

a considerable extent, yet such apples as Gravenstein do not keep very long. At this time their heaviest shipping season is past, and these apples which are now in cold storage are the only ones in good condition, so that while they have some advantages in the distance of the haul, yet with regard to their staple varieties they are not much better off than we are.

THINNING TO INCREASE SIZE.

The necessity of thinning the fruit is a work we shall have to recognize in the future. The benefits have been brought to my notice in many places this year. In September I was in Ontario in one of the best plum-growing sections, and saw an orchard of four hundred trees, each tree of which yielded ten baskets of Lombard plums, or four thousand baskets in all, which sold at twenty-five cents, making a gross return of \$1,000 for these 400 trees. I saw another orchard, not five miles away, that carried probably as large a number of baskets, but I am sure that they would not realize more than fifty per cent. of the gross return of the first. The high prices scored by the first lot may be attributed to the fact that they were thinned, and the second was not. The Lombard is one of these trees which will practically kill itself by overbearing if it is not thinned. The fruit will, under these conditions, become small, and be very poorly coloured, so that the smaller price for the larger number of baskets will not equal in gross return that secured from the smaller quantity of better quality obtained by thinning. At the farm, I have tried this experiment on some varieties of American plums. These are very prolific sorts; if allowed to bear to their full extent, will in a few years destroy themselves. In the case of the Weaver plum, two trees which were not thinned for three years died at the end of that period, and two other trees which were thinned each year, are in good health and give fair returns each year. It is, therefore, not only possible by thinning to increase the quality of the fruit but to keep your trees in health. The varieties, methods of cultivation, the manner of packing and the kind of package, are points that we, as fruit-growers, should consider with great care at the present juncture. We should not only take an interest in our own work, but should study the demands of the market abroad. Speaking of "taking an interest," reminds me of an incident told to me by Mr. J. H. Hale, of whom many of you have heard as one of the largest peach-growers in the United States. A Hebrew couple had a little boy named Jacob, and one day when Isaac, the father, came in, Rachel told him that little Jacob was very sick. Isaac asked what was the matter. Rachel said, "I do not know, but he does not eat and he does not take any *interest* in anything." "He does not take any *interest*," replied the father, "that boy is not sick, he is dead." Any fruit-grower who does not take sufficient interest in his work to come to our annual meeting in order to discuss and study these questions with his fellow-workers, is dead to his own best interests.

Mr. Brodie—Have you ever tried canning apples?

Prof. Craig—The canning industry of apples has not proceeded to such an extent as the canning of other fruits, owing to the fact that we have not an extensive market for this class of canned fruits in America. There is, I believe, a considerable market in Germany and, to some extent, in England. In British

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