

sections to reach the principal markets in the United States. Therefore, other states are potential competitors even though they are separated by the width of the United States.

The prices received by California growers for fresh peaches are determined by factors over which they have little control. These are: (1) the level of prosperity in the consuming markets; (2) the weather conditions at the time the fruit arrives; (3) the competition of other fruits and vegetables; and (4) the total amount of peaches offered for sale, which in turn depends upon the total production of fresh peaches in the United States.

*Drying Peaches.*—Growers may market their dried fruit through agents of independent packers who pay what appears to be a fair price, and thus the prices received will depend upon the reliability of the agent and the demand for dried fruit. Dried fruit may also be sold through cooperative associations, who return to the growers the market price received, less operating charges.

The amount of total production of dried peaches exported has within recent years varied from 10 to 25 per cent. The production of dried peaches reached a maximum about 1915, and since that time it has gradually dropped off due to the lessened demand. In 1924 Germany was the most important market for our dried peaches taking about 43 per cent of the total export. The United Kingdom followed with 17 per cent; Canada with 15 per cent; Netherlands 11.5 per cent, and Sweden with nearly 5 per cent.

*Canning Peaches.*—Since producers of canning fruit have not been organized in many of the peach districts, they have sold their crop largely to local canneries or agents of distant canneries generally for a contract price. Growers who belong to a cooperative association are relieved of the direct responsibility of marketing. They are directed as to where the fruit should be delivered, and receive their payments from the association.

The export of canned peaches to foreign markets has steadily increased during recent years. In 1925 about 15 per cent of the total pack was exported. The United Kingdom took approximately 79 per cent, with Cuba, Canada, and Germany ranking in the order named.