

acid, then the barrels should be made as full as possible with vinegar and tightly corked, in order to prevent destructive fermentation of acetic acid, and consequent deterioration of the vinegar.

Fruit-crop Report.

The Government Fruit-crop Report for September has been received. There has been little change in the apple prospects since last month. Continued dry weather has hindered apples from making normal growth, and from almost every section they are reported as being undersized, though of good quality and fairly free from spot. A medium crop, or rather below medium, describes the September condition.

The English apple crop is reported short. Only a medium crop is looked for in Germany. Belgium, Holland and France all report a crop below medium.

In the United States the prospects have declined during the month, and less than an average crop is expected.

In Canada, pears turned out better than was expected. The sample, generally, is not large, but the quality is excellent.

Plums were plentiful, and of good quality.

A medium to a full crop of peaches were harvested. The size was good, and the quality excellent.

Grapes, very heavy; prices low.

Tomatoes were a medium to full crop, of good quality.

A very large proportion of the Canadian apple crop is already in the hands of dealers. Shipments from Montreal and Halifax in September were not heavy.

Local prices have advanced materially during the past month. A very large portion of the fruit suitable for export left the growers at prices running from \$1 per barrel to \$1.50 per barrel on the tree. A few who have sold f.o.b. at cars, report having received \$1.75 to \$2.50 for winter varieties. Where orchards are small, the price is low. Seventy-five cents per barrel on the tree have been accepted in some cases for good winter fruit. Prices range higher where orchards are large. They are much better also in the neighborhood of co-operative associations than elsewhere, even to those who are not members of the association.

Dealers who have stipulated for certain varieties have agreed to pay from \$2.75 to \$3.25 for No. 1 apples.

Evaporator men pay 30 cents per hundred for everything below No. 2.

A few large orchards in Western Ontario were bought on the tree at 45 cents per hundred for everything.

An Onion-growers' Co-operative Association.

In the last days of September, a representative of "The Farmer's Advocate" paid a visit to the Village of Scotland and the country surrounding it to inquire into the onion-growing business, for which that district is famous, and particularly to get facts about the co-operative association of the growers which had been organized. Ultra patriotic Scotchmen may think that it is almost sacrilege for a Canadian village to appropriate the name of the land they hold so dear, but whatever may be thought about it, such is the fact.

The village lies south-west of the City of Brantford, Ont., about 11 miles by rail. The soil does not at first sight strike the visitor as being in any way more suitable for the growing of onions than that of other districts which might be named. The country is not all on the same level; there is an extensive tract of low-lying land, but the bulk, probably, of the onion fields are on the upland, quite elevated, and somewhat rolling. In the low-ground section, spring-water streams flow through every culvert, and hazel and thimbleberry bushes fill many of the fence-corners. The trees that have sprung up of themselves are, many of them, tamarack, poplar and oak. The upland is dry-drier-looking, if anything, than an average Ontario farming district. The soil, however, is everywhere much alike, being a rather fine sandy loam, underlaid at a depth of one to two feet with hard clay. The growing of onions as a field crop commenced about twenty-five years ago, and has increased steadily ever since, the yearly increase probably being greater now than ever. There are no farms wholly devoted to onion-growing, as is not uncommon in some sections of the United States, the largest field that was heard of on one farm being six acres. But when it is considered that five acres per farm is a quite common area devoted to this crop, and that the onion-growing district extends for miles in all directions from Scotland—in one direction ten miles, at least—it will be realized that the total acreage is quite large. Last year, when they had a bumper crop, there were shipped from Scotland station 91 carloads of 600 bushels each, a total of 54,600 bushels. The price was but 40 cents

per bushel, but even at that low figure amounted to over \$22,500.

