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arid region the growing season is limited by low temperatures to 150 days, or less, and when the flow of streams is utilized only during this period much

valuable water runs to waste. It was for the purpose of utilizing some of this waste that the orchardists of the Pacific coast states and Arizona began the practice of winter irrigation. The precipitation usually occurs in winter in the form of rain, and large quantities of creek water are then available. This water is spread over the orchards in January, February and March, when deciduous trees are dor-mant. The most favorable conditions for this practice are a mild winter climate; a deep, retentive soil which will hold the greater part of the water applied; deep-rooted trees; and a soil

moist from frequent rains. The creek water which was applied to some of the prune orchards of the Santa Clara Valley, California, during the winter of 1904, was measured by the agents of this office with the following results: From February 27 to April 23, 1,241 acres were irrigated under the Statler ditch to an average depth of 1.58 feet. From February 12 to April 23, 2,021 acres were irrigated under the Sorosis and Calkins ditches to an average depth of 1.75 feet. In the majority of cases the orchards which are irrigated in winter in this valley receive no additional supply of moisture other than about 16 inches of rain water.

In the colder parts of the arid region winter irrigation is likewise being practiced with satisfactory results. purpose is not only to store water in the soil but to prevent the winterkilling of trees. Experience has shown that it is not best to apply much water to orchards during the latter part of the growing season, since it tends to produce immature growth, which is easily damaged by frost. In many of the orchards of Montana no water is applied in summer irrigation after August 20. Owing, however, to the prevalence of warm chinook winds, which not only melt the snow in a night, but rob the exposed soil of much of its moisture, one or two irrigations are frequently necessary in midwinter.

#### FRUIT QUALITY AND YIELD

Throughout the province of British Columbia the fruit prospects are very good, and the indications are that fruit will be low-priced. With fruit, and particularly with apples, the profits per box will be small; therefore it is of the utmost importance to obtain the largest possible percentage of No. 1 quality fruit, since on all other grades the margin of profit will approach the vanishing point. Unfortunately too many of the fruit growers adopt apple way as to help and not injure the health growing only as a side line and do not use "Mathieu's Nervine Powders." They devote the time and brains to this crop that it imperatively calls for. The result is that, in a season like the present one they find this source of revenue to fail them.

Spraying has become general, with the result that many pests are being successfully combatted, which, of course tends to the production of better quality fruit. but the heavy production-overproduction, in fact-of the trees not only exhausts them so that they will not bear next year, but causes this vear's crop to be small and second grade, unless severe thinning has been resorted to.

The practice of fruit thinning should be attended to every year, and when it becomes universal the annual fluctuation in the value of our staple fruits will be reduced to a minimum, since the crops will be more regular. It must be borne in mind that the production of seed is what causes the greatest strain on the tree, and if the amount of this produced is greater than the tree can bear, no fruit buds will be set for the following season, which will be devoted to rest and recuperation. But if this seed production is reduced to a normal amount the tree does not need this rest and so becomes an annual, instead of a biennial, bearer.

Moreover, once the annual-bearing habit is established the tree will only set a reasonable number of fruit buds so that the labor of thinning, a some-what tedious task, will be much reduced.

The best rule for thinning apples is to do so sufficiently to insure that no two fruits will touch one another when fully grown. Whilst this reduces materially

#### **NERVES WERE ALL UNSTRUNG**

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Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills are the original heart and nerve cure and are sold at all dealers for 50c per box, or 3 boxes for \$1.25, or will be mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co. Limited, Toronto, Ont.





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the amount of seed produced it does not affect the yield to the same extent, if it affects it at all, since the fruit left will be much larger, and also of superior quality and color. Therefore it brings a higher price.

The dry spell, too, which we have had will affect the size of the fruit when the proper cultivation of the orchard has been neglected, and will tend to still further reduce the size. So it will not be surprising if the amount of No. fruit on the market is only a small percentage of the total yield.

W. J. L. HAMILTON.



