

CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM NOTES—VIII.

UP to the 13th May there was very little warm weather at Ottawa; the latter part of April and early part of May being exceptionally cool and dry, and the frost late in leaving the soil. So cool did it become on the 10th and 11th May that the thermometer registered four and five degrees of frost, respectively, on these dates. Owing to the backward spring and the cool weather which preceded these severe frosts, there had not been very much growth, and what there was had been pretty well hardened; the result being that very little injury was done. A few apple and plum blossoms were injured at the Experimental Farm, but the majority appear to have been unhurt. On the 8th May there was a much needed rain, but the weather continued cool until the 13th, when it became warmer. On the 14th the thermometer registered 86° Fahr., and one felt for the first time this year that the growing season had begun.

Nearly everything that is usually hardy came through the winter in good condition, and the prospects at present are that there will be an abundant crop of apples, plums, cherries, and small fruits.

The Ontario apple is evidently not going to be hardy at Ottawa, unless it succeeds when top grafted. Several young trees were killed to near the ground last winter in the orchard here. An older tree also died last year. Most of the apple trees are looking well, and many varieties have been found to be of no value in this part of the country, the fruit being of an inferior quality, the trees have been removed to make way for other kinds. In order, however, not to lose sight of these varieties they have been top grafted, a number of sorts being on one tree. The majority of these varieties are of Russian origin.

The fine collection of American plums which is now in the orchard at the Experi-

mental Farm should be particularly interesting this year. It is time that these plums were more widely grown in the colder parts of Canada. Some of them are very large, and many of them are of good quality and heavy bearers. It is to be hoped that our nurserymen took advantage of the recent opportunity for importing stock from the United States to get a supply of some of the best varieties of these plums. The American plums would be much appreciated in those districts where the native wild plum is affected with blight, which has been so persistent for many years past that there is very rarely a crop of good plums unless the trees have been sprayed.

From present indications the crop of cherries should be large this year. A few more trees died last winter, root-killing being the cause in most cases. As far as we know, none of the trees which died were grafted or budded on the native bird cherry—*Prunus Pennsylvanica*. Trees budded on this stock in 1891 are still vigorous, the union is perfect, and we believe that for the colder parts of Canada this is one of the best, if not the best, stocks in use. The cherry orchard has been practically replaced during the past three years by trees worked on this stock, and this will afford a good object lesson as to the value of the bird cherry for this purpose.

As has been mentioned in previous notes, extensive experiments have been carried on in the Horticultural Department during the past few months to determine the value of lime as a remedy for the oyster shell bark louse. From results obtained last year we were convinced that lime, spread on the trees, would remove nearly all the scales from the trees, if the scales were covered by it. Our experiments this year are confirmatory. No injury to apple trees from the use of lime can be discovered. While the necessary data to determine the most econ-