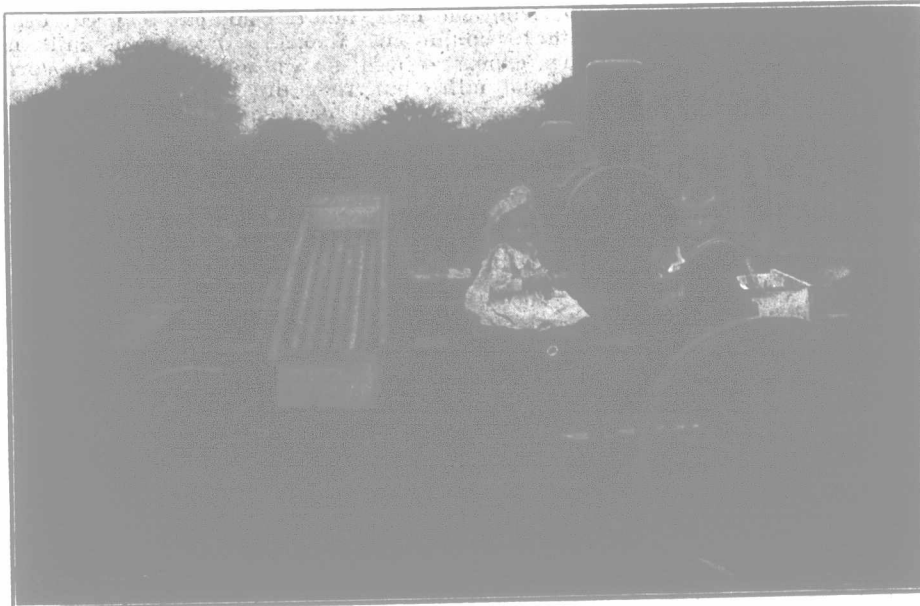
For some years there has been dissatisfaction with commission men and buyers. The onion-growers, not being able to know the condition of the market, were often suspicious that they were not getting full price for their goods. Sometimes, no doubt, their suspicions were groundless. In addition, they had scarcely any convenience for storing onions for the winter, and, being forced to sell in the fall, were, for that reason, more at the mercy of the buyers. The climax came last year, when it was felt, rather than positively known, perhaps, that one firm had the

and the United States, and knows exactly what onions are worth. He is also in constant communication with the Leamington Association, and they act in concert.

Nothing is sent to commission men. All, so far, have been sold f. o. b. The secretary states to the broker the price wanted f. o. b. at Scotland. The buyer, if satisfied, sends his order, and is allowed 3 per cent. commission on the transaction. When a carload is ordered, the members are notified, and onions are brought in. The produce of a dozen or more may go into one car, all stock to be inspected and graded. The money is paid to each as soon as loading is finished, each getting full price received, less 3 per cent. commission to broker, cost of sacks, and any other incidental expenses. No onions are bought, unless, as sometimes happens, there is a shortage in the amount brought forward to fill a car. In that case, the secretary will buy the quantity needed, paying the net price the others receive. The association does not exist for the purpose of making money, or losing it, either, but solely to help its members get market price for their stuff. "The Farmer's Advocate" representative was present at an interview between the secretary and a widow woman who had five acres of onions she wished to sell. She was not a poor, helpless widow, by any means, but with all her sharpness, she could not get the secretary to offer a price for her onions. He told her what growers netted on the last carload, and that probably the next would be about the same, but would guarantee nothing until a sale was made. Besides the great advantage the Association insures to its members of getting market price for good grade stock, there is this other that no culls will be left on their hands. A good offer has been accepted for all undersized onions and thick-necks or scallions. Most of the shipments are sent to Halifax, N. S., and St. John, N. B., though sales are made in all large Canadian cities. To meet the demand among the French-Canadians in Montreal and Ottawa, about 20 per cent. of the crop are reds, the remainder being globe yellows.

The Association began shipping onions about the 8th or 10th of September, and expects to continue shipping until the end of February. There are about forty-five paid-up members in the Association, and more dropping in all the time. A. M. Malcolm is president, and H. Foster, secretary-treasurer, both of Scotland.

