

only, considered the bloom about equal to that of last year but the majority, perhaps, were of the opinion that it was not quite so generous. There is, however, a very considerable acreage of young orchards coming into bearing and it is always difficult to predict what they will yield. When they bear at all they usually surpass expectations. The Annapolis Valley will not likely exceed 1½ million barrels this year and probably the more conservative estimates may correspond closely with the actual records this coming fall. Fond hopes are often crushed by a heavy June drop and up to the present there is only the promise of a set upon which to build.

## PRICES PROBLEMATICAL.

A big crop may be a liability rather than an asset if the price is not right, and the growers are watching for market prospects with an eagerness that almost equals their interest in the crop itself. A. E. McMahon would not hazard an opinion regarding prices and remarked only that they are "problematical." S. B. Chute said: "The prospects in regard to prices are good. The British crop is only 25 per cent. of last year, and New York State is fair." Mr. Chute further more remarked that growers should receive \$5 for ones and twos when oranges are selling for \$12 to \$15 per box. However, he did not say that the growers would get it. Buyers are already busy trying to get the option, at least, on good orchards and this is not a bad omen. A. K. Clark, one of the oldest and most extensive growers has actually sold his prospective crop for \$2, tree-run, clear of the barrel.

In spite of the large crop last year apple growers in the Annapolis Valley did not realize large revenues from their orchards. Those who sold early fared best. An almost prohibitive freight rate, unfavorable exchange on British cheques, a crop that was not clean, and a severe frost on October 20 were four factors which combined to terribly reduce the income in 1919 from one of the largest crops ever produced in the Valley. A frost, the severity of which was unprecedented at that season of the year, occurred on October 20 and it caught, perhaps, 20 per cent. of the crop. Much of the fruit showed no injury until discharged on the other side where it gave the Nova Scotia apple a bad name. It is also claimed that much of the crop was frosted during the Ocean Voyage. These and other circumstances combined to make the 1919 season unfavorable for many who are now looking for an opportunity to recoup

### THE BARREL PROBLEM

It is easy to understand how such a demand for containers would create a barrel problem. It was acute last year and many paid as high as one dollar for barrels. The writer saw 200 barrels sold for 75 cents each on June 8, and it is altogether likely that that will be the minimum price this year. Coopers are not selling where they have storage facilities and are not in immediate need of capital. They are waiting for someone to pay \$1.00 per barrel, and established a precedent on which to work. The Manager of the United Fruit Companies stated to the writer that there was sufficient stock (staves and heading) sawn to make two million barrels. A good many are getting their own stock as a sort of protection and

will not allow the price to go above 75 cents if they can help it. The adoption of the Standard Barrel has caused and is causing some confusion in Nova Scotia. The inspection was not rigid last year because of the great rush to get containers of any kind for the apples but a more strict inspection is promised for 1920.

## SPRAYING AND DUSTING.

The evaporators paid \$2 per barrel last year for apples and many who attempted to sell otherwise did not receive any more. On this account not a few have boasted that they can make as much out of a crop by not spraying and selling hohus-bolus to the evaporators as by caring for their orchards. However, the great majority realize that such a market for indifferent fruit is too good to last and that clean fruit is the only kind that will pay over a term of years; consequently they are going about the work of destroying fungus and insects in earnest. Three times as much spraying material has come into the Valley as was used last year and it will all be used unless the weather remains ideal as it has been up to the time of writing. Lime-sulphur is still used by a very few and we can almost say that temporarily at least, lime sulphur has been relegated to the past. Bordeaux mixture, in a modified form, has again come into favor. The more extensive growers are now dusting instead of spraying. In one hour as much orchard can be dusted as could be sprayed in a whole day and the efficiency of the method is not questioned by many. It is conceded that C. M. Ruscoe of Centreville, had the cleanest orchard in the Valley last year, and it was dusted; other orchards which rivaled this one in the quality of fruit were also dusted and there is a steady swing over to the newer method. About 50 dusters were in use last year, but three or four times as many have been in use this spring. Unless something unforeseen occurs to condemn the duster its purchase and use by the majority of growers will be restricted only by the difficulty of getting delivery. Both Bordeaux and sulphur dust are used in the proportion of almost 3 to 1, respectively. Further information will be given regarding spraying and dusting in a later issue and suffice it to say here that growers in the Annapolis Valley are making rapid strides in the matter of insecticides and fungicides, as well as in the manner of applying them. The immense areas to be covered and the very considerable cost of material and equipment has forced the growers to give the spraying question serious consideration.

