

then he will be in a position to know whether or not he is getting "a square deal" and will be able to take a positive stand when unsatisfactory returns are received. In addition he can locate and dispose of the "boarders" in his herd and can also determine the loss of butter-fat in his skim milk, through defective separators, and, by the way, a loss which is often attributed to creameries, through not knowing just where the leak is, but these are subjects which space or time will not permit us to discuss here. I trust I have not trespassed too much on your valuable space or good nature. J. W. LAWRENCE.  
Lambton Co., Ont.

## HORTICULTURE.

Fall plowing will more effectively destroy the white grub than spring plowing, and render the land safer for strawberries.

The potato tops carry germs of blight and disease through the winter. By raking and burning, a grower will save valuable time that might be expended next season fighting these troubles.

A small pile of rubbish in the garden will attract the plum curculio and other injurious insects to make their winter quarters there. If this is burned after they are domiciled for the winter many will be destroyed.

Some mistakes in grafting may be forestalled by marking the trees to be top-worked, and those from which the desirable scions are to be obtained in the spring. While the apples are beneath the trees they may be told with more assurance than when the leaves are off and the ground covered with snow.

### Mulching Strawberries.

The question arises every fall as to the wisdom of covering the strawberry patch. This will be decided largely by the climate, locality and character of the plants. If the winter will likely be severe without an assurance of a good coat of snow, if late spring frosts are common and likely to injure the bloom, or if you wish to cater to a late market when other berries are done, then you will find a covering profitable and effective. It must be remembered though that unless the covering be very clean, weed seeds will be introduced that will cause considerable work; that is the main objection to covering berries. Many eliminate the necessity by manuring the land well prior to planting, thereby causing a healthy and profuse growth of plants that act as their own protection.

If mulching is practiced good clean straw is desirable, and it should be applied after the ground freezes enough to bear the wagon, and just before the winter's snow covers the ground. Between two and three inches will be heavy enough to remain firm upon the ground. In many respects manure is preferable to straw, but, as a general thing, conveys more weed seeds, and in case of a heavy snowfall, lies a little closer. In the spring the mulch is either raked off and removed from the patch or left between the rows to conserve moisture. The latter system insures cleaner berries but many prefer to cultivate, especially when the plantation is to remain for another year's crop. In a few instances the covering is even loosened up and the plants allowed to shoot through, but under such treatment the mulch must be very light.

### Red Raspberries.

Raspberries are quick to return yields after being planted out, and are remunerative, indeed, if labor can be procured at picking time. The third year should show a profitable yield, and subsequent seasons return annual surpluses after expenses are deducted. 100 crates per acre is not exceptional. Many harvest 150 crates per acre in a favorable season, and yet again drop much below the hundred mark in years of pestilence or drouth. During the last two years raspberries have been selling locally for twelve to seventeen cents per box, and even at the minimum figure are a profitable crop.

Raspberries thrive on a great diversity of soils, and the variety has much to do with its adaptability. Sand, sandy loam and loam all are suitable locations for berries, but the value of the plantation is enhanced if the subsoil is such that the water-table will be retained near the roots during a dry season. The amount of moisture determines the crop after the fruit has set, and it is important that we take that into consideration.

In all fruit-growing sections in Canada there

is at least one of the following varieties: Marlboro, Cuthbert and Herbert. They are outstanding varieties of red raspberries. The Marlboro, generally speaking, is a week or ten days earlier than the Cuthbert, and has the advantage of the early market. Its quality is good, but can hardly compare with the Cuthbert in ability to bear. The Cuthbert has, for a few years past, been the standard by which all red raspberries were judged. It is moderately hardy, of first-class quality, a good shipper and a good yielder. It matures in mid season, and is drawn on heavily by the jam factories as well as private homes. The Herbert is, in many districts, displacing the Cuthbert as a cropper. It is not so upright in its tendency of growth, nor is the fruit considered as firm as that of the Marlboro or Cuthbert; two undesirable characters, but where the market is close at hand the Herbert may prove a profitable berry to set. It is not the purpose of this article to discuss the setting and care of raspberries; that will be treated later, but to define the varieties that are leaders in plantations at the present time. Then the prospective buyer may make his choice of the many kinds offered.

### Annapolis Valley Apple Shipments.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Despite the big margin between the crop of last year and the smaller one of this year in the Annapolis Valley, shipments have not fallen off accordingly. The difference between the figures of October, 1912, and October, 1913, computed in barrels and including only October shipments, is only 21,382 barrels, and the decrease between the shipments of last year from the first of the season and those this year since the season began, a corresponding period, is only 41,335 barrels. The following statement shows the shipments for the past two seasons to date: Apple shipments from Halifax up to Nov. 1st, 1912, 235,110 barrels; apple shipments from Halifax up to Nov. 1st, 1913, 193,975, a decrease of 41,335 barrels. Apple shipments from Halifax during Oct., 1912, were 160,887 barrels, while from Halifax, Oct., 1913, 140,495 barrels were shipped, a decrease of 21,382 barrels.

