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The Canadian apple crop has been the subject of more or less concern this year. It was, however, more general some two or three months ago than now. This is because the actual results exceed the expectations of even the Government reports. As a large handler and exporter said to THE GROCER the other day, "the apples have bulked much better than we expected." But while all told there is no concern as regards quantity it is scarcely satisfactory as regards quality. There have been a good many wind storms, which have resulted in the creation of an unusually large number of "windfalls." Then much of what would otherwise have been constituted first-class fruit has been outclassed owing to blemishes in the way of specks, caused by too much rain and moisture. As a result, while there is a plentiful supply of second and third-class fruit, the first-class article threatens to be a scarce commodity before long. At the rate this class of fruit is disappearing—on account of home consumption and export—it is estimated that there will not be more than 100,000 barrels left in Ontario by December 1. How small this is

may be gathered from the fact that more than that quantity was sometimes shipped weekly last year at this time. As many as 126,000 barrels were shipped in a week and 300,000 in a month. As a result of this condition of affairs, prices of good sound fruit have appreciated considerably during the past few weeks. Carload lots, suitable for export, commonly change hands at \$3 per barrel, while as high as \$3.35 has been paid.

Regarding the apple crop in the United States, advices from there report a shortage which is more appreciated as the season advances. Fair quantities, it seems, were raised in some localities, but in others the crop was little short of a failure; and to make matters worse we are told that the quality is inferior as well as the quantity small. To drought in summer and storms in the fall are attributed the causes of the shortage. Prices, as in Canada, are advancing, and they are expected to go very high. American Cider Maker has been gathering reports regarding the situation and from these has prepared this estimate of the crop as compared with an average yield: Maine, 43 per cent.; New Hampshire, 46; Vermont, 49; Massachusetts, 44; Rhode Island, 35; Connecticut, 37; New York, 40; New Jersey, 66; Pennsylvania, 47; Delaware, 70; Maryland, 62; Virginia, 70; North Carolina, 66; South Carolina, 63; Georgia, 54; Florida, 63; Alabama, 52; Mississippi, 52; Louisiana, 65; Texas, 66; Arkansas, 59; Tennessee, 47; West Virginia, 38; Kentucky, 30; Ohio, 5; Michigan, 35; Indiana, 8; Illinois, 11; Wisconsin, 49; Minnesota, 61; Iowa, 34; Missouri, 22; Kansas, 15; Nebraska,

35; South Dakota, 95; Montana, 50; Wyoming, 85; Colorado, 47; New Mexico, 77; Arizona, 70; Utah, 84; Nevada, 77; Idaho, 74; Washington, 55; Oregon, 77; California, 90.

Yes, science is doing much for us these days; but there are some people who question whether it is not doing too much in some respects. At one time we were counselled to drink freely of cold water, if we desired health, but now the analyst has discovered so much animal and vegetable life squirming around in it that we are warned against doing so unless we want to imbibe typhoid, malarial or other disease germs. "Not to be taken before boiling," is practically what we are requested to placard our water taps and pumps with. Then there is danger in the oyster, tapeworms in the beef, and even our bread—the staff of life—is being impregnated with deleterious substances, seen and unseen, which threaten to weaken it as a prop. Even our butter, one scientist tells us, we ought to roast before taking because of its attractive properties to the disease germs that float around in the atmosphere looking for some such substance on which to alight and propagate their species many millionfold. No one questions the existence of these animalcules or that they have a peculiar liking for the things which have most of the members of the human family, but some people are beginning to wonder whether the evil propensities of animalcular life are not being magnified at the expense of the beneficial. Of course most of these critics are not scientific men, which may account for their scepticism.

We cover the ground from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and have double the circulation of any other journal in Canada.