

The average percentage of diseased fruit harvested was not nearly so high as last year. Possibly drier weather conditions may account for this. It was very noticeable right throughout the year that none of the fruits showed any signs of infection until they were almost ripe. In many instances fruit that was picked from trees that showed no signs of the disease at any time during the season or at time of picking became very badly infected after being stored a few days. On the other hand, fruits harvested under similar conditions showed no signs of disease after being stored in the fruit-room for over a week. A fair amount of the fruit (assorted varieties), picked and packed on the hard side, was forwarded to Wellington and, according to the reports received, was opened up in most instances in good condition. A special test in marketing was made with two varieties—Shanghai Free and Royal George Cling—by picking and packing some of the fruit that was well matured but not soft, and some fruit on the green side, from each variety. New cases were used. The matured fruit was packed in one compartment and the green fruit in the other compartment, the varieties being kept separate in each instance. This fruit (two cases) was despatched to Wellington with the request that a careful examination be made for brown-rot when the cases were received. The cases were opened up three days after being picked. Fruit packed on the green side was still sound in both cases, but the matured fruit was showing 29.41 per cent. of rot in No. 1 case and 3.03 per cent. in No. 2 case. The remainder of the fruit (green at time of picking) was examined again two days later, with the result that 48.14 per cent. in No. 1 case was infected and 6.55 per cent. in No. 2 case. Owing to the light crop and the numerous varieties grown here I could not obtain sufficient fruit of any one sort to carry out conclusive experiments in transporting and marketing, so as to arrive at a definite conclusion which treatment or series of treatment ensured the fruit arriving at the market in the best saleable condition.

According to results it appears that the untipped lateral system of pruning did not make any difference in the control of the disease.

HAWKE'S BAY COMMERCIAL ORCHARDS.

The brown-rot experiments in commercial orchards in Hawke's Bay were in charge of Mr. Gordon Esam, Acting Assistant Director of the Horticulture Division (then Orchard Instructor for the district), who supplies the following report:—

Messrs. M. Curtin, of Pakowhai; E. S. French, of Mahora; and N. Johnson, of Havelock North, very kindly placed their orchards at the Department's disposal for the purpose of the experiments.

MR. CURTIN'S ORCHARD.

The work done in Mr. Curtin's orchard, together with the results, will first be dealt with. This orchard is situated in a district which practically escaped the late spring frosts, the Burbank plum being the only variety seriously affected. The stone-fruit portion of the orchard is made up of 16 Burbank plums, 16 Goldmine nectarines, and the remainder peaches—namely, 16 Eulatis, 32 High's Early Canada, 32 Wiggins, 48 Hale's Early, 16 Kia Ora, 16 Kalamazoo, 16 Sea Eagle, and 48 Hobbs' Late.