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MAPLE PRODUCTION REPORT FOR 1939

Summary

Although the season was short and late, the 1939 crop of maple products was about average and of fairly good quality. The total production of maple sugar and syrup in terms of syrup is estimated at 2,592,200 gallons. While this represents a decrease in production of 21.5 per cent from the very large crop of the previous year which was estimated at 3,300,700 pounds, it is slightly larger than the average production of 2,538,200 gallons for the period 1928-37. The farm production of maple sugar was only 11 per cent of the total crop, as compared with 10 per cent in 1938 and 26 per cent in 1937. Prices paid to producers for the 1939 crop were higher than in the previous year. The 1939 crop of maple sugar and syrup is valued at \$3,443,900, as compared with \$3,849,900 in 1938, a decrease of 10.5 per cent.

Production

The total production of maple sugar and syrup, expressed as maple syrup, is estimated at 2,592,200 gallons. While this crop is 708,500 gallons or 21.5 per cent less than the very large crop of 1938, it exceeds the very small production in 1937 by 918,800 gallons or 54.9 per cent and is slightly larger than the 10-year (1928-37) average production of 2,538,200 gallons. This year's production of maple syrup is estimated at 2,302,200 gallons and the farm make of maple sugar at 2,900,200 pounds, as compared with 2,955,300 gallons of syrup and 3,453,900 pounds of sugar in 1938. The distribution of production by provinces in order of magnitude follow, with the corresponding estimates for 1938 within brackets: Maple syrup (gallons) - Quebec 1,810,400 (2,353,800); Ontario 479,000 (570,800); New Brunswick 8,800 (23,300); Nova Scotia 4,000 (7,400). Maple sugar (pounds) - Quebec 2,715,400 (3,212,100); Ontario 66,200 (79,000); New Brunswick 82,400 (118,200); Nova Scotia 36,200 (44,600).

The proportion of the 1939 crop made into maple sugar on farms is reported by crop correspondents of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics as 11 per cent of the total production, compared with 10 per cent in 1938 and 26 per cent in 1937. For Quebec, the percentage proportions of sugar and syrup are practically the same as obtained last season. Thirteen per cent of the total crop was made into sugar in 1939 as compared with 12 per cent in 1938. Almost the entire Ontario crop was consumed on farms or sold in syrup form. In the Maritime provinces, approximately half the 1939 crop was made into sugar, which is a larger proportion than in 1938. The farm production of maple sugar in New Brunswick was estimated at 48 per cent of the total crop this season as compared with 34 per cent in 1938, and in Nova Scotia the corresponding estimates were 48 per cent in 1939 as compared with 38 per cent in 1938.

Seasonal Conditions

Due to a cold backward spring the 1939 maple season was short and late and tapping of trees commenced about three weeks later than last year. The average dates of first and last runs of sap as reported by crop correspondents in 1939 compared with corresponding dates reported in 1938 are as follows:

Province	1938		1939	
	Average date first run began	Average date last run ended	Average date first run began	Average date last run ended
Nova Scotia	March 25	April 18	April 4	April 25
New Brunswick ..	March 22	April 20	April 4	April 28
Quebec	March 20	April 18	April 3	April 29
Ontario	March 22	April 14	April 1	April 21

Spring was cold and late in the Maritime Provinces and as a result the crop was much smaller than last year's. Tapping of trees was done during the first week of April, three weeks later than usual. Less than half the quantity of sap was gathered in New Brunswick. The sap flow was intermittent and continued until the last week of April.

The season was disappointing in the Quebec City district, the average crop being less than 50 per cent of last year's production. In Beauce county, although several good runs were experienced, the crop was much lighter than anticipated earlier in the season. The crop in the Montreal district was more satisfactory although production was less than last year. Factors responsible for the short crop this year include the damage done to sugar bushes by the hurricane which swept the counties south of the St. Lawrence river last September and the sudden advent of warm weather which brought the season abruptly to a close.

In Ontario, the weather was unsatisfactory in the early part of the season with runs of sap very irregular and production below normal up to the middle of April. In eastern Ontario the season on the whole was fairly good and production was about 80 per cent of the previous year's make which was of average volume. Production in southern Ontario exceeded earlier expectations both in volume and quality. Variable runs were reported in western counties, some fair, others excellent. Although a large number of trees were tapped in northern Ontario, weather conditions were unfavourable and the run of sap was light.

