

FRUIT CROP ESTIMATES: Estimates of production of fruit in Canada, based on conditions as of mid-August, show only slight changes from a month earlier, according to the Bureau of Statistics. The apple crop is now estimated at 15,468,000 bushels, down approximately 200,000 bushels from that anticipated in July, and one per cent lower than last year's harvest of 15,619,000 bushels. There was an improvement in the outlook for pears during the month, with the crop now set at 788,000 bushels. The crop, however, is 18 per cent smaller than that of a year ago when 966,000 bushels were produced.

Plums also showed an improvement during the month, being estimated at 618,000 bushels, an increase of 41,000 bushels since July. Peach prospects remain practically unchanged at 1,950,000 bushels. This year's crop is 16 per cent larger than that of a year ago when 1,681,000 bushels were harvested. The grape harvest is expected to amount to 74,297,000 pounds, one per cent above the 1947 figure of 73,803,000 pounds.

HUNT HARDY APPLE TREES: Canadian pomologists--experts in the cultivation of fruit trees--are growing new varieties of apple trees which they expect will help commercial growers battle winter kill in Canadian orchards and which will have, in the process, the added effect of pushing farther north the boundaries of Canada's apple-growing areas.

Commercial growers have good reason to dread the severity of Canadian winters. Damage done by the winter of 1933-34 to orchards in Ontario and Quebec resulted in a production drop of more than a million barrels. That meant a financial loss of over \$2,000,000.

Slow and painstaking, the search for better varieties has been going on in Canada for more than 25 years and the major research activity is being carried on by the Horticultural Division, Central Experimental Farm, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

In addition to the varieties of apple trees which have been growing in Canada for about 400 years, the search for hardy, frost-resistant stock was extended to include English and Russian varieties.

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS: Registrations of motor vehicles in Canada last year reached a record total of 1,834,989, showing an increase of 212,526 or 13 per cent over the 1946 total of 1,622,463, according to the Bureau of Statistics. The 1947 gain followed an increase of 125,382 or 7.8 per cent in 1946 over 1945, when registrations totalled 1,497,081, making a rise of 337,908 or over 22 per cent in two years.

ABOARD H.M.C.S. "MAGNIFICENT": Realistic aerial exercises in which H.M.C.S. "Magnificent" and her escorting destroyers, H.M.C.S. Ships "Nootka" and "Haida", acted alternately as an attacking force and as the target for air strikes, marked the passage through the Gulf of St. Lawrence and along the coast of Labrador of this northward-bound Royal Canadian Navy task force.

"Magnificent's" aircraft took full advantage of the consistently good flying weather that prevailed in the gulf to carry out a series of strikes on Grindstone Island, one of the isolated Magdalen group. The first strike took off at 4:30 a.m. and the last shortly before noon.

Each strike, on returning, reversed the procedure and constituted itself as an attack upon the task force. Despite the ships' ability to track the incoming planes by radar and to anticipate the assault, the Sea Furies and Fireflies closed in with such dash and skill that gunners on the carrier and the destroyers were hard put to contain them within their sights.

One group of Sea Furies came in almost at wave crest level, so low that their slipstreams left wakes on the water.

RETREAT BEFORE FOG

Off the Labrador coast, an exercise was carried out with landbased planes of the R.C.A.F., with aircraft from "Magnificent" flying continuous cover for the ships. In the latter part of the day, both attackers and defenders had to retreat before the common enemy -- fog.

The change in weather, to fog and chill rain, brought air operations to a temporary halt but did not interfere with other evolutions. Both destroyers have practiced fuelling from "Magnificent" and have carried out the evolution with marked precision.

An unanticipated exercise came when the "Haida's" seaboat rowed a stretcher patient to "Magnificent" for observation in the carrier's more extensive sick bay. The case was diagnosed as ordinary influenza.

Occasional breaks in the mist and rain have afforded views of huge icebergs, long lines of them floating southward in the Labrador current.

Off-duty hours in the ships have been lightened by the inventiveness and spirit of the 1,200 men making up the force. Foremost in this has been radio, "Magnificent" broadcasting not only to its own messdecks but to the accompanying ships as well. With the band from H.M.C.S. "Stadacona" along and with a wealth of local talent, there has been no difficulty in lining up programs.

