

December 19th. 1933.

Dear Sirs :-

Our last Ranch letter was dated Sep. 7th. Since that date we have had from Mr. McAllister a telegram dated Sep. 10th and a letter on Sep. 11th. , and from Mr. Dormer letters of Sep. 10th and Nov. 7th.

We have come through one of the most difficult years we have ever had to contend with in harvesting the crop. To be sure of making a quick clean up, we got enough boxes on hand and took on a big gang of pickers, mostly white men to start with. At the finish when the weather was bad the gang was composed of mostly Japs. We started on the Jonathan almost before they were ready and figured that we would be under cover by the 22nd of October. It has been a very wet Fall. There was three inches of rain recorded in Sep. and three inches in Oct. On the 18th of Oct. the ground was white with snow and again on the 22nd there was about 4 inches of snow in the orchard. The picking was eventually finished on Oct. 27th, and the packing house closed on the 31st. The orchard was so wet that it was necessary to sloop the boxes out to road ways and haul into the packing house with the old high wheel waggons. This operation was difficult and costly. It was not until Nov. 9th. that all fruit was under cover, but as there was no frost the trucking was not rushed. The weather continued wet to the finish and the apples and boxes went into storage very wet. This moisture is going to prove very serious as botrytis rot has developed in an alarming way. We have already started sorting the Rome and Wagner. At present it looks like a 15 to 30% loss but we won't know how bad it will be until it is sold. We do seem to be able to find some new trouble each year. It would appear that this trouble is general in the northern end of the Valley so it may result in better prices.

The statement of Yield is enclosed. The Crop turned out very close to the estimate, but it should have been better if the apples had sized in the normal way. We again started out with the idea of trying to grow small sized apples for the Export market as the prospects for the Domestic market looked poor. We went a little too far along this line and lost a lot of tonnage on account of lack of size. The Codlin Moth also caused a lot of culling. Notwithstanding all our spraying the Moth has gained ground rapidly, and it looks as if we would have to do more spraying and trapping to hold it in check. Generally speaking however the fruit was clean and better colour than usual. The packed fruit graded out as follows, 1933 Crop graded about 14% X.F. 51% F. 26% CEE.

1932 14% .. 55% .. 31% ..
The large sizes of both Macs & Jons. were taken off the grader and shipped in bulk. The small quantity of these should be noted.

The Wealthy were picked over two and three times for size, most of the crop moving out in the early pools. If the market had held up we might have got another 400 boxes which sized later but were too small and without colour at the time of picking, these were left on the trees.

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The Newtown fell down from the estimate on account of lack of size and more codlin moth than expected. The Salome also did not size up as expected and there was a lot of apples smaller than 163 s. left on the trees. The Salome were thinned ~~we~~ were thinned as hard as usual but they did not size as they should have done. There was a very dry hat spell at the end of July and beginning of September which seemed to have more effect on the trees than usual. This was the off year for the Rome and the Macintosh in the ~~TEN/ACRES~~ SEVENTEEN ACRES and also the Jonathan in the so called BIG JONATHAN BLOCK. The Delicious and Newtown on the HILL SIDE and HOGGS BACK were also off. The Cover cropping should help tree growth next year, but by rights the whole orchard should have a dressing of commercial fertilizer. The water supply was much better than usual and we had very good service. We got and used our three hundred feet of water. This quantity is just about right for most of the season but for the three or four weeks round about the end of July we should have about double the flow. Of the apples we wrapped and packed 79 % went Export in 1932 77 % were exported.

Our Bank Loan ran up to \$ 28,000. exactly
Up to date we have received from the Vernon Fruit Union \$5,875.07

The Demand Loan now stands at	\$25,000.
Current account Credit after Nov. Labor	596 .33
Amount owing to the Bank today	\$ 24,403.67
.. .. V.F.U for supplies	3,131.28
.. .. Box Factory	3,716.40
.. balance of Sundry Accts.	650.
.. owing for B.G. Taxes	1,000.
Current Liabilities -----	\$ 32,901.

