot bed cucumbers are not too healthy in the Ste. Dorothee section but other localities report good growth. This crop, however, requires more warm days. The field crop is expected to be larger than last season. The acreage to be planted to lettuce will be considerably reduced this year with iceberg type down 25% and other types down 10%. The acreage of seeded onions will be 10% greater and the acreage of planted onions 20% greater than last season. Seeding and planting is practically over in the Montreal area.

Planting of parsnips will be done during the next two weeks. The anticipated acreage will be about the same as in 1945. The acreage of peas for the fresh market is somewhat less than last year. Germination is reported to be good. Peas for canning purposes show an increase in acreage over last year. Spinach acreage is about the same as that of 1945 and the crop looks promising. The present supplies on the market are heavy. The tomatoes intended for the fresh market are expected to show no increase in acreage this year. The planting, however, is not yet started.

In Eastern Ontario early conditions have been ideal for working the soil and for seeding. Growth developed slowly during the first three weeks in May, due to cold, dry, windy weather but since the recent rains and higher temperature growth has been much better. The spring frosts caused very little damage throughout the district. The condition of all crops is average or better. The contracted acreage for the canning crops shows an increase ranging from 15% for peas to 59% for corn over the acreage harvested in 1945. The increase in the case of tomatoes is 44%.

In Western Ontario unusually dry weather from March to early May enabled growers to prepare the soil on an unusually large scale at an early date. Low temperatures, frequent high winds and lack of moisture, however, greatly retarded germination and development of all crops. Since May 10th, however, conditions have been more favourable. Several sharp frosts in late April and early May, coupled with high wind, damaged cauliflower seedlings, especially in the Essex. Kent, Lampton area where some re-seeding of onions was necessitated by soil drifting. Field operations in the Northern Ontario and Head of the Lakes districts have not progressed to any extent but reports from these soctions indicate that prospective plantings will be at least equivalent to those of last year. With ample rainfall and warmer weather in mid-May, all crops are recovering satisfactorily and are now growing rapidly. Except for a few crops, notably cauliflower and early celery in the main producing areas, the cutlock for almost all commodities is now about average. Asperagus was first cut at Burlington on April 20th but harvesting in volume was delayed until May 6th. Head lettuce was cut surprisingly early at Learnington on May 19th but commercial volume will not be available until the last week in May. Canning crops are making an auspicious start, although delivery of asparagus to the processors was delayed until May 20th. The seeding of peas is practically completed and there is a substantial increase in acroage already up and growing well. The planting of tomatoes is well under way, especially in the Essex, Kent, Lampton area, where trial

· smail-many shipments of plants were received by air from Georgia. A considerable increase in acreage is being planted under favourable conditions. Spring-sown spinach is now ready to process in all areas. In Saskatchewan the general planting of gardens commenced about May 15th. Growth has been slow owing to cold, backward weather, but some radishes and early peas are now above ground. No vegetables, with the exception of some hot-house grown crops, are being marketed. Present indications are that the acreage of vegetables will be about the same as in 1945. Spring work on the vegetable acreage in British Columbia was started earlier than usual, but frosts in some districts destroyed early tomatoes and cucumbers. The loss, however, has been made up by new plantings. The vegetable crops are growing rapidly for the most part, although the frost checked early plantings of celery and cabbage. While there is no accurate estimate of acreage, an increase over last year in the area planted to onions is expected, while the tomato acreage will be somewhat reduced. Although early cuttings of asparagus were caught by a late frost, the loss was more than overcome by later cuttings which have been very heavy.

FOTATOES

According to a recent survey, Canadian farmers reported that on April 30th they intended to plant 533,400 acres of potatoes in 1946. This represents an increase of 5% over the acreage planted last season and a 2% increase in the six year 1940-45 average. If yields are equal to the average for the war years, 1940-1945, a total crop of 44,389,000 cwt. is in prospect, This would represent a 23% increase over the 1945 harvest of 35,986,000 cwt.

I. FARMERS' INTENTION TO FLANT POTATOES IN 1946

	ACREAGE FLANTED 1945	% of 1945	Intended Acresse 1946
	Ac.		Ac.
Canada	507,700	105	533,400
Frince Edward Island	43,000	110	47,000
Nova Scotia	22,400	110	24,600
New Brunswick	66,200	110	72,800
drepec	156,100	103	160,800
Ontario	116,000	102	118,300
Manitoba	25,000	104	26,000
Saskatchewan	36,600	103	37,700
Alberta	25,900	110	28,500
British Columbia	16,500	107	17,700

II. ANTICIPATED POTATO CROP IN 1946

	INTENDED ACREAGE	AVERAGE YIELD	ANTICIFATED HARVEST
	AC.	CWT.	CWT.
Canada	533,400	83	44,389,000
Prince Edward Island	47,000	105	4,935,000
Nova Scotia	24,600	98	2,410,800
New Brunswick	72,800	135	9,828,000
Quebec	160,800	74	11,899,200
Ontario	118,300	62	7,334,600
Manitoba	26,000	70	1,820,000
Saskatchewan	37,700	58	2,186,600
Alberta	28,500	73	2,080,500
Pritish Columbia	17,700	107	1,893,900



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