

Tie War and Fruit Prices

(Continued from page 232.)

decisive developments take place. Under these circumstances, the wisest attitude for fruit growers to adopt is to wait until the crop is ready to handle, to harvest and pack it, and if at that time the facilities for marketing abroad are inadequate, and the demand at home is not sufficiently keen to keep prices at a satisfactory level, then the only logical alternative will be to hold what

remains of the crop in storage for later distribution, and hope for the best."

Robert Thompson: Manager, St. Catharines Cold Storage and Forwarding Co., St. Catharines, Ont.: "I fear that the war situation is likely to have a depressing effect upon the sale of fruits in general in our local markets, and especially in apples for export. The higher prices likely to prevail for good products may create more of a home demand for our fruits and vegetables, especially if they are lower in price."

and we now have to pay in some cases, double this, and a partial shortage should mean a slight tendency to enhancement in prices, which we suspect will be largely modified by the present stringent conditions here, there being indications that the demand for bulbs this fall in Canada will not be so brisk as in former seasons."

W. W. Gammage, London, Ont.: "As this is a wholly new experience it is but a conjecture what or when the termination may be. So far as the bulb situation is concerned there seems to be some prospects of shipments coming through although this is as uncertain as are the dates of delivery. Azalias and other plant stocks are quite uncertain. American agents for European concerns can give no information. Their opinion is that there will be no shipments this fall. What the effect will be is problematical. It may be a blessing in disguise. The public have been educated to buy this class of stock but at a margin of profit to the grower that is not commensurate with the risk. There is little anticipation of a falling off in demand. Crops are good—and with the cutting off of supplies from Germany and other European countries, new industries will spring up that will create a wave of prosperity which will be shared in by those who are prepared."

Kenneth McDonald & Sons, Limited, Ottawa, Ont.: "It is our impression that while numerous delays in transit will surely occur, still there is a likelihood that a sufficient proportion of Dutch and French bulbs will reach this side of the water to satisfy early orders. After our first supplies are exhausted, however, we would not venture sending repeat orders depending upon the goods reaching us in time for planting. The larger portion of our French bulbs have, we understand, just reached New York, while the bulk of our Dutch grown bulbs have left Holland. Regarding seeds, just a few varieties which can

Effect of the War on the Bulb and Seed Trade

The war situation has led many to wonder what the effect is likely to be on next year's supply of bulbs and seeds, as large quantities are imported annually from Germany, France, Belgium, Denmark, Holland and England. In an effort to gain information on this point The Canadian Horticulturist recently wrote to a number of the leading seed firms and florists. Their replies indicate that there is likely to be a sufficient supply of bulbs, but that the seed trade may be considerably affected. The letters received from these firms follow:

J. A. Simmers, Limited, Toronto, Ont.: "It is too early to give an intelligent reply but we anticipate that we are going to be able to supply most of the European stock of bulbs that we usually list this fall. We consider that it is entirely too early to make an estimate of the outlook on seeds."

Steele, Briggs Seed Co., Toronto, Ont.: "We believe that we shall have sufficient bulbs this fall to cover all orders, with the exception of, possibly, *Spiraea* which, of course, matures very much later than other stocks. Owing to the war conditions we cannot give any definite information regarding them. As regards the balance of bulbs such as tulips, hyacinths, narcissus,

crocus, etc., we have already received advice that they have been shipped and should reach New York during this week. At this writing it is impossible to give any information regarding seeds, as no one can say what percentage of the German crop will be harvested and ready for the market."

Carters Tested Seeds, Inc., Toronto, Ont.: "Last week we received news from our parent house in England which indicated that we should not obtain very much of our stock of bulbs. The major portion of these, of course, come from Holland, and although this is one of the very few countries not at war, their troops are mobilized and their ports are practically closed, and all business is at a standstill. Later news has been more favorable, and it would seem that after all, shipments are being made, and present indications point to there being very little shortage of Dutch bulbs. We are not yet in a position to give any definite information regarding French bulbs. The outlook is dark regarding them, but we hope and feel that eventually matters will work out as satisfactorily with them, as with the Dutch bulbs. It must be remembered that customary freight rates across the Atlantic are suspended,

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