COST-OF-LIVING: Showing the narrowest change since January, 1947, the cost-of-living index advanced 0.6 points from 156.9 to 157.5 between July 2 and August 2.

MR. HOWE'S CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION SPEECH

TRADE ANALYSIS: In an address at the Canadian National Exhibition, at Toronto, on Manufacturers' Day, September 4, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, spoke in part as follows:

"I am glad indeed to join with those present in giving recognition to Manufacturers' Day at the Canadian National Exhibition. I last attended a similar occasion in 1941, and on that day also opened a small display of Canadian munitions of war. At that time, Canada's industrial expansion was just getting under way. It has been continuing at an accelerating rate ever since. During the war, Canadian investment in plant and in equipment approximated 4.5 billion dollars. I am happy to say that over two-thirds of that investment has now been converted to peacetime production, most of it in the field of manufacture. Another 2 billion dollars was spent in the two years following the end of the war, for expansion and modernization. Out of this year's capital investment programme of well over 3 billion dollars, about one-third is in manufacturing industries. Compared with pre-war, we have doubled our output of manufacturing production, which is now running above wartime peaks. Last year, for the first time in peace, employment, in the manufacturing industries alone, exceeded employment in agriculture.

PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY

"There has been a tremendous increase in our productive capacity. This has been most notable in our major pre-war manufacturing industries -- motor vehicles, agricultural implements, railway equipment, textiles, and a wide variety of durable consumer and producer goods. Other pre-war industries, then of minor significance, have been expanded out of all proportion to pre-war capacity; examples being aluminum, chemicals, plastics, aircraft and machine tools. Entirely new industries have been created, of which synthetic rubber is an outstanding example. Although our primary iron and steel industry was expanded by 60% during the war, and its production was doubled, primary steel is now our major bottleneck on the materials side, as it is in all other countries.

"This expansion has resulted in a great increase in Canada's exports. Compared with pre-war, our exports last year had about trebled, having increased from 900 million dollars in 1939 to almost 2,800 million dollars in 1947. We are now the third exporting country in the world. Canada's \$220 per capita of exports last year was more than double the per capita of the United States and of the United Kingdom. Before the war, raw and semi-processed products of our farms, fisheries, forests and mines accounted for about 52% of total exports. In 1947, manufactured products had first place

and accounted for a little less than 60% of the total. Exports of fully manufactured goods, excluding agricultural, forest and mineral products, registered the greatest gain, having increased from 200 million dollars pre-war to about 690 million dollars in 1947.

"The degree of processing of Canada's primary products and raw materials has increased. In agriculture, for example, our exports of raw products are about two and half times the 1939 level, whereas agricultural manufactured products have expanded five times. Exports of semi-processed forest products have increased by 250 million dollars, whereas fully manufactured forest products have increased by about 400 million dollars. Mineral ore exports rose by 18 million dollars, whereas processed mineral products expanded by 122 million dollars....

"Our new industrial plant and equipment is of the best and the most modern obtainable. Today, Canada's industrial technology and productive efficiency is second to none in the world, a fact that should protect our position in the competitive days ahead....

"Corresponding to the high rate of investment, our national income and employment will reach their highest levels this year. Our gross national product for 1948 will be over 15 billion dollars; 15% higher than last year and three times higher than pre-war....

U. S. DOLLAR RESERVES

"Nearly one year has elapsed since the Government announced its emergency exchange programme. What have we been able to achieve so far? The drain on our United States dollar reserves has been stopped. There has been a modest increase in those reserves. This is in spite of an unprecedented capital investment programme for industrial development, which involves a substantial U.S. dollar content.

"How has this been accomplished? Comparing the first seven months' trade this year with last year, total exports of merchandise advanced from 1,585 million dollars to 1,670 million dollars, an increase of about 6%. As far as our U.S. dollar reserves are concerned, the important matter is the shift in our exports to the U.S. During this period, Canada's exports to the U.S. increased by 200 million dollars, while our exports to other countries decreased by 115 million dollars. On the import side, during the first seven months of this year our total imports increased from 1,485 million dollars to 1,505 million dollars. However, imports from the U.S. fell from 1,150 million dollars to 1,045 million dollars, a drop of about 5%. At the same time, our imports from other countries increased from 335 million dollars to 460 million dollars, an increase of 38% showing the good results of our efforts to obtain supplies that do not have to be paid