

CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING OF PEACHES.

TO know when and how to pick, pack and market requires watchful care and good judgment. The grower must have all things ready, the wagons in order, the packages on hand, the labor employed, the packing house ready and market provided. It is better to have too much help than to permit fruit to get too ripe for want of labor to care for it at the proper time. Where the grower is obliged to call to his aid that necessary evil, the commission man, it is well to have him ready also. Select one firm in the town where you expect to market your fruit, of known good reputation. Ship to one firm only. If you use the commission man right, and do your part of the work as it should be done, you will not often have cause to complain.

In my locality the growers have organized shipping associations at several stations from which fruit is shipped, each with a manager whose sole business is to look after the grading, packing and marketing. The members

simply gather the fruit and take it to the packing house at the station. Here it is graded, and each grower given credit for the number of bushels of each grade he has brought. The individual is known no further. The fruit goes to the company's stock and is sold by the grade. At the end of each week, an average is made of the prices obtained during the week for each grade, and each grower is given credit for his share in the proceeds. This method of marketing has proved very satisfactory to the members of these associations. It gives them time to devote all their energies to the proper management of their orchards and careful handling of the fruit. One member complains that the individuality of the grower is lost. That he can acquire no reputation for himself nor for his own fruit. But this is an age when combines and corporations swallow up the individual, and the fruit-grower must take his chances with the rest.

PRUNING PEACH TREES.

PEACH growers are gradually learning that the peach tree will not only stand very severe pruning, but that it does best under such treatment. Where this is not practiced, long, slender branches form, and these produce fruit mainly at their outer extremities. This overloads the branches and causes them to break down even when the tree is producing no more fruit than it could easily carry if properly distributed. If the branches were cut back to within two feet of the trunk they would throw out numerous fruit spurs and pro-

duce fruit close to the trunk and main branches where it could easily be supported. Trees handled in this way will also produce more perfect fruit. Such severe cutting back may be done without any injury whatever if performed while the tree is dormant. Although peaches are reckoned an uncertain crop, it is still one of the most profitable fruits that can be grown in localities adapted to it. Select the finest varieties and give high culture and it will require but little fruit to give you a good money return.—American Farm News.