

Fruit Crop Prospects

The prospect for apples as a whole in Canada depreciated slightly during the past month. The report of the Dominion Fruit Division, under date of September 15th, states that all Duches and other early varieties yielded medium crops which were harvested in good condition and sold at fair prices. Spys are reported scarce except in the counties adjoining Lake Huron and Lake Ontario, in Ontario, and in Nova Scotia. Baldwins will not be quite a medium crop. Greenings will be abundant.

In the United States the apple crop will be somewhat larger than it was last year. The Crop Reporter, issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, estimates the yield of apples this year at 56.2 per cent. of a full crop, compared with a yield of 46.8 per cent. of a full crop last year for the whole United States. Maine and New York have a medium crop. This is a Greening year in New York as well as in Ontario. Michigan has a much heavier crop than last year. The middle and southern states will produce less, as will also the Pacific coast states.

Though the weather conditions have improved there is no chance for more than a medium apple crop in Great Britain. Up to date, local markets have been well sup-

plied with home-grown apples, clean and much better colored than usual. The shortage in plums will help the demand for apples only slightly. The Continental crop will be fairly good except in Germany.

In the United States the crop will permit of the usual quantity being exported. It is not probable, however, that the apples from the Pacific Coast will affect the eastern markets this year as much as last year. There is a fairly good demand from Australia and New Zealand. A single firm in Seattle is sending 50 carloads to Australia via Vancouver, B.C. There will also be a demand for western apples from the southern and middle states.

Cold storage space in the east is nearly all taken up, though large quantities of apples still remain in the hands of the growers, and eastern buyers are reported to be holding off for lower prices.

The commercial outlook in the United States is slightly depressing, and large operators are moving cautiously. In Canada, the demand from the Northwest is even brisker than last year, and facilities have opened up for supplying a much larger demand.

Cooperative associations in Ontario and Nova Scotia are now in a position to make their influence felt. Both Nova Scotia and Ontario cooperative associations have rep-

resentatives in the Northwest who are greatly facilitating the movements of apples, the result of which will be a large increased consumption. In Ontario the crop is largely in the hands of operators or cooperative associations. This condition will go far to regulate shipments that gluts are less likely to occur either in Great Britain or at distributive points in the Northwest.

General conditions are such as to demand caution on the part of holders of large quantities of apples, but there is no reason to doubt that the present crop can readily go into consumption at reasonable prices.

In Ontario, prices to individual growers ranged from \$1.00 to \$1.50 on the tree, and as high as \$2.00 was received in the case of special varieties. The cooperative associations are holding winter apples at from \$2.00 to \$2.50 for less desirable varieties and \$2.50 to \$3.00 for Kings, Baldwins, &c. Spys appear to be in demand at a higher price than this.

In Nova Scotia, Gravensteins, Ribstons, &c. are leaving the growers' hands at \$1.00 for No. 1's, Kings, Blenheims, &c., at \$2.00 per barrel.

In Nelson and Grand Forks, B. C. Wealthy and Gravensteins are selling at \$1.50 to \$1.75 per box to the grower.



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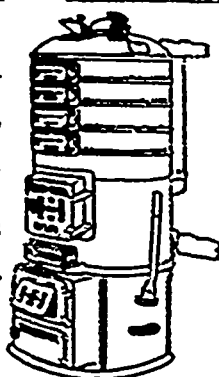
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