

export to Britain in the form of dried egg powder were 80,000,000 doz., some 46,000,000 doz. greater than for all of 1943; of these 57,768,000 doz. were exported during the calendar year.

Under the two-year egg contract with the British Ministry of Food covering 1944 and 1945, the Ministry undertook, in addition to a specified minimum of 7,500 long tons of dried eggs (approximately 50,000,000 doz.), with the option of taking 600,000 cases of eggs from storage in the autumn of 1945, to use its best endeavours to accept such additional quantities as might be available. The Ministry later advised that it wished to take up its option of 600,000 cases of storage eggs for shipment in the autumn of 1945 and also asked that a similar quantity of 600,000 cases be shipped as fresh eggs in the winter and spring months of 1944-45 apportioned as follows: 200,000 cases each in January and February and 100,000 cases each in March and April. It asked, too, that all available shell eggs in the Grades A Large and A Medium available up to the end of December, 1944, be shipped in the shell and asked for an indication of the quantity of fresh eggs which were likely to be available from September to December, 1945.

Production of poultry meats rose from 265,308,000 lb. in 1943 to an estimated 315,000,000 lb. in 1944. This increase, caused in part by the sale of baby chicks in 1944 being 2 p.c. greater than those of 1943, threatened to glut the domestic market. However, an outlet for some surplus dressed poultry at ceiling prices was obtained in the United Kingdom which bought 2,000,000 lb., and in the United States, which by early December, 1944, has taken in excess of 24,000,000 lb., most of this quantity being bought by the United States army.

Fruit and Vegetables.—A bumper year for apple growers resulted in an estimated production of 16,487,000 bu. compared with 12,892,000 bu. in 1943. A probable reduction of 15 p.c. in the apple crop is expected for 1945.

Potato production reached an estimated 80,400,000 bu. compared with 72,568,000 bu. in 1943. For 1945 a crop of 72,000,000 bu. is considered to be sufficient to meet all demands without giving rise to problems of surplus or shortage. The 1944 crop could be disposed of only by considerable increases in exports of both table stock and certified seed and by use of dehydration. Incidentally, the dehydration of all vegetables was believed to have reached its peak with the processing of 1944 crops.

In 1944 acreage of each of the four subsidized vegetable crops for canning showed a large increase over 1943. Growers are being asked to confine their 1945 plantings to the point of maintaining this acreage in beans and corn and making slight reductions for peas and tomatoes.

An assured domestic and export market for dried beans raised the 1943 acreage of 85,200 to 99,500 acres in 1944. If the competition of corn, together with inability to obtain special machinery for bean harvesting, can be overcome, a 26-p.c. increase in acreage to 125,000 is recommended for 1945. The 1944 acreage of dried peas amounting to 83,600 acres should be adequate for 1945 needs.