

MARKETS.

The majority of these early tomatoes are marketed throughout Ontario, the bulk going to the principal cities and towns. The amount shipped to Winnipeg is not known, the consignments being mixed. The Essex growers claim that the Western trade has not proved satisfactory as the first shipments by express are expensive and compete with the American grown product. Later on in the season when they are shipped in bulk much cheaper by freight, for some 60 cents per 100 pounds, they come into competition with the St. Catharines tomatoes, and the prices do not hold up well. Also they are not handled in Winnipeg to the best advantage of the grower, the jobbers taking too large a share of the profits. It seems that in this respect there is room for improvement in the selling organization for the Western markets.

CULTURE.

The culture of early tomatoes is in the main, the same as for the canning crop, the greatest difference being in the growing of the young plants.

The seed is sown from February 20th to March 1st. The number of transplantings is more than in the case of the main crop, often as many as four, the last two transplantings into cold frames, the final transplanting being to six and even seven inches apart. At the time the plants are set in the field they will be some fifteen inches tall, with a spread of an equal distance, and bearing small tomatoes. The time for setting out varies with the districts, from the 4th to the 10th of May in the Essex district, somewhat later in the Niagara peninsula and points further east. The plants are generally set 5 x 4 feet in the field. The first picking will be about July 1st and the bulk of the crop will be matured by the middle of August.

COST OF PRODUCTION.

The great difference between the cost of producing the main crop tomatoes and early tomatoes lies in the increased expenditure incurred in the growing of the young plants and in the marketing of the final product. None of the early tomato growers with whom I came into contact had kept any record of the cost of production, chiefly because the young plants are grown in greenhouses along with other produce and the task of apportioning the various items of expenditure to each crop was a difficult one. They were, however, unanimous in placing the cost at from thirty-five to forty-five dollars per 1,000. The land suitable to the production of these early tomatoes in these more favored sections of the Province is considerably higher priced than that used for producing the main crop, and the rent item is therefore increased from seven to ten dollars per acre. The tomatoes being marketed in