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# marketing, is already showing re-HORTICULTURE Co-operation and Apple Market-

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#### P. W. Hodgetts, Secretary, The Co-operative Fruit Growers of Ontario

The apple shipping season of 1908-9 has been a peculiar one. An abundance of bloom in the spring gave promise of a large crop everywhere. The reports of the apple dealers were that the fruit had set well, and there would be an abundant crop, that a large crop was expected in Europe, and that with poor trade conditions in both continents, apples would be a drug on the markets. Everyone was looking for low prices, and early the season accepted low prices. t apples have been increasing in But steadily in value, until now prices in the local markets and in the large cities in the United States are away beyond the reach of ordinary individdals

In the Old Country, prices for In the Old Country, prices tor early apples were comparatively high, and led exporters to hurry up ship-ments of later varieties. These were picked and shipped during the long, hot drought, with the result that most of the fruit arrived in wretched condition and only chumping the most of the fruit arrived in wretched condition, not only slumping the market for the poor stuff, but spoiling the sale of that of good quality. When the weather cleared, market conditions improved and prices for good fruit have regained a fair mar-ket value. The one point noted about Ret value. The one point noted about the reports from Great Britain is the difference in selling price of good fruit and poor fruit. Not a week passed but attention was called to the fact that too much fruit of ordin-ary quality was being sent forward. ary quality was being sent forward. The difference between sound firsts and seconds and slacks during the season was from four shillings to as high as 11 shillings per barrel with methy source to these and a half shillings lower still. Yet many of our growers still persist in neglecting to spray, claiming it does not pay, or are willing to allow any kind of a packer to put up their fruit so long as it is safe into the barrels and out of the road.

# EXTENSIVE PLANTING OF ORCHARDS

A notable feature of the horticultural press during the year was the report of extensive plantings of apple orchards. This was not confined to any one section of the country, extended all over the continent, from north to south, east to west, being north to south, east to west, being specially noted, however, in the northwestern states and British Co-lumbia. This has now being going on in the west for some years, with the tesuit that every year large acre-tion of the tesuit that every year large acre-duction. As the local the factors are very small, the bulk of the growing of the west are losing no time in getting after the eastern markets. During December a large exhibition of western box apples was exhibited specially noted, During December a large exhibition of western box apples was exhibited in New York, and attracted great at-tention, largely owing to the even grading and packing of the fruit. Similar exhibitions are now being shown in the chief trade centres in Great Britain by British Columbia of the paragram states. It the latter and the western states. In the latter instance it is entirely at the expense of the grovers themselves, and with the sole object of opening up new markets, not for their lands but for their fruits. The strict horticultural laws providing for compulsory spraying, orchard inspection, etc., and the great care exercised in packing and shipping only first class fruits, toshipping only first class fruits, to-gether with good organizations for

sults in the splendid prices being re-ceived for their produce. Markets previously given over en-tirely to eastern fruits are now being

invaded by the western men. Ontario must wake up to the new conditions if she expects to hold the prominent If she expects to noid the prominent place for her apples that she has done in the past. That she can hold her own, is true, for the writer has seen the actual returns for Ontario boxed apples shipped during the pre-sent season from several sources, which compare mast forwardly, with which compare most favorably with any received from western orchards. USE OF BOXES

The use of the box for No. 1 fruit has increased very largely during the year, and we trust that this increase will still continue. The very fact that only good fruit must go into the smaller package will tend to force our growers to obtain a greater per-centage year by year of the higher class apples from their orchards. Our co-operative fruit growers' associa-tions should be the ones to lead in this movement, and indeed some have already shown their influence in this

One of our horticultural journals aptly stated in a recent issue that the great need of the present time is not that the growers shall produce more fruit, but that they shall produce that the grovers shall produce more fruit, but that they shall produce better fruit. This applies, perhaps, more to the apple than any other fruit grown in Ontario. We export to Great Britain alone some years a million barrels. How much better it would be for both fruit grower and dealer if this quantify was cut down to half a million if necessary, and the quality raised even 50 per cent. On-tario's reputation would go up ac-cordingly. The only parties to suf-fer would be the transportation com-panies and the commission houses. panies and the commission houses, and neither have shown much consideration in the past for the poor grower.

As co-operative associations formed to to aid others as well as our-selves in building up a great industry in the best agricultural province in the Dominion, shall we not go forward into 1909 determined to do. all that lies in our power to make the coming season a "quality" seaall that lies in our provide the coming season a "quality" season? Get after your members early and late, in season and out of season, fertilize, and cultito prune, spray, fertilize, and culti-vate their orchards as never before; and last, but not least, to pick, grade and pack the 1909 crop in a manner that will bring nothing but credit to cur associations and to our country. May that crop be a bountiful one, big in size and numbers, rich in color, and flavor, and worthy of the province that produced it.

# Fruit Market in Birmingham J. E. Rac, Canadian Commercial Agent

For the guidance of apple exporters, I may say that the Birmingham market is wel stocked at the present market is wel stocked at the present time, consequently low prices are ruling. It would be judicious if Cap-adian apple exporters would retain their stocks until after the Christmas holidays. The market is always glutted at Christmas time.

I went through Smithfield market yesterday and inspected barrel after barrel of apples from British Colum-bia and Nova Scotia. The fruit from bia and Nova Scotia. The fruit from both provinces was exceedingly fine,

but much that came from Ontario was not up to the anticipated stan-dard. Barrow's stores devoted a large window to a display of British Columbian apples which were the delight of crowds of spectators. The apples of crowds of spectators. The apples were a tryenficent color, large in size and solid in flesh, and Birming-ham, I feel sure, will look forward to these British Columbian shipments year by year, if the quality is main-timed tained.

Pears are commanding a capital price at the present time, as doctors are now recommending them to in-valids instead of grapes. The retail price in Birmingham for good varieties is 6d. (12 cents) a pound.

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# Pr Mrs. Fred.

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