

siderable percentage of the shipments were worm-stung or wormy apples, in bulk, at a nominal f.o.b. price of 45 cents per 100 lb., equal to 20 cents a box.

OUR COST OF PRODUCTION HIGHER THAN COMPETITORS.

14. Our cost of production is higher than in Washington and Oregon. For the last four years our labour has averaged 10 to 20 per cent. higher than in Washington and Oregon, and the various materials entering into apple production—spray equipment and material, lumber, box materials, nails, fruit-paper, implements—cost us about 25 per cent. more. The cost per box in the four North-west States is \$1.0677, as averaged by Professor Lewis (O.A.C. Bull. 134).

The liquidation in the apple industry south of the line will continue for some time. Estimates are that they had about 48,000 acres in bearing in 1913, and will have 130,000 acres in 1916. If present plantings are moderately cared for, they will have, in 1920, 208,000 acres of trees six years old and over. This estimate requires that the balance of the 550,000 acres estimated to have been planted will be destroyed or so neglected as to be unproductive. Inevitably the greater part of the orchards will be absolutely unremunerative.

The prospective crops for the next few years show that our competition will continue to be of a destructive character.

CONDITIONS IN 1916 REQUIRE PROMPT ACTION.

15. There is every reason to believe that the 1916 crop in the North-western States will be at least double the 1914 crop, or treble that of 1915; we are advised that the growers and their selling agents generally despair of successful marketing; that, in fact, the conditions of 1914, bad as they were, will be reproduced in greater intensity next year.

The destructive and unfair features of their competition in our markets in past years are likely to reach a new high record of consignment on minimum guarantees, or on no guarantee at all. We have much reason to fear the effects of exceedingly low returns on the British Columbia growers. We accordingly most strongly press on the attention of the Commission that it is of the greatest importance that early action be taken to adequately protect our legitimate markets.