

The dry atmosphere probably accounts for the absence of fungous diseases in apples, cherries and plums, but it is the excellent cultural methods that have to do largely with the fine quality of the fruit. Here again the influence of the environment is very clearly to be seen. The local market is a comparatively small one. Everything is packed for the distant markets. Hence, great attention is given to grading and packing. Their teachers in this were the Americans in California, Washington and Oregon, who by long and costly experience had demonstrated that it did not pay to ship inferior or over ripe fruit.

The fruit grower of British Columbia, profiting by this experience, spends time and thought upon packing and packages that would seem wasteful to an eastern grower, but the result of this is seen in the prices which they obtain for their fruit. Calgary markets give about \$2.50 per box for British Columbia fruit when they only give \$4 per barrel for Ontario fruit.

There is no reason why the apple growers of Ontario should mix different grades, and ship in barrels, fruit, which if properly packed and graded, would equal in every respect the British Columbia fruit. It is very true that the eastern orchardist has a larger proportion of No. 2 fruit than the British Columbia grower, but there is comparatively little difference between the best fruit of Ontario and the best fruit of British

Columbia. The difference is largely in the intelligence, skill and care of the growers.

HIGH WAGES.

Surprisingly high wages are paid to laboring men. For ordinary orchard work \$1.25 to \$1.75, with board, per day was given. Some of the larger plantations have expert fruit men from the Pacific states to whom the owners pay salaries that professional men in the east might envy.

Many of the larger estates on which cattle feeding was tried are being broken up into small lots devoted to fruit growing. The delightful climate, where the temperature rarely goes, even in the coldest weather, down to zero, and that only for a few weeks in the year, has attracted many farmers, who have accumulated a competency in Manitoba or the Territories. The next largest class would be comparatively wealthy Old Country people. All these make most desirable citizens.

The social conditions are not those of a primitive settlement. There is an air of refinement and leisure everywhere which bespeaks not only culture but material prosperity. Libraries and lawn tennis flourish with the fruits. Churches and schools are well equipped and generously supported. Parks and home grounds abound, where trees, grass, flowers, rocks and water are worked into beautiful landscape effects not easily duplicated in the east. It is not a mere figure of speech to say that British Columbia is the California of Canada.

Grain in the Orchard.—Many advocate leaving grain in the orchard in the fall for the mice. They claim that when there is plenty of grain the mice will eat it and leave the trees alone. My experience has been that when I leave any vetch on the ground that has seed in it the mice will gather in great numbers, more than they otherwise would, and that they will girdle

the trees just the same.—(Jos. Tweddle, Fruitland, Ont.)

Draining Orchards.—I might as well go out of business as give up tile draining in my orchards. One of the drains stopped up one spring and I lost 15 trees through the water backing up.—(Adolphus Pettit, Grimsby, Ont.)