

lings, Hy. Hudson and Ed. Gustin, from which will go probably 10,000 baskets this season. Plum production this year far exceeded profitable distribution, the Johnson orchard producing 11,000 baskets, but there seems to be room for more good pears on the market. The apple crop, as everywhere else, is light, and Dan Johnson states they will pack some 2,000 or 2,500 barrels in standard bushel boxes for the West, wrapping each apple in paper, and the excellence of the sample on the trees will surely warrant catering to a high-class trade. Right in their main orchard the Johnsons have a large evaporator in which second-rate fruit or culls is utilized, so that little need be wasted. Personal attention to details seems one great secret of success in the fruit business.

The old Forest Fruit Growers' Association continues in operation dealing chiefly with apples, the three Johnsons compose another group, and there is a newer organization, the Lake Huron Fruit Growers, dealing also with apples, but all appear to be working in concert to mutual advantage in the matter of filling cars, etc.

The peach belt extends from above Thedford through Forest southwesterly in the direction of Sarnia, extending in some places back ten or fifteen miles from Lake Huron, which is believed to have a moderating effect upon the climate, so that temperature, topography, and a warm and fertile soil are happily combined just in the right degree to perfect the prince of fruit. The planting of peaches seems destined to go on apace in the Forest country. Greater and improved facilities, including a covered shipping area, are already needed, and the Grand Trunk Railway system will be studying not only the interest of consumers and producers, but their own, by the inception of an early and liberal policy. Transport to London, the big consuming heart of Western Ontario, is vexatiously roundabout and tedious. Some travelling joker has remarked that one of the best things about Forest is the 10.15 a. m. train out of it to Sarnia if you want to reach London. What would, perhaps, more than any one means of communication vitalize this territory along with the grand districts about Thedford, where peach growing has secured a flourishing foothold, at Arkona, where almost everything thing in the fruit line is produced, luxuriantly and other points, would be the long-talked of radial in a southeasterly course to London, across one of the very finest territories in Canada. Like everywhere else, the Forest country is calling for more help. Farmers and fruit growers are weary with excessive toil, and, as the territory covered with orchards increases, much additional labor will be needed, but as canning factories, evaporators, basket factories and other subsidiary enterprises develop in the district it will tend to afford a larger population in the towns and villages more continuous work the year around. This would be better than periodical importations of foreigners. Conservative estimates put the output of peaches alone from Forest this season at about 45,000 to 50,000 baskets, and barring any serious mis-adventure with the young plantations now growing come into bearing, the future magnitude of the industry will be a surprise, even to those in whose dreams it took shape only a few years ago.

FARM BULLETIN.

"What'll You Take?"

By Peter McArthur.

There are times when I am very thankful that I am of a gentle disposition, and slow to wrath. If this were not the case I might lose my temper

and say bitter things that I could never, never recall. For the past two weeks requests for apples in carload lots have been pouring in on me. If I were in the apple business I could have handled the output of several counties. The exasperating part of it is that all the later requests have come from farmers' clubs and co-operative associations. Now, I was particularly anxious to see at least one sale made direct from producer to consumer. If that could have been accomplished it would have been more educative than a dozen articles and a whole winter of speechmaking, but it was impossible to get either producers or consumers to toe the scratch. Both want to do business, but each wants the other to do the talking. Only yesterday, about three weeks after we had sold our apples, I got a letter from the secretary of a farmers' club in the north asking what price we wanted for our apples. For a minute or so I was about as mad as the man described by Bill Nye. He flew into such a rage that he tore out about five cents worth of his whiskers. Why on earth can't the people who want to buy apples make an offer? After thinking the matter over I have concluded that they are in a much better position to set the price than are the producers. Every year they buy their apples at famine rates—they even paid famine rates last year when the country was full of apples—and yet they seem unable to decide just how much they should pay. They all seem to think that they can go about buying a carload of apples in the same way that a drover buys a cow.

"How much will you take for her?"

"Oh, how much will you give?"

"I ain't both, buying and selling, just say how much you want for her."

"No, I'd rather you'd make a bid."

And so it goes for a whole blessed, sunlit afternoon until one of them blunders into setting a price. In the apple business this method is particularly tiresome, because it usually takes from one to two weeks to exchange the letters saying "how much will you take?" and "how much will you give?" As they usually wait until the last minute before opening negotiations the dealers buy up all the apples while the producers and consumers are sparring for position. It seems to me that the buying and selling co-operative associations of the country would find it profitable to devote a number of meetings during the coming winter to perfecting themselves in the art of setting prices. I have received communications from enough buying associations to have bought all the apples produced in Middlesex County, but not one of them offered a price. I have kept a list of these associations and next fall if I am in good humor I may offer to act as an exchange for these organizations. If they decide early in the season what they are willing to pay for apples I will undertake to put them in touch with apple-growers' associations that are willing to sell. But unless I change my mind all "what-will-you-take" and "what-will-you-give" letters will go straight into the waste basket. If producers and consumers keep track of the situation as reported in the newspapers and Government bulletins they should be able to set prices just as well as the dealers. And if the prices are once set, the matter of handling the apples and delivering them can be arranged easily.

