

British authorities announced earlier in the War that poultry would be considered a luxury and its importation prohibited and, since May 1, 1940, no poultry has been forwarded to Britain. Nevertheless, the industry has done fairly well on a domestic market strengthened by increased buying power and improved marketing methods.

Fruits and Vegetables.—During the first year of the War, Britain took only half her normal import of fresh apples from Canada and in the second year none at all. Of the 1941 crop, 1,200,000 boxes and 110,000 barrels of apples were shipped, while the product of 550,000 barrels was evaporated for shipment.

Because of the importance of the apple industry and the necessity of maintaining its productive capacity until such times as overseas markets could again accept shipments, the Dominion Government has, each year since the outbreak of war, provided guarantees, involving substantial expenditures, to ensure reasonable returns to growers and handlers of the crop. As a part of this undertaking the Government has subsidized the processing of large quantities of surplus apples. Most of this product—100,000 cases of evaporated and 425,000 cases of canned apples—has been shipped to the British Ministry of Food, or supplied to the Red Cross as a donation by Canada, for distribution in Great Britain.

The 1941 crop, estimated at 10,300,000 bushels, was the smallest since 1928 but overseas shipments together with domestic demand and Government guarantees will ensure a reasonable income for the industry.

Potato production in 1941, estimated at 65,200,000 bushels, was approximately 5,000,000 bushels less than the 1940 crop and the average annual output for the ten-year period 1930-39. Prices for the 1941 crop have run considerably above those obtained for the previous crop. Usually under such conditions the acreage planted to potatoes the following spring is increased.

While it is difficult to forecast the position in which other divisions of the fruit and vegetable industry may find themselves during the coming year, owing to the diversity and seasonal nature of production, it is of interest to note that increased demands are being received from the British Ministry of Food for processed products that will help to strengthen the situation. Canned tomatoes, onions, apple pomace and various quantities of strawberries, raspberries, black currants, plums and prunes in sulphur dioxide solution, have been forwarded, or will be shipped in coming months, under the auspices of the Special Products Board. A strengthening domestic demand has done much to improve the position of the industry as a whole during the past two years. The prices of 15 fruits in December, 1941, gave an index of 96.5 compared with 78.8 a year earlier. Improved conditions are likely to be maintained throughout 1942, but the profitable disposition of seasonable and local surpluses, whenever they occur, will continue to present a problem.

Miscellaneous Products.—In line with the request of the British Ministry of Supply for increased production of flax fibre, the acreage was stepped-up from 10,000 acres in 1939 to 44,000 acres in 1941, and further increases are expected. The Dominion Government has assisted the industry through the expenditure of a considerable sum of money to provide necessary processing machinery.

The elimination of normal sources of supply of many varieties of vegetable and field-root seeds has brought a substantial increase in the production of these seeds in Canada. The value of the 1941 output was approximately \$2,500,000 compared with \$1,000,000 in 1939.