

# THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FRUIT-GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

## The British Columbia Apple Industry.

### A SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS.

(Submitted by the Executive of the British Columbia Fruit-growers' Association,  
December 6th, 1915.)

1. The apple industry of British Columbia is in a most unsatisfactory condition. The growers are in very bad shape financially, largely as a result of low returns on their fruit, and are generally discouraged over results in the past and the prospects for the future.

#### GROWTH OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDUSTRY

2. The industry is of recent development. In 1891 there were about 350,000 trees (Provincial Horticultural estimate), which increased to only 436,644 trees by 1901 (Census), and by 1913 (Provincial Statistician) these were increased to 2,291,173 trees, or about 30,000 acres.

The total production in 1900.....	221,294	bu.	(Census).
The commercial production in 1912....	430,000	boxes	(Prov. Hort.).
" " " " 1913....	477,000	" " "	" " "
" " " " 1914....	685,000	" " "	" " "
" " " " 1915....	787,750	" " "	" " "

In 1915 approximately 40 per cent. of the trees planted are in bearing or partial bearing.

#### NATURAL CONDITIONS AND MARKETS FAVOURED A BRITISH COLUMBIA APPLE INDUSTRY.

3. The general range of apple prices in the 1900-09 period was high the continent over. The rapidly increasing population of Western Canada was faced by limited supplies and high prices. At the same time, the apple-producing possibilities of British Columbia were being demonstrated. All conditions favoured orchard-planting, and it was encouraged by both Federal and Provincial Governments to supply the Prairie and British Columbia markets.

#### SELLING BELOW COST.

4. Costs of production increased and selling-prices decreased, so that, on an average of recent years, the British Columbia apple-crops have been sold at a loss to the grower. The average f.o.b. selling-price of No. 1's, 2's, and 3's, 1912-15, is under 90 cents a box.

#### NO OVERPRODUCTION.

5. Yet there has been no overproduction in British Columbia. Western Canada is importing annually about 1,000 car-loads of American apples. Our plantings are well calculated to meet the demands of our markets when all the trees are in bearing.

#### NO TRANSPORTATION HANDICAP.

6. We are under no handicap as to transportation rates and service.