

barrels, and in 1922, when 1,891,850 barrels were packed and sold from the Annapolis valley and adjacent valleys, which comprise a district of about 100 miles long by from six to eleven miles wide.

There are records to show that in 1663 apples were being produced in the province of Quebec, and it is here that the celebrated Fameuse apple is thought to have originated. The capabilities of this province for the production of apples of the finest appearance and best quality are very great; but at present there are not sufficient apples grown for the local demand, and large quantities are therefore annually imported.

In Ontario, where the commercial production of all descriptions of fruit capable of cultivation in Canada has reached its highest development, apples have been grown from the middle of the eighteenth century; but commercial orcharding has developed only within the past 50 or 60 years, and was only made possible when the building of the railways permitted trees and fruit to be transported rapidly. The great winter apple districts include the border of lake Ontario, extending back 30 miles and more from the lake, the shore of lake Huron and Georgian bay, several miles in depth, and the south-western part of the province. Farther east and north and including an area east of the lake Huron district, there are large areas of land where the hardier varieties of apples are most suitable. In the Niagara fruit-growing district, besides apples, peaches, pears, plums and cherries, small fruits and grapes are produced upon a large scale.

In British Columbia commercial fruit growing is of comparatively recent origin; but the development of commercial orcharding has been very rapid, especially during the last ten years. The first apple trees were planted about 1850, but not until after the completion of the Canadian Pacific railway in 1886 were there many trees planted for commercial purposes. The census of 1891 gave the area devoted to all kinds of fruit as 6,500 acres; in 1921 the census showed a total fruit acreage in the province of 43,569 acres. The most noted fruit district is the Okanagan valley, containing some of the finest orchards in the province or in the Dominion. The boxed apples from British Columbia are found in season on all the important markets in Great Britain and Europe. Pears, plums, peaches, apricots, cherries and small fruits are grown on a large scale.

The Fruit Marks Act, first passed by the Dominion Parliament in 1901, made the grading of commercial apples compulsory. In 1923 all previous legislation of this kind was replaced by the Fruit Act (13-14 Geo. V, c. 15) which provides for government inspection, imposes penalties for dishonest packing, and defines the grades under which the different descriptions of fruit shall be sold.

Census Statistics.—Statistics of the number of bearing and non-bearing fruit trees, collected at the census of 1921, are published in Table 32, together with comparative figures for 1911; from these it may be seen that only in peaches was there an increase during the decade in the number of bearing trees. Nevertheless, when the statistics of production of Table 33, also collected at the census, are consulted, there is evident a great increase since 1910 in the production of apples, peaches, plums and cherries. This may indicate that to-day fruit growing is on a much more scientific basis than in the past, and that the yield per bearing tree is larger because of the greater attention given to the selection of stock and the care of trees.