

Is Over-Production of Apples Possible?*

G. H. Vroom, Dom. Fruit Inspector, N.B.

Perhaps a large majority of you have heard the statement made, and have made it yourselves, that the time was near at hand when there would be so many apples grown that no market for them could be found and the orchards which cost large sums of money and much time and hard labor to raise up to a bearing age would be hewn down and cast into the fire. If this doctrine of over-production has not reached New Brunswick you are certainly fortunate. It would be possible to produce more apples than could be profitably marketed; but is it very likely to so transpire judging from the history of apple production and consumption in the past? I think not.

Permit me for a moment or two to look back over the past 30 years and see what has actually

the year 1903 the export had gone up to 732,000 barrels. But since 1903 it has dropped to 353,000 barrels. Is this because the fruit growers of the great provinces of Ontario and Quebec are giving less attention to the growing of apples? Not by any means, more apples of higher quality are produced, but the demand is so steadily and rapidly increasing in Western Canada where thousands upon thousands of settlers are taking up farms and where larger towns and even cities are springing up almost in a day, that the time is not very far distant when the old provinces of Ontario and Quebec will be exporting few if any apples at all.

APPLE EXPORTS FROM MARITIME PROVINCES

Let us look for a moment at the maritime provinces. In the year 1880-1 there was exported from St. John, N.B., and Halifax, N.S., combined 24,250 barrels. In the year 1909-10 the export

the City of Winnipeg for from \$5.50 to \$6.00 a barrel.

The Winnipeg Fruit Auction Company which has only been in operation four months, reported through their manager, Mr. Sinclair, that they had handled 65 cars of fruit from Ontario and 10 cars from British Columbia up to October 20th.

A MARKET IN SOUTH AFRICA

About six years ago a trial shipment of apples was made to South Africa from Nova Scotia and it was found that there was a market for a limited amount of apples at a good price. These shipments have increased until this season 25 car loads of Nova Scotia apples will find a market in South Africa and this trade is destined to increase more and more.

And further permit me to remind you that all our local markets are expanding and our population is increasing; consequently more apples are consumed by our own people.

At the risk of wearying you I must mention the fact that less inferior fruit is being packed every year, and our people will eventually get educated up to the point where they will pack only the good apples in barrels for market and send the poor ones to the canning factory and the vinegar mill.

A great deal more might be said along this line but you will bear with me while I say that to my mind the apple industry of Canada is yet in its infancy and the outlook was never brighter than at present and the up-to-date orchardist has no reason to worry about the over-production of apples.

The Value of the Yearly Test*

J. G. Rutherford, Live Stock Commissioner.

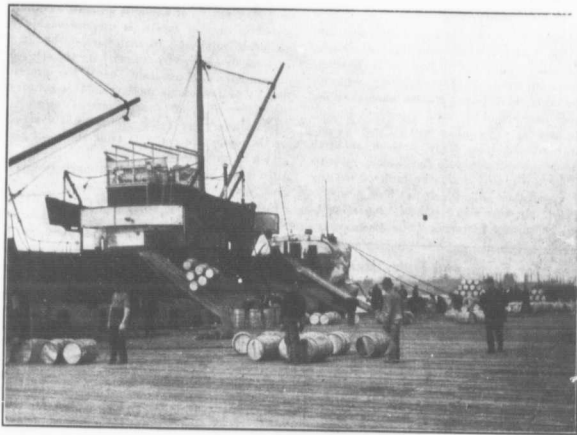
The value of tests for full milking periods of cows that are to be kept for breeding is being more and more appreciated. Ever since stock breeding has been carried on in a systematic way it has been well understood that qualities or characteristics of parents are perpetuated in the offspring. For many generations this law was applied to the perpetuation of form and external markings. It is now recognized that a cow may be ever so perfect in form and color, but unless she can return a profit in milk for the food she consumes, she fails to possess practical value. It is to accentuate and perpetuate the quality of heavy and rich milk giving by the year while producing a calf annually, that the Record of Performance test is applied to cows of the pure breeds.

