

of his life's work, upon the altar; the cobbler gave a pair of boots, made with his best skill; one woman brought a warm garment of wool shorn from her good man's sheep; another a fine piece of embroidery she had wrought with many a prayer; still another, a notable housekeeper, offered fine white loaves of her baking; a crucifix carved of precious wood was the offering of a cripple; children brought their best beloved toys, but still the silence was unbroken. One by one they came, and now almost all had presented the gift of their love and were kneeling at their places again.

The heart of the good priest was faint within him, as he sadly wondered whose the fault could be that no perfectly acceptable gift was offered.

Now the last man stood before the altar, the village smith, and he brought a cross of intricate and cunning workmanship, a triumph of his craft; but still no sound broke the silence.

The curé lifted his hands to Heaven, all the kneeling multitude crossed themselves; but before the word of dismissal was uttered a woman entered the church and came slowly forward. She was closely shrouded in a dark mantle and walked with bowed head. Unconscious of those around her, looking neither to the right nor to the left, with faltering steps she made her way to the altar and sank before it on her knees.

As she did so her hood fell back, revealing a mass of red-gold hair. A gasp of wonder broke from every throat: only one in the village had such hair!

"Jeanette!" Mère Lenoir's voice thrilled clear and high, like the sound of shivered glass in the silence.

The curé motioned for silence.

A strange brightness filled the church, the walls seemed to expand, and the roof to be raised, till the little, shabby church was a great and lofty edifice that embraced the four corners of the earth and reached to the star-lit sky.

Softly at first, then swelling louder, and louder yet, celestial music filled the air, and angel voices sounded clear:

"There is rejoicing in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth. Glory to God in the Highest! A broken and a contrite heart He doth not despise. Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, . . . peace, good-will, good-will to men. . . ."

Softly the music died away in the distance, the unearthly radiance dimmed and faded; again the church was small and mean, but still some heavenly light seemed to linger lovingly about the altar and the kneeling penitent.

"My children," said the priest, "Rise," and his voice vibrant with joyful emotion, he intoned the "Magnificat."

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PROBLEMS OF THE OKANAGAN FRUIT-GROWER.

(Continued from Page 4)

With Government-controlled cold-storage available for use to any legitimate packer, I see no strong objection to any number of independent packers, so long as they are responsible and become parties to the distribution compact which must control the output.

With the better pack of apples, control of distribution through one central office, and a thorough and intelligent exploitation and expansion of foreign markets, backed by a business-like campaign of education for the wider use of apples and all bye-products, the growers of B. C. need not fear a state of over-production or repetition of the past two years.

As to the future of the industry, I see nothing in the experience of the past two years to justify the pessimism one finds in some localities. While it is disheartening to any one to work for small returns, or to go behind on his year's operations, we must remember that almost all industries suffer reverses and fight through many perplexing problems before their lines are established, or their machinery working smoothly. One might add here, that the manufacturer has one advantage over the grower, in that he can control his production much more easily, turning out his product according to the markets he finds or creates.

The Government should be able to play a very great part in making the fruit industry one of the most important and profitable in our province. It is already doing much to help the grower to produce more fruit and better fruit, and it has the opportunity to assist the growers in perfecting their selling and distribution methods and in finding wider markets. The people as a whole are behind the Government in any measures it adopts that will further the interests of any branch of our agricultural industries, knowing that a thriving rural population is the first guarantee to industrial progress.

No one who knows the Okanagan country and who has a reasonable amount of sane optimism, can doubt its bright future. The fruit industry is bound to succeed. If those now directing operations fail, others, whose all is at stake, will come forward and find the solution leading to success.

The areas of good fruit lands that can be brought under irrigation are limited, while one could almost say that the possibilities for the expansion of our Canadian market alone, through increased population and aggressive marketing methods, are unlimited. In time the growers through co-operative methods will establish factories in order to turn into money their bye-products and surplus of perishable fruits and vegetables.

The Okanagan is unsurpassed as an apple producing country, and with such suitable soil for nearly all products and such an attractive climate, it cannot fail to fulfil the expectations of its champions.

For my own part I think more of the possibilities of our fruit industry than I did when I planted my orchard at Winfield thirteen years ago. I am in no respect disappointed with the investment. Any orchard planted in good soil, under a good water supply, and with the right varieties of apples, well cared for, will yield good returns on the money invested, and at the same time provide an attractive life for those who like out-door work.

When the growers can act as a unit and distribute their products to markets as required, the industry will show definite signs for permanent success. Without co-operation in any industry of this kind, success would seem impossible, because production is not easily controlled, being greater one year than another; and thus it frequently overruns demand; control in marketing is therefore essential.

(Nov. 15, 1922.)