

The Canadian Horticulturist

Vol. XXXIV

OCTOBER, 1911

No. 10

Cooperation in Ontario

P. W. Hodgetts, Toronto, Ont., Provincial Director of Horticulture

CO-OPERATION in fruit growing is appealing strongly to-day to the Ontario farmer. Success has attended the efforts of the men at St. Catharines, Simcoe, Forest, and other points in the joint marketing of their fruit products under one manager and in the purchasing of those supplies which are so essential to the production of the best quality of fruit. Urgent appeals have been made to both the



P. W. Hodgetts

federal and provincial departments of agriculture for aid in the organization of local associations, and to-day forty-one of these are at work that will handle this year fruits valued at from three-quarters to one million dollars, besides thousands of dollars' worth of spraying materials, packages, fertilizers, and other materials. The future of co-operation seems brighter than for some years, and with care in the selection of suitable officers and man-

agers, and a still higher standard of grading than we have yet had, very few failures should result.

TWO ESSENTIALS

Two points at least seem to be essential in the proper organization of any farmers' co-operative company. First, the selection of the best man possible as business manager and the payment to him of a good living salary; and second, the growing of high quality fruit that can safely be marketed under the brand of the association. Numerous instances have occurred in Ontario where organizations have come to grief on one or other of these points. One company in Southern Ontario, successful the first year, and with splendid prospects before it, changed managers the second season to effect a saving of a few dollars in the salary. To-day the company's packing house is for sale, and co-operation is not very popular. Three small organizations in one of the northern counties came to grief in one year through attempting to pack and sell apples from orchards that were neglected, unpruned, unsprayed and generally dilapidated.

The greatest encouragement to those

engaged in the promotion of fruit growing in this province is the active interest being taken on all sides by farmers and others in their apple orchards. No previous year in our history has shown such a demand for spraying machinery and spray materials for demonstrations in pruning and spraying and for other information relating to the apple industry. Companies both large and small have been formed to lease and buy apple orchards already in bearing and to set out young orchards. One of these concerns has taken over one hundred and forty thousand bearing apple trees from parties who in the past have largely neglected their orchards. Farmers themselves are everywhere leasing their neighbors' orchards where these can be procured on reasonable terms.

This activity means that during the present season and in coming seasons there will be a tremendous change in the quality of the fruit sent out from this province. With the improvement in the quality naturally follows co-operation in the selling. The expense of securing a high grade apple is naturally much greater than for the low grade product,



The Box Packing of Fruit in Ontario is Increasing Steadily. Students in a Short Course in Box Packing at the Guelph A. C. are Here Shown.