

A record crop of about 1,900,000 barrels was produced in 1911, when 1,734,876 barrels were marketed, and further records were made in 1919, when the gross crop exceeded 2,000,000 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 shores of lake Huron and Georgian bay, several miles in depth, and the southwestern 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 this district the acreage of grapes has more than doubled since 1920 and is still increasing rapidly, due to the development and rapid expansion of the native wine industry.

In British Columbia commercial fruit-growing is of comparatively recent origin; but the development of commercial orcharding has been very rapid, especially during the post-war 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 of 43,569 acres in the province. The most noted fruit district is that of the Okanagan valley, where are some of the finest orchards 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 in 1921 were published on p. 252 of the 1925 edition, together with comparative figures for 1911 and are summarized in Table 33; 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, 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.