

BUMPER FRUIT CROP INDICATED BY EARLY REPORTS OF GROWERS

Fruit Commissioner issues Report on Prospects from Fruit Districts Estimating Probable Yield

LOOKS LIKE HEAVY CROP

According to the fruit and vegetable crop report for June, issued by the Fruit Commissioner's Branch, Department of Agriculture, the prospects for this season's fruit crops are as follows:—

In submitting the following summary of apple conditions throughout the Dominion, we wish to emphasize the fact that all our information is based upon the blossom and that many factors may intervene between now and harvest time to upset these calculations. They must, however, serve as the only basis upon which the probable yield can be estimated.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The weather in the Annapolis Valley has been cool and damp and has delayed blossoming. Our latest reports, dated May 28, are to the effect that the blossom is now coming out slowly and is very heavy. One wire says "the heaviest show since 1911 and all varieties equally good." This coincides with a great many other reports received by mail during the present week. Farmers are spraying more than ever and apparently taking a keener interest in their orchards than at any time since the embargo prevented exporting to Great Britain. With favourable weather during the next few weeks it looks like a very heavy crop.

ONTARIO.

Wet weather has prevailed throughout the province and the trees are only now coming into bloom. The following is a summary of reports received during the past few days: Trenton—Large crop expected except Spy, Ben Davis, and Baldwin, the latter having suffered greatly from winter injury in 1917-18. Starks are a full crop, as well as most of the early and fall varieties. Brighton—All varieties except Duchess and Wealthy promise a full crop. Baldwin and Ontario are nearly all winter killed. Twenty per cent of all trees in this district were killed during the winter of 1917-18. Oshawa—Fifty per cent increase over 1918. Winter injury very severe and a number of orchards have been ruined. Cobourg—Trees have wintered well and with favourable weather during blossom the crop should be excellent. Prince Edward County—There is a bumper crop in prospect judging from the number of blossom buds, but allowance should be made for winter injury in 1917-18.

In Western Ontario prospects are hardly as favourable. Lambton County has a light bloom on many of the later varieties, particularly Baldwin and Russet. Greening and McIntosh are full and most of the early varieties. In well cared for orchards the following is an estimate of this year's crop as compared with an average yield: Middlesex County—Spy, Baldwin, and Greening 50 per cent; Ben Davis, Duchess, and King, 100 per cent. Oxford County—winter varieties 80 per cent, fall varieties 30 per cent. Elgin County—winter varieties 40 per cent, fall varieties 30 per cent. Norfolk County—winter varieties 70 per cent, fall varieties 60 per cent. If neglected orchards were included in the foregoing estimate the total crop would not exceed 30 per cent of normal. Halton County gives fair promise on nearly all varieties. In the Georgian Bay district a medium crop is expected, about equal to 1918.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Early reports indicate a 50 per cent increase over last year in the Okanagan Valley. There is a particularly heavy crop of Jonathan, McIntosh, and Wealthy, which were light in 1918. Yellow Newtown is not as promising as other varieties. The crop will undoubtedly

OFFICIAL REPORTS ON CONDITION OF CROPS

The following telegrams on crop conditions have been received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from the superintendents of the Dominion Experimental Farms and from the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture:—

Prince Edward Island.

Charlottetown.—May temperature normal; fine weather prevailed last week. Seeding general on the 18th. Seventy-five per cent grain and 25 per cent potatoes planted at close of month. Hay prospects good.

New Brunswick.

Fredericton.—May cold and generally dry, facilitating seeding. Grain all seeded and potatoes mostly planted in Upper St. John valley. More precipitation in eastern section of province, preventing seeding. Grass looks well, and fall rye at Experimental Farm is 3 feet high and heading. Fall wheat also looking well. Live stock all on pasture at end of month.

Quebec.

St. Anne de la Pocatière.—Spring backward eastern Quebec; May rather cool and wet; first tillage on 8th. Seeding hardly possible before 15th; became general 20th. Only 30 per cent grain and potatoes in ground to date. Meadows wintered well; clover very promising. Fruit trees wintered well; leaves opening.

Lennoxville.—An average acreage has been sown to grain this season, with smaller percentage of wheat than last two years, but an increase in other grains and forage crops. Seeding practically completed, with the exception of swedes and beans. Clover wintered very well, and promises good crops.

Cap Rouge.—Season late; seeding operations delayed. At beginning of June no corn or roots and not more than half of the grain is sown. Prospects good for hay, pasture, and fruit.

Manitoba.

Brandon.—May started cool, with some showers, but last half very hot and dry. Wheat seeding completed normal time. Coarse grains in by end of month. Crop got good start, was injured somewhat by heat, but would recover quickly if rain came.

exceed that of 1918, due to the maturing of young orchards, as well as to the excellent prospects now indicated. On Vancouver Island all varieties indicate a heavy crop except Jonathan and Newtown which are medium. Excellent reports for all varieties have been received from the Kootenay Valley. The Creston district has a medium to heavy bloom of early and winter varieties and a fair to medium bloom of fall varieties.

QUEBEC.

Fameuse, McIntosh, Alexander, and Russet are an average crop; Duchess, Wealthy, St. Lawrence, and Alexander, light to medium. About twenty-five per cent of all trees were killed during the winter of 1917-18, but in spite of this there is promise of a fair production this year.

Reports received from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are not general enough to warrant our making a safe estimate. The apple crop in these two provinces does not, in any event, greatly affect the commercial market.

TENDER FRUITS.