### A ROOM PERIOD

The writer has enjoyed an intimate acquaintance with the apple growing industry in the Valley for more than twenty-five years, and never in this period, which has seen several ups and downs, has the growers' confidence in the business as a specialized enterprise been more marked than now. Optimism prevails among those who give apple growing 75 per cent. of their attention and a noticeable boom is drawing a good many new men to the district to try their fortune at the game. There have been years when, in the minds of some, the industry was doomed. Then would follow more prosperous years of good prices and plenty. The sun is now shining, and only the difficulty of getting suitable help

prevents a great many from giving tangible evidence of their confidence in the future by setting more trees and extending their plantations. The growers are wisely looking after what they now have and attempting to bring a good many neglected young orchards into better condition. Bearing orchards are being fed systematically and quite generously by not a few growers, and it is only reasonable to expect that better cultural methods will increase the number of fat years and reduce the number of lean ones. Then there is that great problem of markets. If Nova Scotia could be assured a steady, remunerative market it would be a matter of only a few years before the "Province down by the sea" would be in a position to offer three million barrels of apples.

## Changes in O. A. C. Curriculum

Announcement was made last week by the Hon. Manning W. Doherty, Minister of Agriculture in Ontario, that certain changes in the courses and terms of admission to the Ontario Agricultural College have been made and will take effect at the opening of the College in September. According to the new proposal, any candidate for admission to the College may enter the two-year course in agriculture, provided he is at least eighteen years of age and has had one year of farm experience. Applicants for entrance to the B.S.A. degree course must be eighteen years of age, must have had one year of farm experience, and must have passed the examination for Junior University Matriculation. It is provided, however, that experienced farmers who are twenty years of age or over, and who lack not more than one year's study in order to attain Matriculation standing, may commence the four-year course on the condition that they complete their matriculation before entering the third year. The following is part of the statement authorized by the Minister of Agriculture in connection with the contemplated change:

1. To train and educate men who intend to make farming their occupation.

"2. To train and educate men who will become professional agriculturists, that is teachers, investigators, agricultural representatives, journalists, administrators in agricultural departments. Up to the present the Ontario Agricultural College, as well as some other agricultural colleges in Canada, has tried to combine these two aims. The course for those intending to farm has covered two years. To the end of this two years' course, the course for technical and professional agriculturists has been the same as for those intending to farm. For professional agriculturists, two years are added, making a four-year course leading to the degree of B.S.A.

"These two aims are so different that the attempt to combine them in the same course has lessened the value of the course for either purpose. It is now proposed to recognize this difference of aim, and to establish two entirely distinct courses in agriculture. About twenty-five per cent. of those who enter the Ontario Agricultural College continue for the four-year course.



**An Orchard Scene Just West of Lakeville in the Annapolis Valley.**  
Ray Clark's orchard is in the immediate foreground, with Joseph Kinsman's on the left. Many profiting orchards are included in this photograph.

JUNE 24, 1920

A small proportion of farmers, but the professional agricultural course intended by attempting to has a very different

"The separation made long ago with considerable entering the College whether they were years. It was, then, given time to make and the course led for the first two had made the change for them by the of the College has sidered, it is best students embark

"There is another way to be made upon the College from farm to collegiate institute in Mathematics, desirable for a farmer can use natural science to an extended course in mathematics have been attained in accounts and transactions mathematics beyond a common course. A common desirable for any farmer to take an advanced course in mathematics and literature in advanced work in mathematics beyond the public school who intend to produce a

"Accordingly, I decided that high school was for the two of them. The tuition will be exacted by the farm and a decent teaching which the conditions of admission make it important at. The practical training in horses and implements and many other facts of agricultural college. The actual work called for by one student among the small. When a year applies at the Agricultural College, which for him is the work of the farm, some good farm, time to go to the college to teach him after experience, so much

## Soil-Fe

The second annual Canadian Fertilizer Conference at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Thursday and Friday, September 10 and 11, 1919, was very successful. The subjects connected with fertilizers and manures were discussed by the leading authorities of the convention, and delegates by the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Soil and Canadian Fertilizer Association. The conference was held on the subject of "The Soil and the Crop." Mr. Bell stated that in 1919 the loss of nitrogen was seven and a half per cent of actual weight, while in 1918 it was sixteen and three per cent. Four trains of one hundred tons each were equivalent to 9,800 tons of acid and potash was lost by the necessities of the war. It can be replaced by fertilizers. In countries where theories are not so ancient times as so the limiting factor is the appetite of crops, and guidance in the use of soil requirements. Legumes, the special fertility of the soil, place to add fertilizer and corn, rather than clover. The clover and timothy amount applied to wood, Physics Department and its relation to soils needing drainage, moisture available for action, more porous plant food, greater amount of air, a greater loss of plant food to explain that the soils, but that the structure or arrangement