Marketing and Prices

Prices were fairly low at the beginning of the season as there was a considerable carry-over from the large crop of the previous year and prospects of at least an average crop this season. As the season advanced and a short crop was indicated, particularly in the larger production areas in Quebec, prices rose and were generally higher than those paid last year. No difficulty was experienced in marketing the small crop in New Brunswick, although prices were only slightly higher than in 1938. This was accounted for by the fact that a large surplus of last year's stock of syrup was carried over by local grocers while for the most part the 1939 make was of fair quality only.

Average prices per gallon received by the producers for maple syrup are estimated as follows, with the 1938 prices within brackets: Nova Scotia \$1.76 (\$1.81); New Brunswick \$1.76 (\$1.63); Quebec \$1.25 (\$1.10); Ontario \$1.54 (\$1.47). Prices reported for maple sugar in cents per pound averaged for Nova Scotia 23 (23); New Brunswick 23 (21); Quebec 14 (10); Ontario 20 (18).

The total value of the combined production of maple sugar and syrup in 1939 is estimated at \$3,443,900 as compared with \$3,849,900 in 1938, a reduction of \$406,000 or 10.5 per cent. The distribution by provinces in order of magnitude follows, with the corresponding values for 1938 within brackets: Quebec \$2,643,200 (\$2,910,300); Ontario \$750,900 (\$853,200); New Brunswick \$34,500 (\$62,700); Nova Scotia \$15,300 (\$23,700).

Approximately 80 per cent of the total production of maple syrup was reported by crop correspondents as having been sold at May 31. Of the total sales, 68 per cent was sold direct to the consumer and 32 per cent to wholesale packers. At the same date, 75 per cent of the maple sugar produced on farms was reported by crop correspondents as having been sold, 58 per cent of sales being to the retail trade and 42 per cent to wholesale agencies. Sales of the 1939 crop as at May 31, expressed as a percentage of the total production, by provinces are as follows: Maple syrup - Nova Scotia 91; New Brunswick 83; Quebec 76; Ontario 83. Maple sugar - Nova Scotia 98; New Brunswick 96; Quebec 66; Ontario 72.

A much larger proportion of the crop has been disposed of on the export market this season. Exports during the three months April to June 1939 were more than double the quantity exported during the corresponding period in 1938. Exports during the six months ended June 1939 amounted to 161,313 gallons of maple syrup and 5,376,581 pounds of maple sugar as compared with only 3,042 gallons of syrup and 3,242,382 pounds of sugar during the corresponding period in 1938, representing increases of 158,271 gallons of syrup and 2,134,199 pounds of sugar. Practically all the exports of maple products go to the United States, although an increase in the exports of maple syrup to the United Kingdom was shown during the past year.

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The United States 1939 maple crop was considerably smaller than the crop of the previous year. Production of maple syrup was estimated at 2,447,000 gallons as compared with 2,772,000 gallons in 1938. Production of maple sugar shows a decrease from 1,078,000 pounds in 1938 to 715,000 pounds in 1939. The crop is generally reported as of exceptionally good quality.

Table 1.

Production of Maple Syrup and Maple Sugar, Expressed in Terms of Maple Syrup, in Canada, 1930 to 1939.

Year	Gallons of Syrup
1930	3,006,200
1931	1,832,300
1932	2,436,000
1933	1,840,800
1934	2,332,500
1935	2,904,700
1936	2,945,900
1937	1,673,400
1938	3,300,700
1939	2,592,800

Note: Ten pounds of maple sugar equal one gallon of maple syrup.

Table 2.

Farm Production of Maple Syrup and Maple Sugar, by Provinces, 1938 and 1939.

Province	Maple Syrup		Maple Sugar	
	1938	1939	1938	1939
	gallons		pounds	
Nova Scotia	7,400	4,000	44,600	36,200
New Brunswick	23,300	8,800	118,200	82,400
Quebec	2,353,800	1,810,400	3,212,100	2,715,400
Ontario	570,800	479,000	79,000	66,200
CANADA	2,955,300	2,302,200	3,453,900	2,900,200

Table 3.

Proportions of the Maple Crop made into Syrup and Sugar on Farms, by Provinces, 1938 and 1939.

Province	Maple Syrup		Maple Sugar	
	1938	1939	1938	1939
	p.c.		p.c.	
Nova Scotia	62	52	38	48-
New Brunswick	66	52	34	48
Quebec	88	87	12	13
Ontario	99	99	1	1
CANADA	90	89	10	11

Note: Statistical data on the production and value of maple products for the years 1924 to 1939 will be published in detail, by provinces, in the August issue of the "Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics".

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