

189-?
Not in P.C.C.
16.00
MAY 17/12
MON. J. B. K. H. C. T. - SALE 35/353 -

MANITOBA and the

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

As Markets for Ontario and British Columbia Fruit.

By Dr. Wm. SAUNDERS,

Director Experimental Farms, Ottawa.

In view of the fact that Ontario is increasing so rapidly in the volume of fruit which it produces annually, it becomes of the greatest importance that we should look around for new markets, and that we should take advantage of every opportunity afforded us of increasing our sales in every direction. Although we now produce large quantities of fruit, we grow but a tithe of what we could grow provided we could find sufficiently large markets for our surplus. This subject has been given me, I presume, for the reason that travelling as I do across the Dominion every year, and sometimes twice a year, I have opportunities of becoming fairly familiar with the country and its products.

EXTENT OF COUNTRY.—I shall first call your attention to the extent of this country. Manitoba extends 320 miles along the C. P. R., and has its two additional southern lines running parallel; it has also a line running north in the Dauphin Lake territory. A very important point in connection with the demand in any country for fruit is the number of villages, towns and cities to be supplied. Winnipeg now has a population of 40,000, Brandon 6,000, Portage la Prairie 4,500, and besides these larger towns there are many small places with a population varying from 200 to 1,000 or more in each. In addition there is a large population of farmers scattered through the country, and most of them, owing to the good crops which have been grown there for some years past, are very well to do, and as far as I know the people there are exceedingly fond of fruit and willing to pay almost any reasonable price for a good article. The cheaper it is, however, the larger the consumption will naturally be. Passing on to the Territories, we have a further stretch of settled country for 200 miles beyond the Manitoba boundary until we reach what is known as the Moosejaw district, where the general settlement of the country practically ends. Beyond that, for another 400 miles, until you reach the foot hills of the Rocky Mountains the country is more or less arid, and while agriculture is quite possible where irrigation can be practised the greater part of the country is bare of any attempts at cultivation, and is mostly used for ranching, bands of cattle and horses being kept at different points. As you approach within fifty miles of the Rocky mountains, you reach the town of Calgary, another important centre of population with about 4,500 people. It is also a railway centre, having a line running north for 200 miles to Edmonton, passing through many villages and small towns on the way to the terminus, and another line running south to Fort McLeod, which connects with the Crow's Nest Pass Railway at that point, and carries supplies to the population in the mining districts. So you see, taking those sections of the Territories together with the eastern part, Regina with its population of 2,200, Qu'Appelle with about 1,000, and Broadview 800, and a number of other small places along the main line, together with the branch line running from Regina to Prince Albert 250 miles, you