The Niagara Peninsula was a mass of bloom about the middle of May and from indications at that time there was excellent promise of a bumper crop of peaches, plums, and cherries. Reports received since then state that the set has been unusually good and that even with a heavy June drop there is a very large crop in prospect. Apparently no serious injury was caused by

Some damage by cutworms and grasshoppers reported.

Morden.—Grain crops and grasses looking well, but other crops poor. Latter part of May exceptionally dry and temperatures ranging from 95 to 100. Soil moisture very good.

Saskatchewan.

Department of Agriculture, Regina.—Seeding practically completed. High winds have done very little damage. Hardly any reseeded necessary. Crops in excellent condition and making rapid growth. Sufficient moisture at present, although rain would be beneficial, especially in north and northwestern parts of province, where very little rain has fallen this year. All live stock reported in good condition; some cattle reported lost in bush fires in northern part of province.

Indian Head.—All crops growing and looking well. Hot weather and high winds damaged some districts. Rain needed. Some localities report damage from cutworms and grasshoppers. Crops further advanced than usual.

Scott.—Weather unusually warm for May. Winds have damaged crops in some sections. Sufficient warmth and moisture for unusually prompt germination and good crop growth. Early grain crops covering ground.

Alberta.

Lethbridge.—Rainfall for May one inch less than normal. Crop generally in need of moisture, but rain of 8 inches last few days of month improved conditions. Crop prospects in southern Alberta about 100 per cent, but copious June rains required on account of the scanty reserve of moisture in subsoil.

Lacombe.—Heavy snowfall early May delayed spring work ten days. Warm, windy weather followed. Cutworms did small amount of damage. Rain and snow last of May supplied needed moisture. Wheat and 60 per cent of oats up. Area unchanged. Crop prospects splendid.

British Columbia.

Agassiz.—May cool, damp, cloudy, resulting in very late spring; less than a third the sunshine for May of last year. Precipitation 4.71 inches, slightly more than average. Hay and pastures excellent and early. Other crops, especially cereals, corn, and roots, late.

nine degrees of frost on April 25. Only on two occasions in the past sixty years, according to newspaper reports, has the temperature been as low at that late date. The situation was undoubtedly saved this year by cloudy weather and heavy winds at the time of the frost. At St. Catharines and at points on the Niagara River there are serious evidences of leaf curl. One correspondent claims that in his section Elbertas will be reduced 60 per cent and other varieties 30 per cent by this disease. Cherries and plums give very favourable promise. The weather was unfavourable during the bloom, but apparently the set has been heavy. Japanese plums are reported light at St. Catharines. Definite estimates on peaches, plums, and cherries will be made with more accuracy after the June drop.

In British Columbia cherries and pears promise a fairly heavy crop, slightly less than 1918. Plums and peaches show an increase of ten per cent, with prunes equal to last year and apricots 15 per cent better, in the Okanagan Valley. On Vancouver Island the plum blossoms were caught by frost and cold winds which may have reduced the crop in that district.

SMALL FRUITS.

In Eastern Canada the season has been very unfavourable for small fruits and with a reported decrease in acreage this would indicate a considerable reduction in the marketable supply.

CANADIAN CORPS POSTAL UNITS HANDLED GREAT QUANTITY OF MAIL

Over 85,000,000 Items of Mail passed through hands of Postal Corps overseas

HIGHLY EFFICIENT

A short summary of the mail handled by the Canadian Postal Corps, Overseas Military Forces of Canada, is given in the Report of the Overseas Minister of Militia, as follows:—

	Bags.
Letters and News Mail handled (all areas)	102,261
Parcel Mail	351,815
Letters, News, and Parcels despatched	659,412
Total number of Registered items handled	433,600
Bags average 56 pounds in weight, and represent the following:—	
Letters	68,174,000
Newspapers	10,226,100
Parcels	5,332,670
Registered	433,600
Total items	85,166,370

The Canadian Postal Corps was organized for the purpose of dealing with all postal arrangements for the Canadian Overseas Military Forces, both in England and in France.

All mail for the Canadian troops in the field, whether from Canada or other sources, was first handled by the Canadian Postal Corps in London, and eventually placed in bags addressed to the various units. The Canadian Postal Corps in France thus carried on the work of distribution.

On December 31, 1918, the strength in England was officers, 7; other ranks, 174; and in France, officers, 7; other ranks, 148.

The Canadian Postal Corps handle the mail from the time of its receipt in England, until it is delivered to the regimental mail orderly of the unit in the line.

CANADA AND U. S. HAVE VAST COAL RESERVES

The final report of the Fuel Controller contains the following: "Should any one be alarmed about the coal supplies of Canada and the United States, it is only necessary to point out that an estimate made in 1910 gave the reserves of coal of all kinds in the United States, with its 100,000,000 people, as being 4,231,352,000,000 tons, while Canada, with its population of 8,000,000, has 1,360,535,000,000 tons. The output of the United States mines for 1918 was 585,560,522 tons, while that of Canada was approximately 15,000,000 tons. Great Britain, that hive of industry for generations, is credited with 208,922,000,000 tons reserves, small in comparison to Canada's supply."

This is particularly so in the case of strawberries, and at points between Toronto and Niagara Falls. Black currants and gooseberries, however, give excellent promise in that section. East of Toronto an increased acreage is reported in Prince Edward County, but weather conditions have been very unfavourable, with several plantations completely under water.

The following table shows the acreage of strawberries on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland of British Columbia this year—together with an estimate of the probable yield:—

	Acres.	Tons.
Vancouver Island	158	335
Lower Mainland—		
Burnaby	10	30
Hammond-Haney	75	240
Strawberry Hill	14	35
Hatzic-Mission	181	425
Chilliwack	45	110