



An 11-Year-Old Apple Tree at Gordon Head, Near Victoria, B. C.

Oregon, paying \$300 to \$400 an acre for land that will not give any better returns than land here that can be bought for \$50 an acre. The Westerner knows how to boom the fruit industry, keeping it constantly before the public. The people become enthused, develop every opportunity, and are receiving the results of intelligent care.

"Cooperation has done much for the fruit growing industry. Wherever a cooperative fruit growing association exists great strides are being made in apple growing. In fact these associations may be compared to the oasis in the desert. They are like fruitful spots in the desolation of Ontario apple growing districts.

"In my opinion the Ontario Government should boom the fruit industry of the province and encourage in every possible way the cooperative fruit growing associations."

CLOSER INSPECTION ADVOCATED

In a letter received from Mr. J. G. Mitchell, of Thornbury, the general manager of The Georgian Bay Fruit Growers, Limited, Mr. Mitchell says:

"Prof. Crow is right when he describes the apple industry as having been steadily on the decline for the last fifteen years. While in conversation with some of the largest receivers, they asked me why it is they cannot get Canadian apples like they could fifteen years ago. They complain of the amount of rubbish going forward and state that generally speaking no reliance can be placed in the pack. The reliable brands can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

"Why is this? The reason is not hard

to find nor hard to understand. The ease with which growers are able to sell all their fruit, lump orchard, and tree run (that is take everything) is largely responsible for the deterioration in the quality of fruit. Under this system, growers, generally speaking, take little care of their orchards. The great majority of orchards have had no pruning, cultivation, spraying or a pound of fertilizer during all these years. The wonder is that the apples are even as good as they are.

HEAVY LOSSES

"The Old Country receivers, and independent shippers here, have paid during the last few years \$850,000 more for Ontario apples than their market value. This was caused largely by the Old Country money being placed in the hands of unscrupulous men, who bought without judgment or perhaps with the object, as many of them said, of putting the cooperative associations out of business. We do not blame the Old Country people. They sent their money here in good faith, and for two reasons: To help the apple industry and secure sufficient supplies for their own distribution. It was a matter of misplaced confidence. The loss of \$850,000 is a lesson they will not forget, and in future they will be more careful to place their money with responsible parties.

INFERIOR STOCK PACKED

"Even this year, in this district, there are hundreds of orchards being bought up and barrelled where the stock is only fit for the evaporator. These apples find their way to the markets, to the further depreciation of the good name of On-

tario. I can state as a positive fact that there are no good apples in the counties of Bruce, Grey and Simcoe, except the six demonstration orchards near Collingwood in the county of Simcoe, taken care of by the Department of Agriculture, which I personally inspected, and a number of orchards owned by members of the Georgian Bay Fruit Growers' Association here. In all these orchards we have splendid crops of beautiful apples, as good and in some cases better than we have had in many years. These orchards, being scattered, as they are, over considerable territory, show that the reason that they are good this year is not because of their location or soil. The same sun shines on them all alike. Where the fruit is not good it is simply the growers themselves who are to blame. Had all the growers of this district given the same attention to their orchards as those referred to, there would have been added at least \$300,000 more to the assets of this locality this fall.

Mr. Marsh, in his article in the October issue of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, censures the Department of Agriculture. I hardly think Mr. Marsh can understand the situation. Both the Ontario and Dominion Governments are doing all they can to assist the industry. Without finding fault with Mr. Marsh regarding dealers apportioning off of territory, I would state that that applied to conditions ten years ago, but has nothing to do with present conditions, as cooperative associations have been the means of advancing the prices to growers so much, that it is impossible for buyers to allot themselves territory.

MORE DEMONSTRATION ORCHARDS

"There is nothing more the Department can do, unless open up a few more demonstration orchards. We have had a great many institute fruit meetings here, and have always found the department ready and willing to assist in every way possible. We have held three demonstration meetings in connection with our association, assisted by speakers sent out by the institute, this year, and we sent out hundreds of personal letters not only to our members, but to all those who should be interested, requesting them to be present, and explaining the advantages of attending. It was noticeable that we found the same forty or fifty growers at each meeting. There should have been three to four hundred. It is also noticeable that these thirty or forty growers are the only ones who have apples worth considering this year, and they have them just according to how well they practised what they were told and saw at the meetings.

"The rest of the growers seem to be a hopeless proposition. About the only