

dition. In some instances more care could be taken with the packing and grading. Several warning notices had to be issued for fruit affected with scale, scab, and codlin-moth. The following list gives a fair average of the prices ruling for the month: Tomatoes (hothouse), 5d. to 8d. per lb.; outdoor tomatoes, 7s. to 9s. per half-case; choice tomatoes in crates, 6d. to 7½d. per lb.; peaches, 3d. to 4d. per lb.; plums, 2d. to 3¼ per lb.; apples, dessert 6s. 6d. to 9s., cooking 4s. to 5s. per case; pears, 5s. to 7s. per case; grapes, 9d. to 1s. per lb.; apricots, 3d. to 4d. per lb.; extra choice apricots, 5d. per lb.; nectarines, 4s. per half-case; raspberries, 6½d. per lb.; cucumbers, 4s. 4d. per case; cauliflowers, 5s. to 7s. per sack; potatoes, 6s. to 7s. per cwt.; cabbages, 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per sack; turnips, 2s. 6d. per sack; lettuces, 6d. to 9d. per case; peas, 1½d. to 2¼d. per lb.; French beans, 2d. per lb.; rhubarb, 5s. to 6s. per cwt.; cape gooseberries, 4d. per lb.; marrows, 6s. 6d. per dozen. The shops were fairly well stocked with both local and imported fruits, which were in good condition. Practically no diseased fruit was found in shops.—*E. T. Taylor.*

BLUFF.—A large quantity of New-Zealand-grown fruit was on this market during February. Although the supply was large it was not equal to the demand, and prices were high compared with previous years at this season. All parcels arrived at the auction-rooms in good order, and the majority were well packed. A feature of the market this season was the shipments from Hawke's Bay. I noticed only one line of diseased fruit, and it consisted of Southland-grown apples affected with black-spot. A warning notice was sent to the grower. The following is a list of the average prices ruling during the month: Tomatoes, hothouse 5d. to 1s. 1½d., outdoor 4d. to 9d.; peaches, 2½d. to 6d.; apricots, 3d. to 5d.; plums, 2d. to 4½d.; pears, 2d. to 3½d.; apples, 1½d. to 3d.; grapes, 10d. to 1s. 8½d.; potatoes, 5s. to 9s. per cwt.; onions, 7s. 6d. to 9s. per cwt.; cabbages, 1s. per dozen; cauliflowers, 2s. to 3s. per dozen; cucumbers, 4d. to 6d. each; rhubarb, 1½d. to 2d.—*Robert Hutton.*

HONEY-CROP PROSPECTS.

THE Director of the Orchards, Gardens, and Apiaries Division has received the following reports on the honey-crop prospects from the Apiary Instructors:—

AUCKLAND.—The honey yield on the average is good in the Auckland District, and prices are about the same as last season.—*G. V. Westbrooke.*

WELLINGTON.—Good average honey prospects in Taranaki; Wellington Province, fair; Hawke's Bay, fair; Poverty Bay, medium. The quality of the produce from the above districts this season is good, and should command an advanced price.—*F. A. Jacobsen.*

CHRISTCHURCH.—The honey season is gradually coming to a close, and the main flow of nectar is over, although the bees are still gathering a little. This should help beekeepers to get their remaining supers fairly well completed. Prices are lower than last season. I would warn all beekeepers against taking all the honey, as brood nests are found on examination in most cases to be very short of stores for winter.—*L. Bowman.*

DUNEDIN.—A fortnight of good weather has resulted in a fair average honey crop in Southland. Beekeepers are not, however, extracting bare, preferring to leave an excess of stores. In North Otago a record crop of honey has been obtained. The quality of this season's extraction is excellent, and is realizing top prices.—*E. A. Earp.*

MOTUEKA FRUIT DEVELOPMENTS.

THE following figures showing the quantity of fruit exported from Motueka district are instructive. They are obtained from the Motueka Harbourmaster's returns:—

FRUIT (BUSHELS).							
1877.	1882.	1887.	1892.	1897.	1902.	1907.	1912.
3,923	7,494	5,639	19,665	15,236	48,234	86,460	144,086