

President Bair's annual Report MEMBERS OF THE NOVA SCOTIA FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—

The Constitution requires an address from the President of this Association at this the Annual Meeting. Fifty-four years ago this Association was organized and it has been the inspiration of all fruit growing effort since that time. It has been the leader in directing horticultural endeavour along right lines it has been the director in the selection of commercial varieties of fruits; it has been the star to guide the grower in the many perplexing and complicated problems surrounding orchard development.

Probably we have been too materialistic as an Association, and it might be well at this meeting for us to appoint a standing committee whose duty it will be to see that fitting expression of our regard for departed members, or those on active service, is embodied in our Annual Report.

This Association has had valuable assistance from the Honourable Martin Burrell, former Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion, in the forwarding of investigational work in the interest of fruit growing. Not only has he made possible the rapid development of the work at the Experimental Station, Kentville, but in meeting the views of this Association he made it possible for the Experimental Station to conduct spraying experiments in mature orchards at Berwick, Bridgetown and Falmouth. In addition to this, through the Dominion Entomologist, work of the highest value has been conducted under the supervision of Mr. Geo. E. Sanders at Annapolis and other parts of the Valley. Through the Federal Aid given by virtue of The Agricultural Instruction Act, brought about through his efforts, the helpful work done by Professor Brittain and his staff has been possible. It is, therefore, but fitting that we should at this time express our appreciation of his work on our behalf. We feel that in his successor we have, in the present Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable T. A. Crerar, one who will give all reasonable assistance possible toward the development of the fruit industry.

Fortunately for the Nova Scotia fruit grower a short crop in other sections of the Dominion made it possible for them to market their crop to advantage. The shipping of the product has, owing to the limited time at the disposal of growers to place their fruit on distant markets before danger from severe frost in transit, and the shortage of cars for transportation, been attended with many difficulties. The assistance given by the Federal Department through the Fruit Division in matters of transportation, has gone a long way toward making possible the delivery of fruit to the Western markets in good condition, which efforts are fully appreciated.

It would, we think, be well for this Association to be the leader in devising means whereby future crops can be disposed of without speculative interests entering so much into the transaction. Certainly the grower should receive reasonable profits from his investment, and the consumer has the right, under present conditions, to obtain his fruit without paying more than reasonable handling charges. Growers, it seems, should have made possible the handling of much more fruit co-operatively than they did, and thus have eliminated more of the speculative interest. So long as growers continue to dispose of their fruit to individual buyers, they cannot expect best results from their co-operative organizations. It would seem that some action should be taken, sufficiently strong to prevent a grower, after having become affiliated with a co-operative association, from marketing his fruit in any other way except through such association.

According to the 1900 census, the counties of Kings, Annapolis and Hants had 1,079,635 bearing, and 690,950 non-bearing apple trees, making a total of 1,770,585 trees. Outside of those counties the number of apple trees in Nova Scotia is placed at 684,305. The number of pears, plums, cherries and peaches is placed at 113,108 in the three counties and 87,398 trees grown in outside counties. The area devoted to orchards is stated to be 30,196 acres in the three Valley counties and 10,216 acres in the other counties of Nova Scotia. Additional areas were planted to apples in 1911, 1912 and 1913, but since that time few trees have been planted and it is probable, considering losses, that the area in apples is not much greater now than in 1910 when the last census was taken. The other orchard fruits have, without doubt, declined rather than increased since that time.

It is safe to assume that two-thirds of our apple trees are bearing, which means that 20,000 acres are in bearing orchard and 10,000 non-bearing. It is thought that \$500.00 per acre for bearing and \$250.00 per acre for non-bearing orchard is a reasonable valuation, at which price the orchard areas of the three Valley counties is worth \$12,500,000. The warehouse investment throughout the three-counties approximates \$500,000.

There are, in Kings county, 2380 farmers who have 17,670 acres of orchard, in Annapolis 1904 who have 8942 acres, and in Hants 1224 who have 3374 acres, a total of 5508 farm orchards with an area of 30,196 acres. The average area in orchard per above orchard farm is 7 1-2 acres in Kings, 4 1-2 in Annapolis and 3 in Hants County.

