

The Lower Okanagan had a large peach-crop, which met a very favourable market in the earlier part of the season, but a very unsatisfactory one for the most of the main crop. This was principally due to an excessive crop of peaches in American competitive districts, partly due to climatic conditions, which rendered our fruit soft and more or less unsatisfactory for shipping. The canneries took quite a large amount of the crop, at much more satisfactory prices.

Pears yielded a good crop throughout the Province, and prices were well maintained throughout, being higher than for several years.

Crab-apples yielded well, and during part of the season returned good prices, but low prices on other classes of fruit depressed the market, so that only moderate prices were received for many shipments.

The apple-crop, taken as a whole, was a large one. Early varieties were moved at reasonably satisfactory prices, and though the main crop has met a slow market, the whole of it has now been sold at an average f.o.b. price of about \$1 and \$1.10, which, with the crop yielded this year, represents a fairly satisfactory return to the grower.

VEGETABLE-CROPS.

There was an increase of over 50 per cent. in the total acreage planted to potatoes this year, and yields were large. A great increase is shown in the amount grown by Chinese in the Lower Mainland, on land rented at \$30 per acre. The whole of the crop in the Lower Mainland has suffered very heavily from blight, so the total yield of good stock is much smaller than expected. Potato prices have been the lowest in years, but are now improving, and it seems likely that the large supply being held over in pits will bring satisfactory prices later on.

There was a large crop of all other kinds of vegetables, which, as a rule, met a satisfactory market at moderate prices. One commodity grown—tomatoes—seems to have given generally high returns. The level of prices, as a rule, has been only moderate.

EXTENSIONS IN FRUIT-PLANTING.

Reports in the hands of the Department of Agriculture indicate that the amount of planting of orchards done last spring was the smallest in several years.

The usual causes assigned being the continued rise in price of land and labour, and some uncertainty as to marketing. From all indications it seems as likely, however, that there will be an increase in planting in some districts next spring. In others, such as Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, where the movement in land-values is still upward, it is not likely that much will be done.

PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE.

Under the circumstances which existed this year, many intending fruit-growers will doubtless ask what is to be the outcome. To reply to this question in a word is impossible. Actual experience and trial have amply proven that the natural conditions in many parts of the Province lend themselves to the production of fruits of various kinds and varieties to the greatest advantage. On the other hand, our markets are large and rapidly increasing, and in those of Canada in particular we are granted considerable protection at the present time. With this combination of fundamentals in our favour, the progress of fruit-growing cannot be prevented indefinitely by artificial conditions, nor can we in the long run fail to secure our logical markets.