

fusion on the dry sand, in no way affected by the awful drouth of this memorable summer.

From all this it appears that, although the Muskoka District is adapted chiefly to cattle and sheep raising, yet there may always be a sufficient quantity of fruits grown for home uses, and for the supply of the near markets, an object worthy of the consideration of those who reside in that district.

FRUIT GROWING IN MUSKOKA.

A LETTER FROM BRACEBRIDGE.

Sir,—I am but a beginner in small fruit growing, and climbing the hill very slowly, as I have to learn as I go, and having very slender means at my command, I find it indeed a very slow job; but both my wife and I are great lovers of horticulture, so we stick to it.

Now I find the strawberry wonderfully adapted to this country, I have the Crescent, Wilson and Sharpless, and they all produce bountifully. In its wild state, I have picked strawberries in the bush this summer fully as large as moderate Wilsons, much more handsome and better flavored, but somewhat late. Currants of all kinds do well; the red and white seem to suffer most, as they are attacked in the spring with a little green worm or caterpillar, but one or two applications of white hellebore is sufficient to free them. That is all they suffer with that I can see, and they also give us lots of fruit. I have a few gooseberries, "Houghton Seedling;" they are also attacked by the same worm as currants, and same treatment helps them. They were loaded this year. I have picked wild gooseberries also in the bush this year, fully an inch long, dark red to purple and of splendid flavor, the only objection is the long tough prickly

hairs. Raspberries, red, black and white, grow in abundance on all burnt places, and around meadows and roads, free to all, and in fact are sometimes worse than weeds. The plum is successfully grown, I can't tell you the species, there are several kinds and all make splendid preserves. Blackberries and cranberries also grow wild, as does the huckleberry. The crab apple seems to be at home here; it is a splendid sight to see the trees with their beautiful fruit, and in such immense quantities, loaded year after year. Rhubarb is grown largely, and in fact at the height of the season it becomes so plentiful that there is actually no sale for it here.

I have made enquiries, and find that there are certain apples which seem to thrive well here, amongst them are the Wealthy and Tetofsky and some others, of which I do not know the names. There are some grapes grown in and around Bracebridge. I have a Niagara planted this spring, it has grown three feet; got it as premium with *Horticulturist*; hope it will succeed. We also have wild black cherries, but am told that tame ones do not do well.

Yours truly,

J. COVILL THOMPSON.

Bracebridge, Muskoka.

A LETTER FROM BALA.

Sir,—In answer to yours asking what fruits we can grow at Bala, and what wild fruits grow here, I beg to say that the following varieties of apples are fruiting here: Tetofsky, Early Harvest, Haas, and Oldenburg (Red Astrachan and Wealthy have not yet fruited). Pears will not grow here. I do not know anyone who has plums, except wild ones. Raspberries: Turner, Cuthbert, Niagara, Gregg and Shaffer's Colossal, but I don't know if the latter has borne yet. All kinds of currants and American gooseberries succeed.

Wild fruits here are raspberries,