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weather has been experienced in some B.C. districts, which will no doubt seriously affect the crop in sections that are not irrigated.

A. J. Finch, Manager of the Co-operative Fruit Growers of Penticton, summarizes conditions as follows in the lower Okanagan Valley:

"Apricot crop about average, demand heavy, prices will run high. Peaches, crop average, prices about same as 1916. Plums, crop fair, demand heavy, prices should be fair. Prunes, crop very light. Apples, crop average, demand extra heavy, prices will run about same as last year with the addition of the extra cost of boxes, labor, etc."

R. B. Staples, of Creston, B.C., in a report on conditions in the Creston Valley says that there will be a light plum crop, but crab apples will be normal, running a little small on size if present weather continues. There was a heavy drop in pears. Apples will average a little better than half a crop he asserts at the time of writing.

Conditions affecting other fruit crops are as follows:—Peaches: Ontario will have a crop smaller than last year; there will be about a medium crop in B.C. Grapes: Niagara crop, which will be about two weeks late in maturing, promises to be good. Pears: In Ontario the crop will be less than half that of last year, while in Nova Scotia there will be a moderate crop. B.C. will have a crop 25 per cent. less than in 1916. Plums: Generally throughout B.C. the crop will be somewhat heavier than last year and of better quality. In Ontario some varieties such as Lombard, Yellow Egg, Black Diamond and Monarch will only be 30 per cent. of a normal crop. While of all the others there will be a medium yield. Tomatoes: B.C. will have a fair crop while in the Niagara district of Ontario the acreage has been reduced about 50 per cent. on low land on account of heavy rain. The crop there will be late.—W. E. McTaggart.

### Short-circuiting the Potato Trade

Continued from Page 8

of the big cold storage houses under normal conditions is to level up prices throughout the season.

Although the Leduc association has to do principally with buying, storing and shipping potatoes, it is very much interested in the question of production. This is one of the great benefits of the co-operative plan of selling. The growers are their own dealers and as such get in close touch with the demands of the market. They therefore have a vivid conception of the benefit of growing what the market prefers. One of the lessons learned at Leduc is the necessity of getting down to one good variety. The Wee Macgregor, in Mr. Molynaux's opinion, is the best suited to the district. He believes that one of the duties of a secretary or manager of a co-operative company shipping potatoes is to assist in the educational work necessary for the production of a high grade and uniform product. He can secure and distribute government and experimental farm literature on the selection of seed, for this is at the base of the whole question of production. Seed selection should begin with the hill in the field. Strong growing hills can be marked out with small stakes and dug first and enough of these hills being selected to supply the following year's seed. Mr. Molynaux believes that it is a great mistake for the farmer to plant small potatoes and that the very best that the field produces should be set aside for seed purposes. In the Leduc district it has been found a good practice to plant in hills three feet four inches apart one way and eighteen to twenty-four inches the other. He strongly favors growing and shipping the best possible product, the kind the consumer prefers. To encourage this he suggested that it would be a good plan for a co-operative association to work in close co-operation with the local agricultural society. Prizes could be offered to the farmers growing the best acre plots of the variety favored. These plots would be a source of good seed for the district and it might be stipulated that the seed from the prize plots must be sold in the neighborhood for seed.

#### Cause of Low Quality

"The farmer and the dealer are both to blame for the poor standing of Alberta potatoes on the market," said Mr.



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