

TIMARU.—Apples, main crop coming to hand ; the supplies are short of the demand, and consequently prices are good. Pears, supplies coming forward ; these are rather scabby, but not bad enough to warrant condemning. Tomatoes, heavy supplies, low prices ruling in consequence. Walnuts, good crop ; crop doing exceptionally well.—*A. B. Mansfield.*

DUNEDIN.—Apples, good crop. Pears, good crop. Tomatoes, good crop. Walnuts, fair crop.—*W. T. Goodwin.*

## MARKET CONDITION OF LOCAL FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

THE Fruit Inspectors of the Orchards and Gardens Division report as follows on the condition of locally grown fruit and vegetables in the shops and auction-rooms, and the market position of these, for the month of March :—

AUCKLAND.—Throughout the month of March large quantities of locally grown fruit have been handled and examined, and I am pleased to report that, with the exception of a line of six cases of pears which arrived from Whangarei badly affected with scab and were destroyed, the fruit was clean, and no warning notices were issued. The markets have been heavily supplied with all seasonable fruits, particularly apples and pears ; but, as the demand for fruit has been keen, the prices are good. Occasional lots of Northern Spy are coming to hand, and these are of very good size, colour, and quality, and show a good return to the grower at from 8s. to 9s. 6d. per case. The average prices ruling throughout the month for fruit are as follows : Apples—choice dessert, 5s. to 9s. 6d. per case ; second class, 3s. to 5s. per case. Pears—choice dessert, 5s. to 9s. 6d. per case ; second class, 3s. 9d. to 6s. per case. Quinces, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 9d. per case. Grapes—hothouse, 9d. to 1s. 3d. per pound ; outdoor, 3s. to 5s. per 18 lb. case. Lemons—choice, 9s. to 14s. per case ; second class, 5s. to 8s. per case. Figs, 2s. to 4s. per 18 lb. case. Water-melons (local), 9d. to 1s. 3d. each. Tomatoes—very unsteady, fluctuating from 1s. 6d. to 5s. per 18 lb. case.—*C. Craigie.*

WELLINGTON.—Supplies of practically all lines of local fruit dropped in price during the beginning of this month, but are now improving. The markets were glutted in the earlier part of the month with tomatoes, and low prices prevailed, some lines selling at 6d. per case. Later, however, the market has improved considerably and higher prices realized. Apples and pears are now arriving in good order, nicely packed and graded. The approximate prices ruling for fruit during the month are as follows : Apples—choice, 5s. 6d. to 8s. 6d. per case ; cooking, 4s. to 5s. 6d. per case. Pears—choice, 5s. to 8s. 6d. per case ; cooking, 2s. to 3s. 6d. per case. Plums (small supply), 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per half-case. Peaches—choice, 3s. to 3s. 6d. per case ; others, 2s. per case. Grapes—Lower Hutt, 7d. to 11d. per pound ; Nelson, 5d. to 10d. per pound. Cape gooseberries, 4d. to 5d. per pound. Blackberries, 5s. to 6s. per kerosene-tin. Quinces, 1s. 6d. to 3s. per case. Tomatoes—choice, 2s. to 3s. per case ; medium, 1s. to 1s. 6d. per case. Cucumbers—hothouse, 2s. to 3s. per case ; outdoor, 5s. to 6s. per banana-case. Potatoes have eased slightly, due to South Island supplies, which are arriving in fair condition, and realizing £6 to £7 10s. per ton. Onions are in fair supply and the quality is good ; prices have eased somewhat, fetching from £6 to £7 per ton. All other vegetables are in good supply, and the prices vary very little from last month's quotations.—*T. C. Webb.*

CHRISTCHURCH.—Fruit and vegetables are in fair supply, the ruling prices being as follows : Apples—dessert, 4s. 6d. to 5s. per case ; cooking, 3s. 6d. to 4s. per case. Bananas—Cook Islands, 8s. to 9s. per case ; Fiji, 9s. to 10s. per case. Lemons—Italian, £1 2s. 6d. per case. Grapes—Australian, 4d. per pound ; local, 6d. to 10d. per pound. Peaches, 1d. to 2d. per pound. Pears, ½d. to 2d. per pound. Potatoes, 6s. to 7s. per cwt. Cucumbers, 2s. to 3s. per case. Tomatoes, ¾d. to 1½d. per pound. Other vegetables in fair supply.—*B. A. Reid.*