

FRUIT CROPS LOWER: As harvesting continues, the crops of late fruits are not reaching the levels anticipated a month ago, states the Bureau of Statistics in the third of its seasonal fruit crop reports. The prolonged dry weather in eastern Canada materially affected the size of the fruit and the estimates have been reduced accordingly. Development of the late tree-fruits in British Columbia was also disappointing although the reduction in the expected harvest was not as great as elsewhere.

The apple crop is now estimated at 14,725,000 bushels, a decline of five per cent since last month. The present estimate places the crop 894,000 bushels lower than was harvested last season. The pear estimates also show a reduction in the anticipated harvest since last month. The crop is now set at 759,000 bushels, and is 21 per cent smaller than that of a year ago when it was estimated at 966,000 bushels. A four per cent reduction in the expected plum harvest was also recorded during the month. The crop is now set at 595,000 bushels, 18 per cent lower than in 1947.

Peaches, particularly in Ontario, suffered from the dry, hot weather to a greater extent than any other fruit crop. The crop is now expected to amount to 1,594,000 bushels compared with the previous estimate of 1,950,000 and 1,681,000 a year ago. A moderate reduction in the anticipated grape harvest since August brings the crop to 73,045,000 pounds. The crop is now estimated to be one per cent below the 1947 harvest of 73,803,000 pounds.

RAIL REVENUES AT HIGH: Both revenues and operating expenses of Canadian railways rose sharply to new high monthly levels in July, according to the monthly report issued by the Bureau of Statistics.

Revenues climbed to an all-time high of \$73,971,900, which compares with \$68,242,122 in July last year and \$68,745,419 in June this year. Operating expenses, including some \$10.3 million retroactive pay, soared still more sharply to \$78,472,583 from \$70,807,527 in June and \$58,104,454 in July last year. The result was a net operating deficit of \$4,500,683 for July as against a credit of \$10,137,668 in July last year. With the addition of tax accruals, hire of equipment and joint facilities rent debits, the railways' deficit in operating income reached \$7,016,397 for the month compared with a credit of \$6,028,194 a year ago.

Freight receipts during July amounted to \$57,017,024, an increase of nearly \$7 million or 13.8 per cent over the same month last year, while passenger revenues were down 7.3 per cent from \$9,906,662 to \$9,179,289.

All expense items were heavier in the month, reflecting in part increased wage payments. Maintenance of way and structures rose \$5.1 million to \$17,949,871, and maintenance of equipment advanced some 24 per cent over July

last year to \$14,805,250. Transportation expenses increased 39.3 per cent or \$10,992,592 in the same comparison to \$38,951,763.

Revenue freight carried by the railways during July totalled 13,896,033 tons against 14,542,190 tons in July, 1947, a drop of 4.4 per cent, while ton mileage was 5.9 per cent lower. The main reason for the decline was the reduced movement of grain, grain products and livestock. The number of revenue passengers declined from 3,624,907 to 3,422,732, in spite of a slight increase in passenger train miles.

Total operating revenues of the railways during the first seven months of the year amounted to \$472,830,183 as compared with \$440,033,476 to the end of July last year, while expenses totalled \$452,305,796 as compared with \$393,101,894. Operating income shrank to only \$5,359 compared with \$23,001,959 in the same 1947 period.

CARLOADINGS: Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended September 25 continued the upward trend to establish a new peak for the year at 91,402 cars compared with 90,852 in the preceding week and 83,563 in the same week last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

GOLD PRODUCTION: Gold production in July continued the upward trend in evidence in recent months, reaching a total of 296,188 fine ounces, the highest since June 1943 when 326,925 fine ounces were turned out, according to figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. In July last year the total was 261,397 fine ounces. During the first seven months of this year, 1,980,929 fine ounces were turned out compared with 1,775,317 in the like period of 1947.

ANTICIPATED PELT PRODUCTION: Number of fox pelts which will be available from Canadian fur farms during the year ending June 30 next will be 36 per cent less than in the 1947-48 season, while mink pelts will be up about six per cent, according to the annual estimate by the Bureau of Statistics. The estimate is based on reports received from a sample of 307 fox and 747 mink farms.

OCEANOGRAPHIC DUTIES: The commissioning at Esquimalt of H.M.C.S. "Cedarwood," a 153-foot motor vessel, was announced October 1 at Naval Headquarters. "Cedarwood" will be employed on oceanographic duties on the Pacific Coast, under the command of Lieut.-Cdr. J.E. Wolfenden, R.C.N. (R), of Vancouver.