That Canadian breeders appreciate the value of this work is shown by the increasing number of cows under test and the advanced market value of cows registered on production as also of their offspring and other related animals. An appreciation of this has extended to Scotland, the home of the Ayrshire breed, where a system of testing herds for full milking periods has been very generally adopted. A herd which has been under the test for a number of years and which has been built up accordingly has been compared by a correspondent of the *Scottish Farmer* with an untested herd.

MARKED CONTRAST

The owner of the former by selecting his bulls from good milking cows, and disposing of his poorest producers, has brought his herd up to an average production in 1909 of 900 gallons per cow, in an average lactation period of 42 weeks. That, at 15 1/2 cents a gallon, gives a return of about \$125 a cow for milk. The owner of the other herd, following the old method of selecting bulls that pleased his eye from cows of good form and having "show" udders, obtains an average of only 440 gallons of milk a cow in an average lactation period of 42 weeks. This at

*Part of the introduction to Report No. 2 on the Canadian Record of Performance for Pure Bred Dairy Cattle.



Apples for the "West"—Loading Them at Point Edward, Lunenburg Co., Ont.

The lake routes lower the cost of transportation material on apples to the West, but to take advantage of the service they must be shipped early—before Nov. 5.

taken place. In the year 1880-1 the United States exported as follows:—

From New York 600,000 Barrels
From Boston 510,000 Barrels
From Portland 42,000 Barrels
From Philadelphia 10,000 Barrels

Total from American ports 1,160,000 Barrels
In 1908-09 the figures were as follows:

From New York 363,000 Barrels
From Boston 189,000 Barrels
From Portland 29,000 Barrels

Total 641,000 Barrels

By these figures we find that the export of apples from the United States has decreased over 500,000 barrels going over a period of 30 years. Yet all this is no evidence that our neighbors across the border are less active or producing less apples than they did in the year 1880. Just the opposite is the case. More and latter apples are produced than formerly, but the demand is far greater in their own country.

U. S. WILL IMPORT APPLES

Perhaps it would not be an exaggerated statement to make that not more than 10 per cent. of all the apples grown in the United States find their way into any export market and it would not be going too far afield to say, judging from the increase in the population for the last 10 years, that at the end of the next 10 our neighbors will be importing apples to be consumed by their own people. Now let us look at the condition of things in Canada.

In the year 1880-1 the number of barrels of apples exported from Montreal was 145,276. In

*An address delivered at the recent annual convention of the New Brunswick Fruit Growers' Association.

from these ports had grown to 670,000 barrels, an increase in 30 years of 645,750 barrels. This increase is due to the increase in production without a corresponding increase in local consumption.

With the United States consuming the entire product of their own country, and the great North West requiring the crop from Ontario and Quebec, after their own local markets have been supplied, and with the export to the old country from Australia and Tasmania coming in at a time when North America has no apples to ship during the months of April, May, June and July, it is not a very great stretch of imagination to believe that the maritime provinces of Canada must supply to a large extent the apples consumed in the large cities on the other side of the Atlantic.

FIRST SHIPMENTS TO WINNIPEG

To return to our own Canadian West I would like to remind you of the fact that it is not so very long ago, less than 10 years, when the Dominion Department of Agriculture sent an experimental car load of apples to Winnipeg and sent a man all the way from St. Catharines in Ontario to look after the car. It was considered a risky thing to do, to send a car of fruit all the way to the city of Winnipeg.

What is the condition of things then today? Why, one firm in Winnipeg had handled over 100 cars of fruit from St. Catharines alone up to the 22nd day of October and up to that date nearly 300 cars of fruit had been sold at auction in that city, and this does not include fruit sent in from the American side of the line, and in the face of all this Ontario Spys are selling to-day in

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