

United Kingdom called for the largest total export of eggs in the history of Canada. The British Ministry of Food agreed to purchase up to 9,000 long tons of dried egg products, the equivalent of 63,000,000 dozen eggs. Since the beginning of 1942 Britain has been importing only dried eggs in place of fresh and storage eggs in the shell. This more concentrated form is preferred because of greater ease of storage, shipment and general handling. The contract called for half of the total quantity of egg powder to be shipped in 5-ounce packages, each package containing the equivalent of one dozen eggs. This package is for direct distribution to consumers and fits in with the British rationing program. The remainder is shipped in 14-pound packages for distribution to the restaurant trade. Under this agreement, shell eggs are purchased by the Special Products Board at prices f.o.b. Montreal, ranging from 33 cents to 37 cents per dozen for Grade A large, depending upon the season of the year.

British authorities announced early in the War that poultry was to 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 well because of strong domestic and United States demand.

Fruits and Vegetables.—Because of the importance of the apple industry and the necessity of maintaining its productive capacity until such time as overseas markets can again accept shipments, the Dominion Government has provided guarantees, involving substantial expenditures, to ensure reasonable returns to growers and handlers of the crop. The conditions that called for government aid in the disposal of surplus apples of 1939-42 seasons were repeated in connection with the 1943 crop, and guarantees were again provided in agreements with Nova Scotia and British Columbia growers. The Government paid out about \$2,400,000 for assistance in marketing the 1942 Nova Scotia crop. On the other hand, less than \$250,000 was required in British Columbia, and with a short crop there in 1943 and a good domestic demand government assistance will likely be small again. Fresh fruit shipments to Britain were not made in 1942-43, but 3,340 tons of evaporated apples from 550,000 barrels were shipped from the 1942 Nova Scotia crop.

Potato production in 1942, estimated at 71,470,000 bushels, was approximately equal to the average annual output for the ten-year period 1930-39. Prices were higher than for some years, and during the late winter and spring local shortages developed at many points in central Canada. Acreage planted in 1943 was 5 p.c. greater than in 1942.

Among the important developments has been the sharp increase in the dehydration of vegetables. The Agricultural Supplies Board lent equipment to a number of plants in surplus-producing areas, and production was commenced during 1942 and 1943. Production from the 1942 crop until April, 1943, included 715 tons of potatoes, 50 tons of cabbage, 73 tons of carrots, and 45 tons of onions (dried weight). The basis of this program was the obtaining of a product that could be shipped overseas with the use of a minimum of cargo space. The Special Products Board, which undertook delivery to the British Ministry of Food, shipped, from the 1942 crop, 750 tons of dehydrated potatoes and considerable quantities of vegetables. Contracts for delivery from the 1943 crop included 3,920 tons of potatoes and 1,710 tons of vegetables.

In 1942, subsidies to growers of tomatoes, corn, peas and beans for canning were arranged, and to maintain and further encourage production these were