

costs for many reasons, mainly beyond their control. Statistics show that the United States, as a whole, has entered upon an era of large crops in excess of the normal market demands.

NORTH-WESTERN STATES HAVE OVERDONE IT.

18. It is admitted that in the North-western States plantings have been beyond all prudence, and these are now coming into bearing. The United States Census shows as follows:—

Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana—	
Trees in 1910, bearing	6,741,671
" " non-bearing	9,951,300
	16,692,971
Yield in 1899	1,870,559 bu.
" 1909	5,830,039 "
An increase of 212 per cent.	

State authorities say that over 550,000 acres have been planted to apples, largely in the period 1904-12. Over half of this area is so unfavourably situated, or has already been pulled out, or so neglected, that it does not figure in production estimates. Their acreage in bearing (five years old and over) in 1913 was estimated at 48,000 acres, and there were shipped 8,500 cars.

TREMENDOUS OVERPRODUCTION IN NEXT FEW YEARS.

19. In 1916 the acreage five years old and over will be 130,000 acres, and the most conservative production estimates call for 23,850 cars, while other estimates go as high as 33,850 cars. These estimates were accepted by the North-west Growers' Council in general meeting recently. In 1920 it is estimated that present trees, if properly cared for, will represent 208,300 acres, which would yield, at the same rate as the minimum 1916 estimates, 38,215 cars.

These figures show graphically the reasons why their prices have been unsatisfactory. They also show that, until the greater part of their good trees have been neglected or destroyed, with the huge losses that process entails, their prices will continue unremunerative. The apple industry of the North-western States is, briefly, entering a period of contraction involving very great hardship and privation to those who have gone into it. The industry is bankrupt. Liquidation is evidenced by the statement that there were 176 foreclosures on orchard properties in Yakima County, Washington, one of the best districts, this year. Professor Thorner stated at the Washington State Horticultural Society Convention recently, after a survey of one of the biggest and most suited orchard sections, that 75 per cent. of the growers had made no money for the past three years, and 90 per cent. would gladly sell out at any reasonable figure.

COMPETITORS DUMP "C" GRADE APPLES INTO CANADA 40 CENTS BELOW COST.

20. Not only have our North-western competitors been unable, despite the most strenuous efforts, to make their average price equal to the cost of production, but their average selling-price to Canada has been still lower. They can survive only by securing good prices for the higher-grade apples in the more discriminating Eastern markets. Western Canada, like other agricultural sections, is not a market for the best grades; our markets want about 75 per cent. of the cheaper grades. Of the imports, 35 per cent. is "C" grade, which is their lowest shipping grade, about equal to our No. 2. In such markets it is the practice of the North-western shippers to dispose of or dump the "C" grade, keeping the big Eastern markets clear for the premium grades, out of which they must make their returns. The average f.o.b. price of all North-western apples, including "Fancy" and "Extra Fancy," into Canada for