Assuming \$100.00 as representing the investment for equipment and buildings necessary for each acre of orchard, which amount we think is low, we have in these items an investment of \$1,767,000 in Kings County, \$895,200 in Annapolis and \$387,400 in Hants County, aggregating \$3,049,600. It will be seen, therefore, that the total value in orchards, warehouses and equipment in the three Valley counties amounts to \$16,019,600. The interest charges on this valuation at 6 p. c. would be \$961,176.00. Assuming that we had 700,000 barrels during the past year, we should have received \$1.37 per barrel to pay the interest charge on the investment. If interest charges are to be paid out of the orchard fruits, \$48.05 would be required from each producing acre.

It would appear that the maintenance cost per acre cannot be covered on the average with less than \$25.00, made up as follows:—pruning \$2.00; cultivating \$5.00; fertilizing \$8.00; and spraying \$10.00. The cost of barrel we cannot put below 30c. The picking cost 15c. per barrel and the packing 15c. Placing the fruit crop at 700,000 barrels for 1917 and the bearing orchards at 20,000 acres, the yield per acre would be 35 barrels. This brings the cost in 1917 for pruning, cultivating, fertilizing and spraying to 71 cents per barrel. The cost for barrel, picking and packing 60 cents, a total of \$1.31, which, when added to interest charges of \$1.37 per barrel, brings the average cost of our apples for 1917 to \$2.68 per barrel. The operating expenses should be considered as a fixed charge, and, as stated above, amounts to \$25.00 per acre. The cost of barrels, picking and packing per acre will vary according to yield. The interest charge of \$48.05 and operating charges of \$25.00 per acre, therefore, on the average amount to \$73.05 per acre, which amounts must be realized to pay for operating an acre of bearing orchard. The cost per barrel necessarily will be determined by the yield.

It may be thought that a valuation of \$500.00 per acre for a bearing orchard is too high, but I think it will be found that the average acre costs about that much to develop it to the bearing age and pay interest charges on the outlay involved.

It will be noticed that over one half the cost of producing apples chosen President of your Association during the past year. The program as presented is such that much benefit must result. We hope for a full discussion, without which many points of interest

cannot be fully brought out.

In 1917 resulted from overhead charges. These charges are usually overlooked, and certainly the consumer is inclined to think that the producer should simply take pay for his labour, without anything for interest on invested capital. One of the objects in bringing this matter to your attention is that a better understanding may be arrived at as to what is a reasonable charge for apples per barrel.

The chances are that fruit crop conditions another season will make it imperative that larger quantities of fruit be consumed if waste is to be avoided. Large quantities can be consumed only at prices much lower to the consumer than those ruling this season. This means elimination of certain profits and it is desirable that a fair understanding should be arrived at as to where profits can best be eliminated. The loss, if any, must necessarily be borne by the grower, but his losses should not be increased by faulty organization, or unnecessary handling charges. If the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association at all represents the fruit interests as a whole, which I believe they do, certainly they are the body to deal with such a situation effectively.

We are face to face with the fact that the world is demanding an increase of essential food products. In so far as exportable food products are concerned, our fruits are not considered an essential and probably will not be until the war is over and more tonnage available.

Fruit growers fully realize this situation, but to neglect their orchards means a tremendous loss on their 16 million dollar investment, for it is well known that neglect of the orchard during one season may result in a decidedly limited crop for several years afterwards, for, unlike annual crops, neglect of the orchard may not manifest itself in the crop of the current season but rather in future crops. It appears impossible to give much less attention to orchards than has been given during the past two years and expect to sustain their vigour. It will be seen, therefore, that the Valley farmer has a much larger problem on his hands than is generally recognized, for he has in his orchards the product of his energies covering many years, which he cannot very conscientiously sacrifice.

Nature has assisted materially during the past two seasons in giving moisture which has in a large measure made up for lack of orchard cultivation, which, owing to the demand of other crops, has been neglected.

The fact has not been realized that Valley farmers have been producing two crops instead of one from their farms. The Dominion Statistics for 1910 show the value of fruit and vegetables per farm in Kings and Annapolis to be \$226.00, the value of field crops \$290.00, as compared with Cumberland, Colchester and Pictou where the value of fruits and vegetables per farm was \$32.00, and field crops \$315.00, the latter only \$25.00 more per farm than the average of Kings and Annapolis.

