

ARRIVES BACK FROM OKANAGAN

**Mrs. J. C. Kemp Completes Her
Important Mission in in-
terest of Fair Fruit
Pickers.**

**SAW CAPTIVE HUNS
AT INTERNMENT CAMP**

**Is Informed Crop Will Only be
Average One, Not Above
Normal.**

Following an extended trip through the Okanagan districts, where she made a general survey of the fruit centres and looked after the welfare of those fruit-pickers sent out from this section of the country, Mrs. J. C. Kemp, head of the B. C. Consumers' League, is back in her office here today. She reports that on every hand she was given evidences that the people of those districts appreciate to a great degree the assistance in labor being supplied from Coast centres, and the whole situation seems to be progressing favorably from all viewpoints. The girls being used in fruit-picking and other branches of agricultural labor are making good up to the hilt, she says, and although the weather during the last two weeks has been the hottest in the Okanagan for the last five years, the girls seem to stand it well, and in the majority of cases are happy as clams at high tide and revelling in the change and the outdoor exercise.

Having primarily responded nobly to the Empire's call for men, says Mrs. Kemp, the Okanagan secondly responded nobly to the call for increased production, but the pity of it is that the Okanagan cannot get labor sufficient to do the work properly. Whereas when the Okanagan's menfolk were at home, hired labor was not half the problem it was, but now, as the community is absolutely depleted of white men for the fields, every hour's labor that goes into the fields and orchards has to be paid for, and finding the money to get the work done is in itself a great problem in a number of cases, says Mrs. Kemp.

Crop Will Be Short

Owing to an immense amount of thinning, the Okanagan crop, Mrs. Kemp was informed by Mr. Jones, M. P. P., for the south district, will be only about an average crop and not the big excess crop formerly anticipated by growers, who estimated that there would be an excess of 800 car-loads of apples alone from British Columbia this year.

During her trip, which took her to Vernon, Kelowna, Summerland and many other points, Mrs. Kemp met with the principal employers of labor, came in first-hand touch with their needs for labor, ascertained general conditions under which the labor would have to work, settled such matters as wages, accommodations, sanitation, etc., and accomplished a great deal of value to her work of attempting to supply the needs of the fruit districts.

Saw Interned Huns

The detention camp at Vernon, where interned Huns are kept, did not make a very good impression upon Mrs. Kemp. "I was never madder in my life, than when I visited that place and saw those wretched Huns with nothing else to do than to look after the beautiful flowers and vegetable gardens," she said. "I think there is certainly poor management somewhere when these alien enemies can be kept in blissful idleness while we are sending our women and girls out to work in the fields. Those men ought to be out working. In one place a grower informed me that he could have had 100 acres in vegetables this year if he could have secured sufficient labor, but he could not and so the vegetables were not grown. It certainly does not look right to me that we should support those Germans in practical idleness while the need for labor is so poignantly felt."

Is Real Hustler.

Mrs. Kemp showed the management of the Coldstream Ranch near Vernon some real Vancouver "speed" when she learned that they were in need of helpers. Mrs. Kemp learned of their needs on one day and had all the help they needed alighting from the train there the day following, having secured them from Vancouver. This ranch is paying \$2 for an eight-hour day, and the board costs \$22.50 a month. The ranch will require 75 workers at regular dates and Mrs. Kemp made all the arrangements booking helpers up in advance so that the supply can be given on scheduled time.

At Kelowna Mrs. Kemp met with

representatives of the Kelowna Growers' Exchange, Kelowna Land Orchard Company, Land and Agriculture Company of Canada, and various other large concerns.

Pickers Doing Well.

While making her visits, Mrs. Kemp says she did not fail to visit also the many workers who have gone up already from this section. All were doing well, making good, and having a good time, she said. In one place the rancher is so pleased with the girl-labor that he is giving the girls training in land irrigation.

While in Kelowna, Mrs. Kemp met with the combined fruit interest men and endeavored to have them set a standard wage throughout the whole Okanagan for fruit workers, the same as was done on the Lower Mainland. Her ideas and plans were outlined to the interests and she left them to get together on the deal, pointing out the advantages to all concerned if a basic wage can be established for the varied branches of work to be accomplished.

Will Matron All Parties.

In Vernon Mrs. Kemp met the Women's Institute there with the result that Mrs. J. H. Miller, the secretary, will in future meet every train with fruit picking girls aboard it, and mother them until they reach their proper destinations. Rev. Mr. Main of that place also will look after the boys in a similar manner. Arrangements were also made for the proper matroning of all parties of girls arriving there for work.

Coming back, via Summerland, where she was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Hilborn, who have a model ranch, Mrs. Kemp finally reached the Kettle Valley line and returned to Vancouver satisfied that the results of her trip will bear much good.