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That is the crop would have to nett us about \$32,000. to clean up.

Any guess today would be wild, when one has to figure on the possible shrinkage of storage stock to say nothing of the market. It might run, I would say from \$20,000. to \$25,000.

Our statement of Aug. 3rd. 1933. set out that the current Liabilities exceeded the Current Assets by \$13,647. so that it would appear that we might just about break even in the years operation.

We have done our best to see that we got all that we paid for this year. Very little money has been spent outside of Wages. The labor has been fairly efficient this year, and during the Summer the basic wage has been 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per hour and during the packing season up to 27 ¢ per hr.

I am getting out a statement showing wages over a period of years. with the basic wage and as far as possible the number of days along with the the crop yield. On the next page ~~pph/will~~ is a table showing wages for the 5 months growing season, and 4 months harvesting.

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LABOR ACCOUNT

Year	Dec. Jan. & Feb.	Mar. Apr. May. June & July	Aug. Sep. Oct. Nov.	Total for year
1927	1,233.34	5,253.24	10,142.68	16,629.26
1928	1296 .31	7,306.60	13,219.77	21,821.68
1929	1,275.90	5,860.55	11,942.76	19,079.11
1930	1,345.87	7309 .15	9,738.23	18,393.25
1931	433.68	4,888.13	6,638.80	11,960.61
1932	576.44	4,967.86	8058 .71	13,603.01
1933	349.18 ^{Dec. Feb.} _{4 1934}	3,207.93	6,655.34	10,212.35

The wages for Dec. Jan. Feb. this season will not amount to much as the only man working at present is old Sam, the Jap.

Without a lot of detailed information these figures may not convey much to you, but it does show that our labor cost is much lower this last three years. It is difficult to make a comparison from year to year as no two seasons are a like in the packing and even the growing. Pruning, spraying, thinning & cover cropping vary considerably. The packing house operation is never the same. The yield of course is the big factor. Previous to 1930 most of the crop was packed and handled by ourselves. For the last few years a lot of the crop has been delivered loose direct from the orchard. Then again previous to 1930 our trucking was done by contract, which in 1929 amounted to \$1000. and is included in the above figures, whereas only the labor used with our own truck is shown since that date.

As to expenses for the coming year, I intend being governed by the market prospects. If things look brighter we should do a little more pruning and spraying than we have done this last year or two. We would also be a little more particular with the thinning. I think that we can get by without making any Capital expenditure this year, but the fluming is getting in bad shape. The Tractor is also on its last legs. It will be overhauled this Winter.

The Vernon News has been full of fruit market talk all season and from it you should have a fair idea of the Valley's doings. In 1932 the Associated and some of the larger Independent Shippers folded up the umbrella fairly well and this season they decided to throw it away. It was this action that stirred up things and the Growers saw red for a time. The result is that we have been ^{getting} something for our apples instead of giving them away. If the Grower interest can only be maintained we may arrive at a fairly reasonable deal this coming year even though we do not get the legislation ^{we} are looking for. Legislation is however necessary if we are going to get any real results.

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In regard to the prices received last Season, I have compared our returns with those paid by other shippers and if allowance is made for the Export deal we would have done little better if as well by shipping through other channels. The odd small shipper did of course get more by not taking any of the grief of protecting the market.

I find that I have neglected to send Mr. McAllister a copy of the Guarantee Bond. This is now enclosed. At the time of arranging the Credit the manager gave me to understand that he expected us to clean up our balance at the end of the year. But we have no letter to this effect. No doubt their terms for the next credit will also be governed by the market prospects.

I will advise you as soon as we have any clear indication of the final prices we are likely to receive. On Nov. 10th. I got from Mr. Chambers a letter covering the deal in a general way. This I am sending to you under separate cover. The fruit has been moving out fairly well. The Macs. are cleaning up, but at low prices. Two cars of our Wagner are going out this week, No Romes have moved.

Will add a personal letter.

Yours truly,

James F. Alden

To
J.E. McAllister Esq.

Capt. R.S. Dormer