A frost-proof storehouse, 40 x 70 feet, with 12-foot walls, is in course of erection. The walls are of concrete, 16 inches total thickness, with two dead-air spaces of two inches each. The building will have storage capacity for twenty cars, and is built with the expectation that it will have to be enlarged, for which provision is made. This, in the words of one enthusiastic stock-holder, is the backbone of the whole business. If they cannot sell their onions, they can hold them. To get the necessary money, a stock company has been formed, with a capital of \$5,000 in 1,000 shares of \$5.00 each. Stock-holders will have the preference in storage facilities, but the intention is to accommodate all wishing for space, and all, whether stock-holders or not, will pay alike for storage, profits, of course, being divided among the stock-holders. The stor-



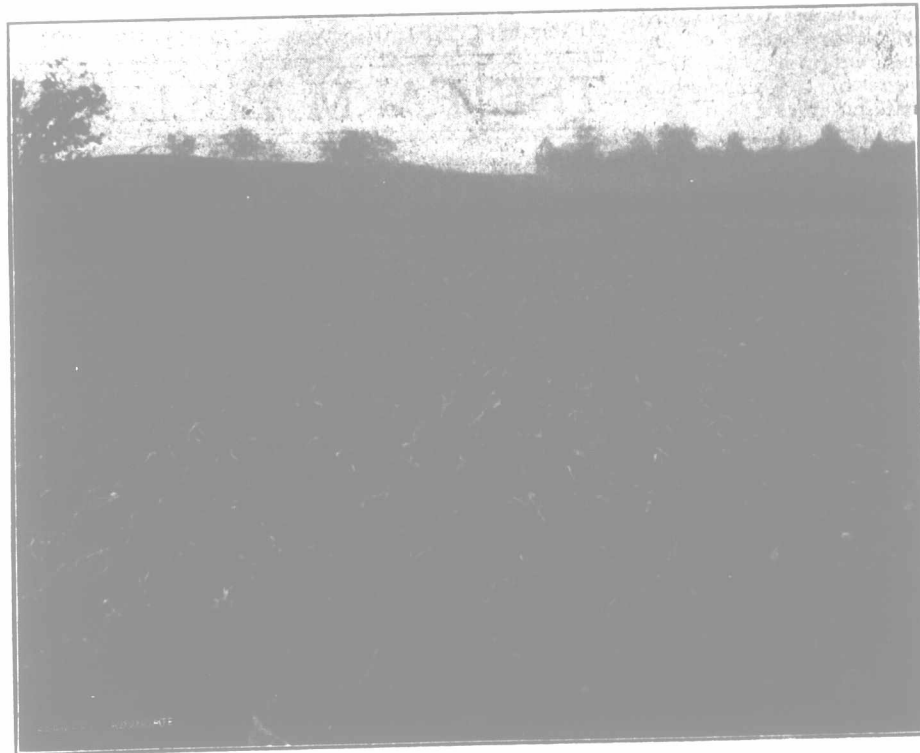
Onion Topper.

A homemade affair, scarcely perfected. The steel rollers driven by gasoline engine, rolling two and two together, pull off the tops as onions roll down the incline. A bag is hung under unseen opening at the lower end. The whole rig is drawn between onion winrows in the field.

monopoly of buying in the district, and that they were being held up by its buyers. The formation of a co-operative association was the result.

The organization is known as the Scotland Onion-growers' and Farmers' Co-operative Association. By the terms of the charter of incorporation, they are authorized:

- (1) To carry on a co-operative association for inspecting, branding, handling, marketing and otherwise disposing of onions, vegetables, fruit, cereals, and all other products of the farm.
- (2) To purchase and distribute machines, implements, and all other articles used on the farm.



Scotland Onion Field.

On farm of Fred. Smith. Good-sized onions, but much thinned by maggots.

(3) To erect and operate cold-storage, frost-proof and refrigerator warehouses for packing, preserving, storing, manufacturing and otherwise dealing with farm produce.

The membership fee is \$1.00 per annum. There are no salaried officers as yet, though that cannot long continue. The secretary-treasurer, who has a great deal of work to do, will have to be paid in another year, probably. The president and secretary-treasurer are salesmen, but act under the advice of the executive committee. The secretary is in touch with markets both in Canada