This year, so far, has been marked by the successful efforts made to extend the markets for Nova Scotia fruit. Howard Bligh & Son and the United Fruit Company, the principal shippers of this fruit, have both made large shipments to foreign markets, such as Germany and South Africa. Both markets have taken the fruit packed in boxes and barrels.

The method of packing apples in boxes has recently attracted considerable attention in Halifax, and buyers are favorably impressed with this kind of package.

No. 1 apples sold as high as \$6.00 a barrel in Johannesburg, but from that must be deducted a freight rate nearly equal to the price of No. 1's on our local market. Fruit shipped to South American, West Indian and South African markets must be of a showy variety. The King, packed in boxes, each apple wrapped in tissue paper, is the favorite and best seller on that market. This season may see experiments carried on in these markets quite extensively, where it is thought Nova Scotia apples can easily compete with the American.

### THE MARKET GLUTTED.

With the glut of the foreign market came the overstocking of the Halifax market. In sympathy with the prices ruling abroad, those of Halifax advanced, with the same result of the heavy shipments being sent forward to the Halifax houses. The consequence is that there are even now in the yards at Halifax several shipments which cannot be disposed of except at too low a price for a profitable investment to the shipper.

Prices ruling in Halifax at present are ranging as follows: Kings, No. 1's and 2's mixed, \$4.00; Kings, No. 3's, \$2.00; Blenheims, No. 1's and 2's, \$3.00; odd varieties cleaning up end of season, \$1.50; Bishop Pippins, of which there are few on the market, No. 1's and 2's mixed, \$3.00.

The most favorable reports are regarding Northern Spies, which it is said still hold strong, good quality, and demand a good price, but not a large crop. However, the future is very bright for Nova Scotia shippers. Early summer apples are now off the market, and the movement has already set in for the winter varieties. But up to a few days ago the weather was affecting even them by too rapidly advancing their ripening.

G. E. O'BRIEN.

Halifax Co., N. S.

## FARM BULLETIN.

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### South Peel Notes.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

At the time of writing everybody is rushing trying to finish what plowing is yet left undone. The riding plow seems to be growing very popular in this district and with them plowmen are able to do good work. Sizing up the crops in this county this year, we might say it was a bountiful harvest and the stockmen are facing the winter with no fear of shortage. The silo is growing more popular every day as there are more going up every year and the proof of their popularity is their excellence. The county and the township fairs were favored with good weather and large crowds were permitted to see much live stock. One notable feature of the fairs this fall was the small exhibit of beef cattle in comparison with the large exhibit of the different dairy breeds. The writer can well remember only a few years ago when two of the noted herds, not only through this county but through the Province, faced the judges at these fairs; the dairy breeds at that time were represented by a few animals. The Ayrshire, Jersey and Holstein are the three most popular breeds here, each breeder boasting his own breed and each breed proving in the hands of their admirers that they are capable of lifting the mortgages, paying the rents and bringing comforts to the home.

One of the new features of the fairs this fall were the stock-judging competitions introduced in our county by the District Representative of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, W. H. J. Tisdale, a young man possessed of great energy and noble visions, and we hope to see in the near future large results of his work in this county. Live stock is selling high at the sales; the writer was at one last week where an ordinary two-year-old heifer sold for \$83.00, while an ordinary sow and ten pigs brought over \$90.00. Some time ago the writer advised those people who had sufficient skim milk to raise all the heifer calves possible. Even in this small district breeders of good dairy cattle would find a ready market right here for at least two hundred head. Although beef prices are going high, a dairy heifer will make more profit at two and one-half years of age than a bullock. JAS. B. ROSS.  
Peel, Co., Ont.

### Ontario's Crops and Conditions.

The following statement regarding crop conditions, based on the reports of 2,000 correspondents, sent in during the first week in November, has been issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture:

Fall wheat has been a most satisfactory crop, both as to yield and quality, the sample as a rule being fully up to weight. While the straw was rather short, it was clean and bright. The weather at harvesting was most favorable.

Reports indicate an enlarged acreage of wheat sown this fall, every fall wheat district promising to share in the increase. Notwithstanding the rather dry conditions at the time of sowing, the soil as a rule proved to be in good tilth for a seedbed, and the young fields at present are described as looking strong and promising. Only a few complaints have been made of injury from Hessian fly or other insects. Seeding ranged from the last week of August into the third week of September, the bulk of the crop being got in