

The increase in the acreage of new orchards in Ontario in the last ten years has probably been as great as in Nova Scotia, but these new orchards are not concentrated to the same extent. Nevertheless, they are by no means as widely distributed as the older orchards. As a matter of fact the decrease in the number of trees in the older smaller orchards in this province has been quite equal to the increase in the number of new trees planted in larger areas and, perhaps, in more favourable situations. Modern orchard culture is also the rule in these new Ontario orchards. The outcome in both Nova Scotia and Ontario is a very large increase in the exportable surplus.

British Columbia has been planting very rapidly of late years but the 1912 crop was the first that seriously affected the market outside the province.

Commercial Orchards.—Recently there has been a marked change with reference to apple growing, brought about for the most part by co-operation. The older home orchards are ceasing to be profitable. It is doubtful, indeed, whether orcharding can be recommended at all, unless it be for home use or for the local market, except where co-operative methods are used. Under the stimulus of such methods, growers are turning their attention to orcharding as a main source of income, where formerly it was only a side-line. The effect is to group the orchards in particular districts and to increase their size. It means, too, the application of business methods to this branch of horticulture. In modern phrase, orcharding is becoming 'commercialized' in Canada. The change is now taking place and we see the extraordinary spectacle of men in one part of a county receiving \$2 per barrel for apples, while in the next township apples are being allowed to rot under the trees. The old order is passing away and the new is not yet thoroughly established.

A Plea for the Small Orchard.—At the present time the small grower, in neighbourhoods where orcharding is not a special feature, would appear to have received a setback. A little more experience will show these small growers that it is quite possible, even in districts where apples are not a specialty, to organize co-operative selling associations so as to dispose of the fruit without difficulty and at a fair profit. It must be admitted that of late years the small orchard, as an adjunct to the farm, has not been remunerative. All attempts at growing four, five or half a dozen trees, which would be sufficient to supply the needs of the home, have failed; the trees are not numerous enough to receive proper care in the busy life of the ordinary mixed farm, and very quickly succumb to general neglect. Apparently the smallest area that can be recommended in general practice is five acres, and there is no reason why, with co-operative methods, there should not be a five-acre orchard on every farm in the apple districts of Canada. This would not interfere seriously with the larger interests of the farm, and yet would be sufficient to make it worth while to secure proper implements, spray at the right time and pay some attention to marketing. With the passing of these small orchards would go many of the pleasant recollections of farm life. The old orchard is the memory that lingers longest and links us most closely with the land. It would be worth while, merely as a partial solution of the depopulation problem, to institute a propaganda for a five-acre orchard on every farm.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF CO-OPERATION.

So far as Canadian fruit growers are concerned, they benefitted comparatively little by the experience of co-operators in other lands, and co-operation with them is decidedly a native growth influenced little or not at all by the theories and practices of older countries. The result has been that our growers have looked upon co-operation largely from the material side and have counted its benefits in proportion to the direct increase in returns for fruit. Naturally, too, the by-laws and regulations under which the first associations operated did not correspond to any set principles similar to those evolved by the co-operative societies in other lands.