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many instances for young orchards. It is claimed that clean cultivation has the result of permitting the disappearance of humus and thus the soil fertility decreases and the tree foliage turns yellow, the tree's fruitfulness naturally becoming less. In the Yakima and Wenatchee districts the growers have adopted the plan of growing alfalfa between the rows and have found that where this policy was in force for some years orchard production was thereby greatly increased.

In Hood River clover is grown in the orchards with similar results and the deep concern of the grower over this problem of keeping the fertility of the orchard soil is giving place to confidence. In the younger districts in Southern Oregon and Spokane the soil fertility problem as in British Columbia is not yet so acute. It has been found in Hood River that whereas formerly forty thousand dollars worth of hay was imported every year, now there is no importation of hay whatever, the green crops in the orchards being sufficient for hay purposes. This method has resulted in a lower cost of cultivation although more irrigation water has been required. It is considered that a good deal of experimental work will be necessary before it is decided absolutely how far the system of growing alfalfa or clover between the rows of trees may be followed out in British Columbia.

Generally speaking, wages are from twenty to thirty per cent. below those paid in the fruit districts of British Columbia, while the cost of materials, such as boxes, paper, orchard equipment and so forth, was from thirty to forty per cent. lower. Taxes were on the whole higher. The cost of fruit production generally, would seem to be about thirty per cent. lower than in British Columbia. This fact would lead to the conclusion, it is thought, that more general study will have to be given in this province to reducing the cost of growing, packing and marketing.

One difficulty now facing the fruit men of British Columbia lies in the fact that the American growers market their best apples, called "extra fancy," and "fancy," in the high-priced city markets at a figure about twice as high as that obtained for the third grade apples, described as "choice." These "choice" apples are sold at little above cost, the profit being made on the others; nevertheless the third grades are good apples, forming between ten and forty per cent. of the crop. They are in demand on the Canadian prairies, where an extra fancy apple is not desired.

In British Columbia the growers have no large cities in which to sell their finest apples, and the prairies do not seem to desire to pay the extra price for the British Columbia "fancy" and "number ones," consequently, in many cases the British Columbia growers have to put them on to the prairie markets at prices low enough to compete with the American "choice." The duty on apples is only thirteen cents a box, which is not enough to cover the margin of difference. Were the British Columbia growers to find a market willing to absorb the high-priced fruit it could meet the American competition and make money in the same way as followed across the line.

An effort is now being undertaken here to develop a market in Australia where, it is pointed out, there is a demand for the very cheapest apples, but then the advantage of any duty on American apples is lost.

Some attention was paid by the secretary of the B. C. Fruit Growers' Association to the question of fruit marketing. It was