Built at Lunenburg, N.S. in 1941, the "Cedarwood" was originally named the "General Schmidlin" and was operated by the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps as a target towing vessel for coastal defence batteries. During

the war she was engaged in target towing duties and in hauling service freight in the Newfoundland area.

She made the circuit from Halifax to Vancouver in the summer of 1946 and remained in the Vancouver area as a target towing vessel for the army until taken over by the R.C.N. in October, 1947.

WEEK'S NAVY CONFERENCE: A week-long conference, at which every phase of Canada's naval reserve set-up came in for thorough discussion and which indicated the important place held by the R.C.N. (Reserve) in Canada's over-all naval picture, concluded in Ottawa Saturday, October 2.

Attending the conference, which henceforth is to be an annual affair, were the commanding officers of the 20 naval divisions across Canada. Chairman was Captain K.F. Adams, R.C.N., Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel and Director of Naval Reserves; vice-chairman was Commander D.G. King, R.C.N., Deputy Director of Naval Reserves.

The conference was addressed by the Hon. Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence, Vice-Admiral Harold T.W. Grant, C.B.E., D.S.O., R.C.N., Chief of the Naval Staff, Rear-Admiral F.L. Houghton, C.B.E., R.C.N., Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff, members of the Naval Board, and by the heads of directorates at Naval Headquarters.

No aspect of the Navy's reserve situation was overlooked in the subsequent discussions.

The recently concluded reserve summer training program, largest ever to be conducted by the R.C.N., was carefully analysed. Decisions reached at the meeting, many of them based on experience gained this past summer, will facilitate the mapping out of the 1949 program.

The conference also enabled commanding officers of Canada's Naval Divisions to exchange ideas on organization and other matters and they made the best of the opportunity.

"The conference has been entirely successful," said Captain Adams, after the final items on the agenda had been disposed of Saturday afternoon. "The exchange of ideas between those who are responsible for the training of our citizen-sailors has undoubtedly been of great value. Those of us in the permanent force whose immediate concern is the R.C.N. (Reserve) have profited greatly from the ideas and suggestions put forth. I am confident that these sessions will produce extremely good results."

CHEQUE TRANSACTIONS: Business transactions in the form of cheques cashed against individual accounts rose to a higher level in August, totalling \$5,739,822,000 as compared with \$5,236,326,000 in August last year, a rise of 9.6 per cent, according to the Bureau of Statistics. During the eight months ending August the aggregate of cheques cashed was \$50,502,-

048,000 as compared with \$47,769,640,000 in the similar period of 1947, a gain of 5.7 per cent.

Increases were recorded in each of the five economic areas in August and advances were general in the Maritimes and Quebec. Twenty-seven of the 33 clearing centres recorded betterment. Four of the five economic areas were at higher levels during the eight months ended August, a recession having been shown in Quebec, while 31 of the 33 clearing centres showed advances.

CRUDE OIL RECORD: History was made in June when Canadian oil wells produced more than a million barrels of crude petroleum -- a level never before reached in Canada, figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics show. The actual output for the month was 1,038,496 barrels as compared with 917,365 in the preceding month and 614,928 a year ago. The sharp advance in June continued the gains of earlier months and the total for the first half of 1948 rose to 5,125,461 barrels from 3,586,581 in the similar period of 1947.

The Leduc field -- Canada's new large-scale crude oil producer -- accounted for most of the month's gain, and for the first time exceeded the crude output from the Turner Valley field, for many years Canada's greatest producing area. Leduc's output in the month amounted to 398,829 barrels compared with 268,241 in May and 17,561 a year ago, while that of the Turner Valley stood at 340,878 barrels compared with 386,077 barrels in May and 410,206 a year ago.

During the first half of 1948, the Turner Valley produced 2,320,808 barrels of crude petroleum as compared with 2,603,156 in the corresponding month last year, Leduc 1,283,467 barrels compared with 25,635, Lloydminster 273,731 barrels compared with 77,376, and Taber 103,743 barrels compared with 95,817.

WHEAT MARKETINGS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on September 23 amounted to 149,254,711 bushels as compared with 126,121,323 on September 16 and 105,775,379 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Deliveries from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week totalled 27,549,617 bushels compared with 34,480,088 in the preceding week.

MR. DREW NEW LEADER: Premier George Drew of Ontario was elected National Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party on the first ballot of the National Convention of the Party in Ottawa Saturday afternoon, October 2. Premier Drew received 827 votes, John Diefenbaker, member of the House of Commons for Lake Center, Sask., 311, and Donald Fleming, member of the House of Commons for Toronto-Eglinton, 104.