

area, so that this district is not considered in the production of what we call winter varieties.

The counties bordering on the north shore of Lake Ontario, together with a small portion of the county of Grey, bordering on Georgian Bay, and one of two townships in the county of Dufferin, designated district No. 3, have that happy medium climate that renders them peculiarly well-fitted for the winter varieties. The temperature is not so severe as to cause serious loss from winter killing, and the summer temperatures not so high as to prematurely ripen these varieties.

The counties bordering on Lake Huron and the second tier of counties north of Lake Erie, named district no. 2, are also admirably suited in climate and soil for the production of winter varieties, but

orchards in this district. Some of the finest of the apples, if not the very finest exhibited at the recent Ontario Horticultural Exhibition in Toronto, came from this district. Such a condition of affairs calls for some explanation. If the fruit can be grown to perfection, and if orcharding is profitable, why is it that we find this waste of fruit and want of confidence in the apple industry?

CLIMATE NOT FAVORABLE

The explanation is partly a question of climatology and partly an economic question. As a matter of climate, this district No. 1 has a mean annual temperature many degrees higher than districts 3 and 4. The Fameuse apple will be in full bloom in Chatham early in May; the same variety will not be in bloom in Lindsay for two weeks later.

into consumption. That is to say, apple operators will not store these varieties, or if owing to very favorable conditions of temperature, they do attempt to store them, the consequence is a very serious loss when they come to be repacked during the winter months. The growers, then, of winter stock in this district are forced to sell so as to go on the market at least before Christmas, and they have not the alternative of accepting this market or the later winter market.

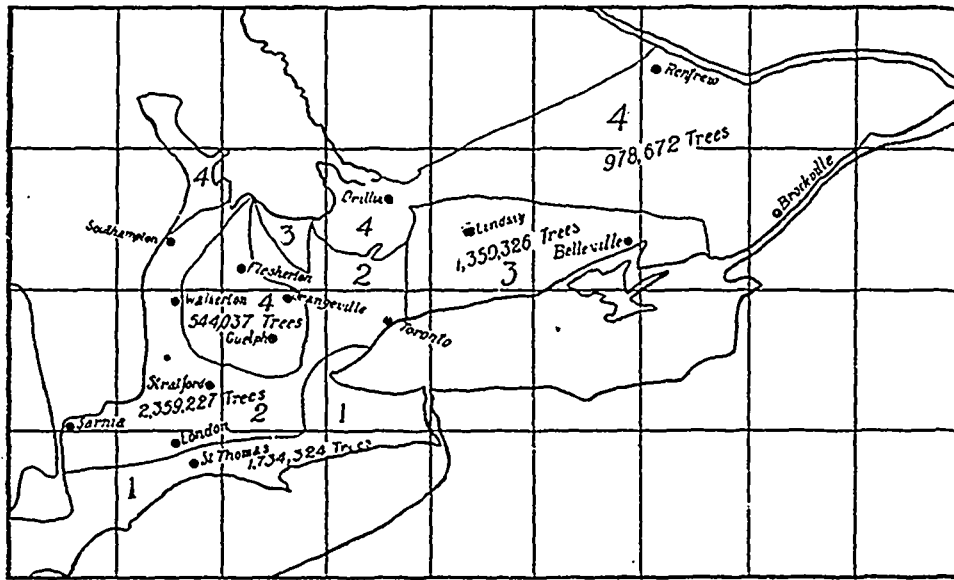
CHEAP APPLES

It might be noted just here that in the apple industry it is always likely that the cheapest apples will be those that must go into consumption during the months of October, November and December. During these months there will always be the fag ends of the high priced early apples as well as the odds and ends of the late winter varieties that for one reason or another have to be forced upon the market. These two sources of supply, together with the large volume of apples that ripen normally at this period, will always make a surplus at least of No. 2 grade at this time. Herein lies the reason for the low prices and for the want of market for the apples grown in district No. 1.

Somewhat different conditions prevail in the district which I have designated No. 2, including the second tier of counties on Lake Erie and the counties bordering on Lake Huron. This district, of course, fades imperceptibly into district No. 1 upon the south, but upon the whole is admirably fitted for growing the winter varieties. In common with district No. 3 it has that happy medium of climate not so severe as to induce winter killing and not so high in temperature as to prematurely ripen the apples. The standard winter varieties are matured normally, so as to meet the temperature approaching the freezing point that prevails in these districts after the first of November. These apples go as it were into a natural cold storage and, if harvested with care and placed at once where they will be protected from the occasional warm days, will be in the best condition to be repacked and shipped for the winter market.

FUTURE FOR EARLY APPLES

What, then, should be the aim of the orchardist in the counties north of Lake Erie, district No. 1? One thing is certain, they can never compete under natural conditions with other portions of Ontario in the production of winter apples. It is very true that in this respect they have conditions not dissimilar to the orchardists in New York state, and they may make orcharding as successful in New York state by adopting the same devices as have been adopted there, namely, an extensive system of cold storage. If, at some point, or



Map of Ontario showing Four Divisions for Apple Culture

the orchards of these districts were planted under different conditions that have induced me to place them in a separate class.

We come now to the counties bordering directly on Lake Erie, which I have grouped under district No. 1. This may be called the tender fruit belt of Ontario, where peaches, cherries, tomatoes and all tender fruits are grown with the greatest success. The apple also grows here to perfection. Nevertheless, it is a matter of notoriety that, though the earliest orchards of Canada were planted in this district, and though it made its reputation as an apple growing district long years before the other portions of the province were settled, of late years the industry has fallen into disrepute. Splendid old orchards in perfect health and vigor and bearing a full crop have been chopped down to make way for ordinary grain crops, and even in years of comparative scarcity, as last year and this, thousands of barrels of apples have been allowed to go to waste in

The fruit grower in Chatham does not fear serious frost until the first of November, probably until November 10 or 15. The fruit grower north of Lake Ontario is very anxious, indeed, if he has any apples exposed the last week of October. It will thus be seen that the apples north of Lake Ontario begin to grow nearly two weeks later than in the southern parts of Ontario. It will also be noted that in district No. 3 they do not have nearly so high a temperature during the summer months and consequently are nearly a month later in reaching the same degree of maturity as the varieties in district No. 1. In consequence of this, all the common winter varieties, such as the Baldwin, Spy, Russet and King are ripe in district No. 1 early in October, and in the natural order of things are subjected to the warm, genial weather that prevails in this district during the latter part of October. At the end of three weeks of this warm weather the apples are in a condition of maturity when they must go at once