The fact that we have been doing double farming indicates one of two things, either that we have employed more labour per farm, or that farmers have worked harder. The same census shows that \$47.50, has been paid out for wages per farm in Kings and Annapolis as compared with \$16.00, in the counties of Cumberland Colchester and Pictou. It appears, therefore, that not only have the Valley counties employed more help, but that they have worked harder as well, which, I think you will all agree with me, is a fact. It will be seen that shortage of labour is the limiting factor in the upkeep of our orchards and the production of essential food crops at the same time. It is for this Association, through a good strong committee, to co-operate with the County Farmers' Association to help solve this problem. The shortage can only in part be relieved, but all female help not required in the home, and all boys able to work even though they cannot give most efficient service, must be used. Co-operation in communities to make the best use of machinery and thus release certain man help must be considered.

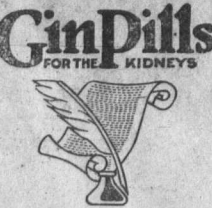
In connection with the problem of labour, there are matters which, as time goes on, will more and more demand our attention. It has been seen that we employ more help on our farms than is employed on farms in other parts of the Province. Much of this help, however, is temporary, but in addition to this temporary labour, it will be necessary to employ more permanent help than we have been doing, as we know, transient help is becoming more and more difficult to obtain. It is either a question of doing less farming, thereby leaving areas of our farms untilled, or the making of provision for the employment of more permanent help. The other alternative is to dispose of the areas which we cannot work with our own labour, to men who will settle on the land, thus making possible production on all tillable areas. In either of these the matter of providing housing facilities will have to be met as our country must be populated with men and women who have as their ambition a snug permanent home, with lots of happy boys and girls in that home. This is no flight of imagination. It is a fact, and one of the biggest problems of future production. You are the men to solve this question. It is on your initiative only that permanent staple development in the country can be brought about.

The pressing problem for the present is to secure such help as may be available for work on the land next spring, and to this your executive should give immediate attention. In this connection every one has a duty to perform in making their requirements known at an early date. Fruit Growers should co-operate to the fullest extent possible with the Food Controller in devising means whereby production and conservation of essential food products may be brought about. This, I think, you are prepared to do. The opinion of an Association such as this should be of greater value than that of any other organization, or of any body of individuals, in this section in determining the course of action best calculated to serve the interests of the community as a whole. At this time individual interests should be safeguarded in the fullest possible way, but we must all agree that such interests must at times be sacrificed if we are to meet the requirements of Great Britain and her Allies at this time.

The terrible catastrophe which befell the City of Halifax on December 6th has cast a gloom over the whole Province, and especially over the Annapolis Valley. Owing to the large export fruit business carried on through that port, many of you had become intimately acquainted with a large number of its citizens, and consequently are able to sympathize more deeply with them. The terrible loss of life can never be replaced. Those with maimed bodies and shaken nerves may, we trust, be spared to enjoy many years in a newer and greater Halifax. I know I voice the sentiments of all fruit growers in expressing to the people of Halifax our true sympathy in this their grievous calamity.

In conclusion let us ever keep clearly in mind the importance of doing everything to develop the resources at our disposal for essential food production, for, even with a fairly adequate food supply, we might fail in winning the war; without it we are sure to fail. This responsibility resting upon the farmers second only to that resting upon our armies at the front. The farmer in a large measure will determine the trend of human history for all time to come, because the enormous ultimate consequences of this conflict rest in a large measure upon the farmers' production of food and feeds to sustain the fighting forces. Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for the honour of being

EXTRACTS From Some Letters About



PAIN IN THE BACK
"I suffered with a continual pain in the back. Having sold Gin Pills... I gave them a fair trial and the result I found to be good."

RHEUMATISM
"I have been for the last two years a cripple from Muscular and Inflammation Rheumatism. Am now cured."

STONE—GRAVEL
"I had been suffering terribly with Stone in the Bladder... continued to take Gin Pills... I passed the stone on October 3rd."

KIDNEY TROUBLE
"Your remedy I find, at 60 years of age, to give perfect relief from the Kidney and Bladder Trouble, incident to my age."

URINARY TROUBLE
"I had been suffering for some time with my kidneys and urine... the pain was awful. I took Gin Pills and they cured me in two days."
(NAMES UPON REQUEST.)

