

CONDITION OF THE APPLE CROP

(Horticulturist)

With the exception of Colorado, California and some parts of Missouri and Kansas, the apple crop reports from other states continue to show a shortage, both as compared with last year and with the ten-year average. Some of our exchanges estimate an approximate 90 per cent of last year's marketable apples in the Pacific Northwest, but the Horticulturist is unable to figure even as high as 75 per cent of last year's total yield, from reports submitted. So far as the commercial crop and prices are concerned growers have an opportunity to realize handsomely. On the other hand if they hold out for an exorbitant wholesale rate dissatisfaction is likely to follow for consumers curtail the apple eating habit materially when the prices go way beyond their reach, while the commission merchants and cold storage firms are powerless to alter the situation. Demand good round prices and let the crop go rather than to practice their dog in the manger policy, has proven to be the best course in the past years for the producer, merchant and consumer, whose interests considered from year to year are mutual.

Apple growers shipping to local markets, in order to realize their best results, will observe the usual precautions as to grading and packing, also to keep in close touch with merchants who are to handle the product. Even with rather a short crop when many producers market at the same time prices may fall too low. Plan to accomplish the best according to your situation, take nothing for granted and do not trust to luck. So far as the commercial crop for distant eastern shipments is concerned, growers are in a position to command just dues. They will do well to hit that mark squarely without overreaching to the point causing reaction.

PRECAUTIONS INCREASE SINCE CONVICTS ESCAPED

SALEM, Or., Oct. 22.—Directly as a result of the recent escape of convicts from the Institute for Feeble-Minded last Friday, the balance of the crew of convicts, 10 in number, were brought in by Superintendent Bickers, of the institute, this afternoon and delivered over to the penitentiary, and no more convict labor will be employed at that or probably any other state institution. This experience will probably put an end to the contracting of convict labor upon outside work, possibly excluding state road work where the men can be watched.

Says the new Stanfield Standard: "The people of Oregon have a grudge at the idle land speculator. There are too many of him and too much spread out. The man who invests his wealth in upbuilding a community, in irrigating arid tracts, in building transportation lines, in upbuilding his home, is welcome and more."

Says the Eugene Register very pertinently: "Let every citizen of Oregon line up for the things that make for the greater Oregon and in doing this we are laying the foundation for greater things for our respective communities."

A railroad builder offers to build a branch line from Eugene to Elmira, 15 miles for a bonus of \$40,000.



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