

The government of Nova Scotia by means of its demonstration orchards is enabling the farmers to take greater advantage of the commercial possibilities of this industry. The most striking development commercially, however, is the organization of some forty co-operative fruit shippers' companies, which at present handle about 60 per cent of the crop. Recently there was also formed the Central Co-operative Fruit Shippers' Association which when completed will constitute one of the largest co-operative farmers' organizations in the world. This method of marketing the fruit through officials whose whole time is devoted to studying and developing markets is proving of great value to the province.

In summing up the possibilities in fruit growing it is well to note the all important natural advantages enjoyed by Nova Scotia which are:

(1) The province is nearer the British and other European markets than any other part of the continent. (2) The quality of the apple in particular, and of other fruits in general is unsurpassed for crispness, flavour and keeping properties. (3) The varieties of apples grown are practically all the standard sorts which commend the highest price in English and other European markets such as Ribston Pippin, Blenheim Pippin, Gravenstein etc., (4) The life of an apple tree in Nova Scotia is from 60 to 100 years in comparison with some more trying climates where from 20 to 30 years is about the life limit of a tree. (5) The various small fruits such as strawberries, plums etc., are ready for market when the United States' supply has been exhausted and thus command a higher price.

Two things, however, have been neglected in utilizing these commercial possibilities. The first is that Nova Scotia fruit growers have not realized the great importance of proper and attractive packing. This has undoubtedly hurt the trade of Nova Scotia fruit. Secondly, every year there is a great deal of fruit lost in windfalls and other ways which is not good enough to pack and which is therefore fed to pigs and is utterly wasted. In the Annapolis Valley especially there is room for several flourishing fruit canneries and jam factories.

DAIRYING

Visitors to the Province, have frequently wondered why high-class dairying is not a more prominent feature of Nova Scotia rural economy. The most frequent reason given by farmers is that dairying requires "too much labor." Yet other flourishing industries involve the employment of much labor, their very profitableness varying, for the most part, with the number of hands employed. Again, stock farming is the only kind of farming that will maintain the land in its virgin productiveness. The importance of dairying is summed up by Principal Cumming of