

Among the Farmers.

A REVIVAL IN FRUIT GROWING.

The fruit growers of Ont are beginning to lift their heads with encouragement. In 1898 they were almost in despair because for 5 yrs prices had been gradually lowering in sympathy with the general commercial depression and added to that, the scab and mildew, scale and caterpillar were steadily on the increase. All these evils seemed to culminate that year, and the poor fruit grower began to look upon other industries with envy. Some offered their fruit farms for sale and some began rooting up fruit plantations in order to plant other crops. The change began in 1899 when better prices ruled, and now in 1900 we have both better crops and better prices, and the fruit grower again may consider himself the happiest conditioned of men.

To particularize a little. The strawberry crop was perhaps a little short, owing to the lack of rain in May and June, but the prices were good, averaging about 8c p qt. The varieties most grown are Williams, Watfield, Haverland, Bubach, Maheil, Clyde and Woolverton; the Clyde is a great favorite and is being much planted.

Cherries have not equalled the great promise of blossoming time, a late frost seemed to cause the tender varieties to drop badly, so that while Richmond, Mortmoreney and Morello were well loaded, many of the sweet cherries were thin upon the trees. The aphid was on hand as usual, but the lady beetle cleared it out before cherry harvest.

The finest Duke this year was the Reine Hortense, young 5 yr old trees were worth a journey to see, with their immense loads of very large, attractive fruit. It may be a little soft for distant shipment, but for the home garden it has no equal as a cooking cherry. May Duke was well loaded and is a most excellent flavored cooking cherry, but is a little small when the crop is heavy.

Of the sweet cherries the old Governor Wood, Tartarian, Napoleon and Spanish are the standbys still, but on our young trees Cleveland seemed to us superior to Governor Wood, and is of the same season. Tartarian brought as high as \$2 a basket, and certainly no cherry is so excellent for dessert. The best late black here are Elkhorn and Windsor.

Raspberries are going to be over too soon, for the rains came too late to give size to the later berries, but the price has averaged about 7c, making those growers sorry who dug out their plantations.

Currants have also surprised growers this year. The crop has been good and prices quite satisfactory, viz, from 5 to 6c p qt for Fay and Cherry. At these prices no crop would pay better for an acre will give a grand yield. One of our new varieties gives great promise, viz, the Wilder. The berry and bunch are immense and the bushes most productive; Belle de St Gilles is as large but not nearly so productive. White currants have little value in Ont, and black varieties are too thin on the bushes and are too costly in picking.—[Sec'y L. Woolverton, Ont Fruit Growers' Ass'n.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Grass lands of second cut will be light; the new grass is much better but will not be up to that of last year by many tons. There is a large surplus of hay held over from last year, which will give an abundance for this year's necessities. Grain crops looking very thrifty and promise a full average crop. Of the root crop, which is a very material crop with us, all indications point to a good yield.

Farmers are going into dairying more than formerly, in fact dairying is the farmers' financial salvation in this country. We have no other mode of making so much money as can be made by dairying. Our grasses seem to be somewhat better than almost anywhere else. The pastures never go dry, and a bite can be got out of almost any portion of our land if the soil gets anything like a fair show. Years ago, like most everywhere else, farmers would crop their land for oats every year. It was a ready seller and the land gave a good return for what little labor was



Pitting Potatoes in the Field.

AS TO HOW IT IS DONE, SEE PAGE 346.

given to it. Times have changed, the land refused to be robbed every year without some return being given her, and the farmer has turned his land into cow pastures, at the same time feeding both the cow and land better than they ever did before. The result is, the farmer is getting his land back into something like its old-time fertility and good crops are the result. Feed the cow and she will feed the land, and the land will in turn feed the cow.

Very little, comparatively, of beef is grown, comparing its value with that of dairy products. Of late years a few farmers are again taking up beef raising, but their numbers are small compared with those who follow the dairy industry. Our butter and cheese command a good price in the markets, and there is not so much labor attached to the manufacture of these articles as formerly. Our dairy industry is run on the co-operative system. Farmers club together and build a cheese or butter factory, hiring a cheese or butter maker to manufacture the milk into either product, charging so much per pound. It is sold on the cheese board and the farmer gets his returns. He generally gets his "cheese check" every month, which gives him a little ready money at all times. This is a great boon to more than the farmer, as the merchant gets more in cash sales, which also helps him to buy for cash, which in turn enables him to sell a little cheaper. Pork raising is not as generally practiced as formerly. The farmer finds he cannot successfully raise pork without milk, and he thinks he can make a little more out of cheese or butter than he can out of pork.—[E. R. Brow.

Manitoba's Wheat Crop, including the Territories, according to Sec'y S. A. McGaw of the Dominion elevator company, who has been in Manitoba 15 years, will probably run a little short of 15,000,000 bu as against 21,000,000 last year. There will, he said, be no suffering, although merchants may have to carry over some of their country accounts. In 1899, he said, the average yield was 12½ bu p a. In 1900, 21 bu, in 1895, 28 bu, and this year it will be about 7 bu. Commissioner of Agriculture Davidson of Manitoba says the yield per acre over the province will not exceed 5 bu p a. Much will be summer fallowed which will put the soil in unusually good condition for next year's crop. The N P R report a decided improvement in the appearance of growing grain. From Morris, Baldur, Belmont, Hilton, Brandon and Elgin districts, it is reported that the wheat will yield 10 to 12 bu p a, while Minto district will give 15 to 20 bu. Harvesting will be general next week.

Nova Scotia—Crops with the exception of hay are looking exceedingly well in Cumberland Co. Old meadows are light and pastures have been poor and are now drying up. A good rain would be very beneficial although the

grain and root crops have suffered very little yet. Some of the largest growers have cut their hay but it was very green to late July. Stockers are raised quite extensively as a by-product of the dairy, but a great many are brought in from the back districts at 3 and 4 yrs old in the fall and fed through winter on roots, corn and marsh hay. Holstein yearlings are gaining ground both as a general purpose and dairy breed. Crops in general at Amherst promise well but are late. A heavy snow fall in plowing time last autumn cut us off in our fall plowing which, with a backward spring, made late with seeding. Haying fully 10 days late and the crop a little below the average. Grain promises extra well as do potatoes. A dry spell just as turnips were being planted prevented seeds starting well, but are doing well now. Corn is not grown much except for green feed and silos are few. Early frosts prevent proper ripening of corn, which has caused dairymen to turn attention to oats which can be raised in abundance.

Dominion Appropriations by the last parliament for agriculture, for the year ending June 30, 1901 include \$7,000 as aid to agricultural societies, experimental farms 80,000, printing reports and bulletins of farms 4,000, commissioner's branch for agriculture and dairying 40,000, for promotion of dairy interests by advances for milk and cream and for making butter and cheese, to be recouped out of the proceeds of sales of such butter and cheese, to be placed to the credit of the consolidated revenue fund 60,000, cold storage on steamships, railroads, at warehouses and creameries, and for expenses in connection with trial shipments of products, and for securing improvement and recognition of the quality of Canadian farm products 100,000; quarantine 156,000.

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