

## COOPERATIVE WORK IN ONTARIO

THE rapid increase in the number of fruit growers' cooperative associations is one of the most encouraging signs of progress in the development of the fruit industry in Ontario. The success of the St. Catharines, Walkerton, Chatham and Forest associations has done much to educate the growers of the province in regard to the value of cooperation in the handling of fruit. Not only have these associations had a successful season this year, but success has also attended the efforts of the two new associations at Oakville and Thornbury.

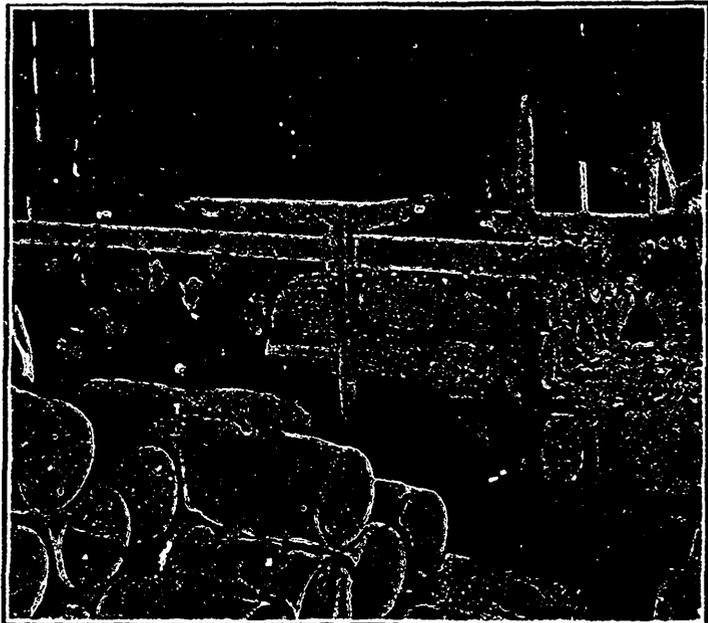
The Oakville Fruit Growers, Limited, was the name adopted for the company organized last spring by some 40 growers in the vicinity of Oakville. A few days ago a representative of The Horticulturist visited this plant and was greatly impressed by the large amount of business being done.

The building, in which the fruit is packed, is a temporary structure, 50 x 80 feet long, located on Mr. Inglehart's property near the railroad. The fruit is received at one end of this building. There is a passage way down the centre, on each side of which are bins in which the fruit of the members is stored as rapidly as it is received. On each side of this passage, at the opposite end of the building from which the fruit is received, there are two large spaces. In one of these the fruit is graded and packed. The culls are dropped through a chute to the basement. As soon as the apples are packed the barrels are rolled across to the space on the opposite

side of the passage, where they are kept until taken to the station. The culls are sent to the evaporator. A careful record is kept of the amount of fruit sent by each man, and of the number of barrels of first and second grade fruit, and of culls, it grades into.

"Our first season," said Mr. Walter A. Inglehart, the manager, "is going to prove a most successful one. At the beginning of the year we expected to handle some 4,000 barrels, but we are going to handle about 7,000. We have some 40 growers in our company, and at the outset placed our shares at \$10 each, on which we have called up 25 per cent. The fruit of our members is picked by them, and all the fruit, including the culls, is brought direct to the packing house. We only handle apples.

"We have been paying \$1 a barrel for all fruit packed during the week. The balance is kept for working capital, and the surplus will be divided at the end of the season. We do not pay dividends, as everything goes back to the growers. All our stock has been subscribed. The prices we have



Part of the Stock at Oakville Waiting for the Graders