

(3.) INFLUENCE OF UNITED STATES APPLES IN CANADIAN MARKETS.

The proportion of fruit from the different sources of supply does not even suggest the effect which the American supply has had, and will continue ever-increasingly to have unless the evil be remedied on the price.

It is true that, as to quantity, we have more than held our own. At a disastrous sacrifice of value our apples have been sold and put into consumption. The American fruit, however, sets the price, and that with the "C" grade article, which must be kept off the United States markets for higher grades and which is surplus stock. The American fruit-grower is prepared to let that surplus stock go outside his own best markets at any price calculated to equal his out-of-pocket charges for packing and shipping, or even, as in 1914, for less than actual out-of-pocket charges. These apples are consigned or dumped to get something back; preferably they are dumped on Canadian markets. There is a sufficient surplus to fill the whole of our market. Under the present conditions the figure at which the American will let this stuff go sets the price. This figure is never fixed, dropping lower and lower as the American stock in hand gets more congested and as the American loses confidence in his ability to move it. In these conditions and against these figures we have to market our entire crop. Our growers have done so, compelled to meet the slaughter-price quotations, and unable in time to make fixed contracts as to prices, an intolerable market condition. Having disastrous American prices for dumped fruit quoted against us daily, it has taken all our energies to distribute our stuff and get it into the market in preference to American. Had we attempted to secure reasonable prices, there is an ever-ready supply of American apples loaded on the cars to go on our markets.

(4.) CANADA'S ORCHARD INDUSTRY.

Notwithstanding the considerable imports of American apples, Canada has within her own borders an ample production of apples to meet all demands. According to the census of 1911, there were in Canada 14,830,492 apple-trees, of which about 60 per cent. only was in bearing. The average production is about 5,000,000 barrels per year, equal to 15,000,000 boxes. Canada exports about 1,250,000 barrels per year. The capital invested in the orchard industry of the Dominion in 1910 was estimated by W. W. Moore, Chief of the Markets Division, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, at \$127,000,000.

(5.) BRITISH COLUMBIA'S ORCHARD INDUSTRY.

Encouraged by both the Governments and by the favourable market conditions prevailing up to 1910, there was a general development of the orchard industry in British Columbia, increasing, according to the census, from 8,100 acres in 1900 to 33,606 acres in 1910; and in 1913, according to the Provincial orchard survey, to 38,200 acres, an increase in thirteen years of 372 per cent.; 73.6 per cent. of the trees are apples, and in 1910 the percentage of these of bearing age was only 28.3 per cent. The value of British Columbia fruits in 1900 was \$436,000, and in 1910, also according to the census, was \$1,000,335.

The Provincial Statistician in his report values the British Columbia fruit-crop, 1913, at \$1,022,216; the crop increased about 25 per cent. in 1914, but its total value was only \$996,071.

The Department of Agriculture has estimated that the capital directly invested in our orchard industry amounts to over \$20,000,000, while there are directly interested some 2,500 to 2,800 orchard-owners. The British Columbia apple-crop is steadily increasing in quantity: 1912 being 430,000 boxes; 1913, 477,000 boxes; and 1914, 685,000 boxes.

The statements of orchard areas and production show amply that all of Canada's apple consumption can readily be supplied from within our own borders. British Columbia has always looked to finding an ample market in Western Canada for the product of our rapidly growing orchards. The destructive and eminently unfair