

food problem in the countries of Europe. At the present time you can offer to the British Government 30,000 boxes of apples and several tons of jam, as our Government is doing, and to pay all charges—but they have refused to take them. I just got a letter from our agent in London, Eng., to whom we had been writing to get space for these goods, and he tells us that when he goes to the Admiralty for the space, the question is, "Are you going to feed the soldiers apples or bread?" So we cannot get the goods over except we have a little merchandise space occasionally.

This leads me to divide our fruit growers into two classes. The first, those engaged in the business entirely as fruit growers, making a living from it. These men occupy small acreages of land, and this land is covered with orchards and vineyards and small fruit plantations, and are located in the Niagara district and from Hamilton to Clarkson, near Toronto; and isolated sections in Essex, Kent, Lambton, and possibly large apple growers in Northumberland. These men cannot neglect the orchards even one season without causing ruin in the orchards—so they have got to continue in that business, and that alone.

Our advice to these men is that they should cut off all the labor possible that will not interfere with the labor necessary for the essential crops; to make it up with the old and the young, and especially family labor. Last year the family labor was very largely used in the harvesting of the crops in many sections of the Province. And this is working out very successfully. Girls are already making plans to begin work when school closes this summer, and fruit growers are making arrangements to use all this labor that is available. I would say to use this labor for harvesting the small fruits; these crops have paid well the past two seasons, and promise to do well again this year. Small fruits are in demand, not only by the cities, but by the factories, to be put into jam to be sent overseas.

Do not put more labor on the orchards than is absolutely essential to get a good crop. Do not spend any more time on the cultivation than is necessary, unless the season is a dull one. Look out for every bit of labor-saving machinery you can get. For instance, a spray gun was used extensively in the Niagara district last year, and was successful. If you haven't got modern labor-saving machinery and implements, get them as soon as possible, or borrow from the neighbors. Do everything possible to keep down the labor, on the orchards particularly.

Then, in the orchard, grow a crop that will be marketable. During the past season, many grew carrots and cabbage, because the previous season they had been a very high price, with the result, at the present time, these are not paying for the labor put on them. Surely, there are other crops; for instance, tomatoes. The growers are sure of a fair price from the canning factories for the coming season—go into that crop. Attend to the fertilization of the orchards in the winter, when there is more labor available.

And the other class make fruit growing a side line. These orchards can be let go for one, two or three years, and, unless there is a very bad pest in the neighborhood, very little harm will result. The need is so urgent for the essential crops, and beef and pork and the things that are necessary to produce beef and pork and milk, that I think we are quite within the mark in advising no unnecessary work on these orchards this coming season.

I would say to you men, to put in all the time necessary to make these crops a success. Then, if there is any time left, put it on the orchard, and, of course, you will have to put it on the essential operations as much as possible—on the harvesting and the marketing. Let the orchards go into grass or weeds. Cut out the summer pruning or anything of that kind, and, when you have some spare