

ments are made from rural districts by rail or water to more distant centres of consumption. Apples, which are the most important Canadian fruit, meet with ready sale in British and European markets, where their attractive appearance, flavour and good keeping qualities have gained a wide reputation. Practically all varieties of fruit are prepared in canneries located near the centres of production and are shipped to both domestic and foreign markets.

Origin and Growth of Fruit Growing.—In Nova Scotia the apple-growing industry has assumed great importance, the bulk of the crop being annually exported to Great Britain. There are records of the growth of apples in Acadia from 1635. The census of 1698 showed that at Port Royal alone there were 1,584 apple trees distributed amongst 54 families, of which many had orchards of from 75 to 100 trees. At Beaubassin in 1698 the census showed 32 acres in fruit trees. The first apples exported from the province are said to have been shipped by sailing vessel from Halifax to Liverpool in 1849, the price realized being \$2 per barrel. In 1856 a shipment of 700 barrels was made by schooner to Boston, U.S.A., the price realized being \$2.75 per barrel. The first experimental commercial shipments of apples to England from the Annapolis valley were made in December, 1861, but proved disappointing. The first steamer to carry apples direct from Annapolis Royal to London was the *Neptune*, which sailed on April 2, 1881. The shipment consisted of 6,800 barrels, and arrived in London in 14 days. This venture was fairly successful, and from that time the business has continued to increase in volume. Up to 1890, however, the production of apples in Nova Scotia rarely exceeded 100,000 barrels, but after that date there were pronounced increases in acreage and production, and in 1909 the production reached 1,000,000 barrels. 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