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**NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF RHAGOLETIS FAUSTA (O.S.)
(DIPTERA: TRYPETIDAE) IN THE OKANAGAN VALLEY**

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In the winter of 1950, a sample of frozen sour cherries infested with dipterous larvae was received from the Canada Experimental Station at Summerland. The larvae were partially decomposed when they reached the Fruit Insect Laboratory, Summerland, so that positive identification was impossible. However, it was believed that the larvae were of one of the cherry fruit flies common to many fruit-growing areas of North America.

Neither *Rhagoletis fausta* (O.S.) nor *R. cingulata* (Loew) has previously been recorded from the Okanagan Valley. In British Columbia *R. fausta* has been a pest in the Kootenay district for many years. It was also reported from the north shore of the Shuswap Lake, opposite Canoe, in 1936, and at Salmon Arm in 1937. *R. fausta* is the only species recorded from the Flathead Valley of Montana, whereas *R. cingulata* is the only species found in the lower mainland of British Columbia. Both *R. fausta* and *R. cingulata* are pests on Vancouver Island and as far north as Wenatchee in the State of Washington.

The source of the infested cherries was traced to an orchard in the Bear Creek district, about three miles from

the Westbank ferry landing. In the spring of 1951, traps were set out in this orchard to determine what species of fruit fly was present. On May 31, soil sifted from under the sour-cherry trees yielded five puparia and two empty pupal cases. The latter were in good condition, suggesting that flies had recently emerged from them, although no adults were seen in the orchard at this time. Seven days later one fly was caught in a soil emergence cage and two on a sticky board. These flies were subsequently identified as *Rhagoletis fausta* (O.S.) by Mr. J. F. McAlpine, Division of Entomology, Ottawa.

Fly emergence reached its peak in the third week of June. By the end of the month almost every sour cherry (largely Montmorency) contained one or more maggots, and an occasional sweet cherry (Bing and Lambert) was also infested. A few flies were still found alive on the sticky boards when trapping was discontinued on July 10.

Orchard and packing-house surveys conducted in the Westbank and Kelowna districts by officers of the Provincial government did not reveal any further orchards infested with the cherry fruit fly.