

# MORE FRUIT, LESS CASH, EXPERIENCE IN WASHINGTON

Where Growers Are in About  
the Same Predicament as in  
the Okanagan

## 1927 WAS A BETTER YEAR

Although There Were 6,000 Cars  
Less Apples to Dis-  
pose of

Pacific Coast Packer: The 1928 apple crop of the North Central Washington district will bring into the district the sum of \$21,000,000 and the soft fruit crop \$2,000,000 more, according to estimates based upon returns already received.

This is about \$2,000,000 less than the \$25,000,000 received for the 1927 crop which consisted of only 17,000 cars compared with the 23,000 cars which will be shipped for the present season.

This year's crop now is estimated at 21,284 cars, including about 1,200 cars of culls and 20,000 cars of commercial fruit. The average f.o.b. price for the packed apples is estimated at \$1.40 per box, or a total of \$21,000,000. The 2,000 cars of soft fruit will average \$1,000 per car, including 1,200 cars of pears, 33 cars of mixed fruit, 197 cars of cherries, 150 of apricots, 104 of peaches and 12 cars of plums and prunes.

Last year the 15,000 cars of commercial apples averaged \$1.95 per box f.o.b. cars here, and the soft fruit averaged nearer \$2,000 per car than \$1,000.

Of the \$21,000,000 received for the sale of the 1928 apple crop \$3,750,000 or 25 per cent. for each of the 15,000,000 boxes, went for warehousing, labelling, loading, and selling expenses.

An addition of \$750,000, or 5c a box was spent for storage, insurance, brokerage, etc. This left \$16,000,000 which was the amount that the growers actually received.

Of this sum, it is estimated that 40c per box covers the cost of paying taxes and water charges, spraying and spray materials, cultivating, irrigating, thinning, pruning and other items connected with growing the crop. This amounts to \$6,000,000 and leaves the growers \$10,500,000, or just one-half the total crop sales.

Picking, grading, packing, boxing, hauling, and delivering to the warehouse accounts for 25c per box or \$5,250,000 leaving a balance of an equal amount.

Box shooks cost 15c per box or \$2,250,000, paper 6½c per box or \$975,000, nails ½c per box or \$75,000, cleaning 2½c per box or \$375,000, a total of \$3,675,000. This leaves the grower a final net profit of \$1,575,000 or a little more than 10c per box. In other words the growers will receive \$1.10 per box for every grade and variety and his total costs will be \$1 per box for the entire crop.

Last year the grower received an average of about \$1.65 per box and his cost was slightly higher than this year's, or \$1.05 per box, leaving him a net profit of about 60c a box, on 11,000,000 boxes or about \$6,600,000.

This profit includes the interest on his investment, which is variously estimated at \$1,000 to \$1,500 per acre for the 22,500 acres of full bearing orchard in this district.

Many orchardists in this district will make good money as they always do, especially those having a large crop of Winesaps and Delicious.

Many good orchardists produced large crops as efficiently as possible and yet lost heavily on the year's operations. The average grower just about broke even, but in view of last year's profitable operation, they are not discouraged, as they confidently expect to make a good profit occasionally, sufficient to remunerate them for their losses.