

there will be no appreciable lowering of prices.

Last year the English merchants for the first time in several years did not advance money to local buyers. Apparently they are adhering to this resolution this year. The itinerent buyer is, however, abroad in the land. We have reports of these buyers offering 75 cents per barrel on the trees. This, of course, is an absurdly low price. There is absolutely no reason why every apple in Canada should not be sold this year at a price that would bring back to the grower at least \$1.25 per barrel on the tree. On the other hand, we find reports of some independent cooperative associations asking \$3.50 per barrel for No. 1 Spies. It is quite as absurd for the grower to accept so small a price for his apples as to leave him no profit as to ask so large a price that the merchant who handles his fruit will have no profit.

The present market conditions are extremely critical. On two or three occasions we have had within the last decade somewhat similar conditions, and in each case very grave mistakes have been made in placing the fruit upon the market. In 1910 many dealers, noting the short crop, went into the field early in the season, paid fairly high prices to those who knew the market conditions, and paid extremely low prices to the large majority who knew nothing about the market conditions, and in all cases they stored the apples, and when the fruit was all in the hands of the dealers, immediately it was held for high prices. A single incident will show the results.

A large retail merchant in an eastern city offered a dealer \$3.50 per barrel for a very fine line of Northern Spy apples. This was refused about the middle of November. About the first of December, following a slump in prices in the British market, the dealer offered the merchant these apples at the dealer's original price of \$3.50 per barrel. The dealer, however, rejused. Four weeks later, in January, the apples were offered at \$2.75 to the merchant, who refused them absolutely at any price, giving as his excuse that his customers were not calling for apples, considering them much too expensive, and even though the price were reduced to a reasonable one, he did not consider the chances for sale good. Later these apples were sold at public auction at \$2.50 per barrel.

Any prices that may be given yet at purely speculative, but it is safe to say that no differences in the crop that are likely to take place, whether it is an increase or a decrease from the present prospects, at likely to change the price either above to below the normal price obtained as average over several years.—Report of Dominion Fruit Division, A. McNeil Chief.

Items of Interest

According to the latest report of the Dominion Fruit Division cooper's stock agoing to be both scarce and high price. Barrels are being bought quite freely at cents apiece, and only a few of those when have purchased stock can get the materialone. The package this year will not walless than one-third the value of the first on the tree. This puts the grower was packs his own fruit and all cooperation associations in the position of norchast in coopers' stock and barrels, and if can petition becomes keen, as it is likely to be come in the near future, those who have the package end of the apple business to best under control will be the most likely succeed.