

# CO-OPERATION AND FRUIT GROWING.

*By A. McNeill.*

## INTRODUCTORY NOTES.

Co-operation, in all lines of agricultural production and distribution, has developed rapidly during the last few years in nearly all the countries of Europe. The development is less marked in America, but even in America certain lines of co-operation have reached enormous proportions, such, for instance, as the co-operative selling associations for citrous fruits in California. Agricultural productive co-operation, too, has made great progress in the States of Wisconsin and Minnesota. In other parts of the United States co-operative selling associations have become fairly common and have worked out principles that can be adopted now with confidence.

In recent years there have been some remarkable developments of co-operative effort among Canadian farmers. The Northwest Grain Growers' Association bids fair to revolutionize the selling of wheat in the northwest. Distributive co-operative stores are being established throughout the Dominion, and so numerous have they become lately that it has been found desirable and possible to organize a Dominion Union of Co-operative Associations that will exercise a great influence on the distributive side of the movement.

Not less important has been the development of apple selling associations within the last few years, and it is with these that this bulletin is particularly concerned. But it is necessary to emphasize that the general principles are the same and it would be impossible, even if it were deemed expedient, to attempt to disassociate the co-operative apple selling movement in Canada from the co-operative movement in all agricultural lines in many countries. The history of co-operative apple selling associations in our own country is sufficiently interesting to demand special attention and it appears to be the line along which co-operative effort can be most easily introduced in many important sections of the country.

To outline in more or less detail the principles of co-operation, the more desirable methods to adopt in putting these principles into practice, and the objects to be gained by their adoption, is the purpose of this bulletin. If its perusal tends to encourage more economical methods of production and distribution, and a more equitable division of the proceeds from sales, the object of the bulletin will have been attained.

## APPLE GROWING IN CANADA.

The apple industry of Canada originated in the orchards of the earliest settlers, planted primarily for their own use. These orchards, planted for this purpose on a somewhat generous scale, supplied not only the needs of the family, but also those of the nearby markets. So prolific were they that even when local demands were met there was still a surplus. This formed the nucleus of the long distance and export trade. Merchants and the more enterprising growers began to ship a few barrels to the markets of Great Britain and found that the fruit was acceptable and the profits large. This created somewhat of a boom in orchard planting and developed the long distance and export trade to its present proportions.