Gin Pills sell for 50c a box or 6 boxes for \$2.50 at all good dealers. Sample free if you write to National Drug & Chemical Co. of Canada, Limited, Toronto; or to U. S. address, N. D. Co., Inc., 202 Main St., Buffalo, N. Y. 150

LUMBERMEN URGED TO AUGMENT OUTPUT

Portland, Ore., Jan. 1.—What is expected of loggers and mill men in the northwest by the production division of the government's air-craft board during 1918 is outlined in a statement and appeal by Colonel Brice P. Disque, head of the spruce production work, now being sent out to members of the Local Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen. The organization numbers 25,000 members in the northwest. The statement warns lumbermen not to pay heed to the nonsense and malign whispering of spies and traitors who spread propaganda in the spruce production belt.

"The headquarters of this division," says Colonel Disque, "looks to you to prevent all acts of seditious on the part of employer, employee or others."

"Germany is obtaining airplane material with forced labor in invaded Russian forests which do not belong to her. Thousands of helpless persons are driven to work at the point of the bayonet from early dawn until dark."

Loggers are urged to offset Germany's gains by increasing the output in the United States. Colonel Disque's announcement says: "Your government asks you to produce 11,000,000 feet of lumber."

NO HIGHER PRICE FOR POTATOES.

Ottawa, January 4.—Higher prices for potatoes than those now prevailing will not be permitted. The Food Controller is sending a letter to this effect to all wholesale handlers of potatoes, stating that any attempt to secure higher prices will be dealt with promptly. If retail dealers should attempt to charge an unreasonable profit on potatoes, the Food Controller is prepared to fix the margin of profit, and if necessary to fix maximum prices.

Justice and cruelty. May each one of us in some humble way, be a helper in the great task confronting our Empire and our Dominion. May we allow no petty grievance of trivial annoyance to distract us from the nobler duties of the hour. May we have strength for the daily task. May we have courage to meet and overcome every difficulty. May we keep a cheerful heart and a smiling face through all our troubles. May we not grow weary in well-doing. May we bear one another's burdens and fulfil the law of Christ. We beseech Thee to bless all Christian agencies designed to soften the horrors of war. Hasten the coming of the golden dawn of peace. O Thou Blessed Prince of Peace. For Thine own name's sake. Amen.

They were burying the German dead, when one Tommy called over to his mate:—

"Bill, this bloke's a moving. What shall I do?"

"Shove him in," growled Bill.

"But," went on his mate, "he says he ain't dead."

"That don't matter," answered Bill, "you can't believe a word the bloomin' Germans says. Shove him in."

SEAL TALLOWEN DISTRIBUTION COST.

been Limited by the Food Controller.

Controller has limited the which distributors of milk the actual cost of the prod at their premises. From nuary 1 and until further amount so added must ch cost by more than 5 1-4 at anywhere in the Pro- nitoba, Saskatchewan, Al- rible Columbia or by cents per quart anywhere Quebec, Nova Scotia, New or Prince Edward Island. or selling milk in any re the amount now paid s less than the maxi- in the Order may in- amount without the writ- of the Food Controller.

ers are forbidden to charge e for milk than the milk charge the consumers locality. If the cost of re factors increase the istribution, any distributor evidence to the Food Con- make application for an hemargin allowed in that

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still headquarters for eeds and have on hand sent time, Middlings, onseed Meal, Linseed macher, also Regal & ehold Flours

upping a car of Feed a car of Cottonseed

Fruit Co. Limited.

GRINDING

ood, Cheap and Never Now waiting for your

E. W. FOX,

D. Haven, KingsCo

BLE FOR DUNCAN

ers, Angus and Duncan, a small farm, had the mis- pose by death their sister, their housekeeper. They the housework themselves out it wasn't a success; so us, the elder, said to his canean, ye'll need to look if ye canna get a wife."

replied Duncan; "you are Angus, and the farm be-

are likely to live long-," continued Angus, "so be the one to tak' a wife."

"said Duncan, resigned- the same way here; when- any dirty work to be done, has to do it."

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OF THE DRINKER

World: When the big bus- ts began to figure their drinking, the doom of as in sight. The insur- as were the first to dis- against the drinking man- te drinker was as poor a seased person and no more in a toper. He generally or fatty degeneration or fatty degeneration or m for alcohol.

ways discovered that ac- losses of heavy amount y traceable) to alcohol. demanded not merely tem- abstinence. Tobacco al- wn to be detrimental to ef- More and better work was out of the sober man than Consequently the sober ore in demand and got bet- This economic side of the s had definite results, and morality have never had feet on public opinion as cal economic facts.