

NOTES FROM THE PROVINCES

Okanagan Valley, B.C.

Wm. Beattie

The peach crop will be very poor owing to the severe winter and particularly to the late spring frosts. In one orchard which I pruned in the first week of April I never saw a better show for fruit buds; to-day, there is not one to be found. Some of the orchards at the present have from 15 per cent. to 25 per cent. of the peach trees winter killed.

Apricots in general will be poor. Plums and cherries will have an average crop.

I have looked over one of the oldest apple orchards in Summerland, that of Mr. Jas. Gartrell. I find every prospect for a heavy crop.

At the time of writing I am pruning one of the largest peach orchards here. I can safely state that there will not be 20 per cent. of bearing trees having fruit on them. Also I find where irrigation has been kept up late in the fall, the trees, not having a chance to ripen up early enough, have suffered more so than others.

Kootenay Valley, B.C.

Edgar W. Dynes

It has been extremely difficult for those contemplating the planting of orchards to get enough nursery stock to supply their needs. Very much less stock was imported from Washington and Oregon than in former years, and although the output of the home

nurseries is steadily increasing, they were unable to supply the unprecedented demand.

A good deal of interest centres in the strawberry crop. Reports from other districts indicate that the frost has done considerable damage, while in Hood River and Washington it is not expected that more than half a crop will be taken off. Such being the case, the prospects are that the growers in this section should receive a very good return for their strawberries, much better than in the two previous seasons.

All trees came through the winter well and only in rare instances do even peaches appear to have been killed. The heavy snow-fall protects the trees and strawberries to a very large degree.

Some experimenting has been done with walnuts by a few of the growers but so far without success. They appear to be much too tender for this latitude.

Similkameen Valley, B.C.

J. D. Harkness

Early in the growing season there were many reports of damage to trees in the Similkameen and adjoining valleys from the unprecedentedly severe winter. As the season advanced, it became evident that there were a good many such cases, but it was also seen that in many instances mistaken diagnosis had been made owing to lateness of spring growth and to over-apprehension of the effects of winter. It may be said that, gen-

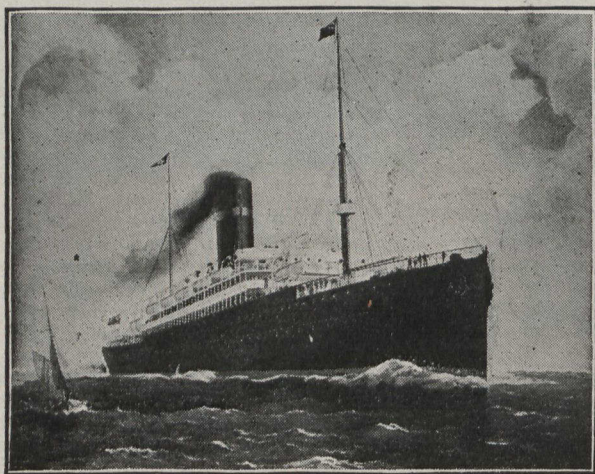
erally speaking, trees that have been properly treated in every way came through sound and vigorous, and where they failed to do so, it has been possible to put the finger definitely on the cause. Most commonly it is attributed to keeping up irrigation too late in the fall, thus making a young growth so late that it was unable to endure frost. That the winter was exceptional was shown by the fact that fields of alfalfa that have flourished for a long series of years, were killed out and must be re-seeded; and as only one crop will be got from them this year, instead of three or four crops yielded in ordinary years, there will be some local shortage of fodder. There was considerable damage to strawberries. Present prospects, however, are excellent for a good yield of peaches, apples, pears, plums and cherries except in a few spots.

The fruit grower is, or ought to be, more anxious over the knotty problems of marketing than over those of cultivation. A good product he knows is his if he exercises the requisite skill and care. A good market, he knows—the prairie market—is hungry for his output. The really hard problem that presses for solution is how to gather here, ship and distribute there, without incurring heavy loss through delay in hauling, danger from lack of cooling, excessive charges of middlemen, and uneven distribution according to the needs of localities. It cannot be done to advantage by individuals. To carry it out properly will require an organization as complete and a degree of executive ability as high as is to be found in the greatest of industrial undertakings.

Saskatchewan

A. H. Hanson

It is a little early to tell just how the fruit trees and other shrubs have passed through the



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