As nearly as I can see the whole solution of the high cost of living rests with the producers and consumers. No help need be hoped for from

political parties or from the Government. They have gone so far on wrong lines that it is impossible for them to retrace their steps and a new political party would not help matters. If the producers organize to sell, and the consumers organize to buy, and both approach the subject with a little common sense, they can undo all the damage that has been done to the country by mergers, trusts, and legislation that grants special privileges. What is needed, is not a reform from the top down, but from the bottom up. If people once learn how to manage their own private business to the best advantage it will not take them long to set things right in public business. By doing our own buying and selling we will soon be able to see where tariffs help or hinder and where special legislation injures us. It will then be possible to consider questions that are now entirely political purely as matters of business and without having our judgments warped by partisan politics. The possibilities of co-operation are practically unlimited. In some of the European countries it is applied to everything from the physical labor of production to financing all the important forms of business. The capital of the many when assembled and wisely handled is just as powerful as the capital of the wealthy few. In this country the wealthy few have control of not only their own capital but of the accumulated savings of the people deposited in the banks. No wonder they are prospering or that the cost of living is going up! Co-operative banking is already a success not only in the Old Country but in the Province of Quebec. The money that is produced in a community is kept at work in that community with the most beneficial results. We can hardly expect, however, to adopt in their entirety any of the systems of co-operation already in vogue in other countries. We must develop our own system that will be suited to our peculiar needs. Canadian citizens are much more individualistic than those of other countries and any system of co-operation that is adopted will have to recognize this fact, but if co-operation is ever to be introduced into the country the way to do it will be to begin co-operating. Campaigns of education usually result in interminable talk. If we do a thing once, even if we go wrong, we learn more about how it should be done than if we talked till we were black in the face. As the poet says: "You may resolute till the cows come home," but nothing will come of it unless you act.

There seems to be a feeling in the smaller towns that co-operation among the farmers will injure their business. As nearly as I can learn this is a mistaken idea. It is found in other countries that the increased prosperity of the rural sections due to co-operation gives the farmers more money to spend and the small towns and villages thrive accordingly. No matter how far co-operation may be developed there will always be a large amount of business that must be handled by middlemen, but they must be middlemen who do a real service and not mere profit-takers. With everything prospering in the country there is no reason why this middleman service that is naturally located in the villages and towns should not be much greater than it is now. It has been demonstrated that the cost of living has gone up more rapidly in Canada during the past ten years than in any other country in the world and it is still going up. If anyone can suggest a better solution of the difficulty than co-operation I should like to hear of it. But it must be co-operative action, not co-operative talk. Now is the time to get busy.

Buffalo, a Great Live Stock Market.

Of late, Canadians have heard much of the Buffalo live stock market, and in future they are likely to hear more of it, for in all probability before this is read all tariff restrictions will have been removed from cattle, sheep and swine entering the United States, and thus will the Buffalo market be thrown open to our live stock. Notwithstanding a heavy duty of 27½ per cent., 20,000 Canadian cattle were sold on the Buffalo market during the past summer. This may give some idea of what is sure to happen as soon as the duty is off. We read in our reports of Toronto and Montreal markets daily: "Many stockers and feeders purchased for Buffalo market." Buffalo market has an important bearing at the present time upon the cattle and live-stock industry of Canada and it is well that breeders, feeders and cattle drovers over here have some idea of its extent and operation.

The New York Central Stock Yards, East Buffalo, N. Y., conducted by a company of that name, is the large live-stock mart of the Central East. Their magnitude can only be appreciated by a visit to the yards on a busy day. It is a revelation to see long trains on the New York

Central, Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania, Erie, Lackawanna, Michigan Central, Wabash, and other roads discharging their cargoes of live stock of all kinds under the seemingly endless row of covered chutes leading to the countless cattle yards with covered feeding mangers, the magnificent sheep and calf barn and the spacious covered hog pens. Car after car the whole day long draws up with its precious load and spills it out hurriedly but comfortably, and the "Hey!" "Hey!" of the driver boys ever fills the air as they hustle the stock to the various pens or rush it off to the slaughter house. It is a busy place—buyer and seller spar for position and banter sometimes long and sometimes transactions take place with lightning-like rapidity. Selling and buying are carried on all the time.

EXTENT OF THE YARDS.

The yards cover one hundred acres of ground and there is no waste space. At the far east is the big sheep and calf barn, one of the finest of its kind in America. Here the sheep and calves are housed more comfortably in most cases than they ever have been while in the feeders' hands.

This great barn is fifteen hundred feet long and two hundred and thirty-six feet wide, built in sections, with fire-proof brick walls separating. It will house comfortably 50,000 sheep and lambs all under cover and in light, well-ventilated pens. The pens are large, with feed racks and troughs in the center, and pure, clean water always in special troughs in each pen. A portion of the barn is used as a quarantine section for sheep which have been exposed to contagious disease, such as scab, and a large dipping plant is in operation, where all lambs purchased to go to the country to be fattened are previously dipped.

To the west of the sheep barn and centrally situated between it and the hog barns are the cattle yards, all paved with sandstone, with a special system of sewerage giving outlet for all water. The yards are large and feeding and watering facilities are provided under covered sheds. They will accommodate 15,000 head of cattle.

At the west end are situated the covered hog barns, all light, dry and clean, being flushed out daily. All are cement-floored and comfortable, each pen holding a deck of hogs. There is accommodation in these for 35,000 hogs, making