

* The Fruit Prop. *

Present indications are by no means so favorable as the promise at blooming. Cherries have blighted and thinned out very much; plums are badly taken by curculio; peaches, apples and pears are a fair crop of certain varieties, in the Niagara District, but not over-abundant; while, in some parts, peaches are reported a failure. Indeed, in most of the peach growing States of the Union, except Missouri, the peach crop promises to be very light.

Norfolk County.

SIR,—In the neighborhood of Simcoe Co. Norfolk, fruit prospects were never better. Apples, in spite of the great crop of last year, promise an average yield. Plum and cherry trees are heavily laden. Pears are a good crop. Small fruits of all kinds promise an abundant yield. Strawberries are coming on slowly and will be late. Peaches are not much grown; have heard of some fruit, but the trees are badly affected with leaf-curl.

Yours truly,

J. A. CAMPBELL.

St. Thomas Notes.

SIR,—Everything here is about two weeks later than a year ago. The May frost injured the early strawberry blossoms, but the crop promises to be up to the average.

Raspberries, notwithstanding the mild winter, are considerably injured by the cold, especially Shaffer and Marlboro'; Cuthbert and Turner are all right.

Currants will not be half a crop; Victoria and White Grape are well loaded, but Fay, Cherry and Versailles have only here and there a bunch. I find Victoria my favorite, Prince Albert next, and, for early, the Versailles; Fay the greatest bearer of the lot. Red Dutch and North Star too small.

Gooseberries will be about half a crop, which will be enough with last year's conditions. I only picked about half my crop (Downing and Smith's Improved), I could not get enough to pay for picking. Your correspondents keep on telling how to grow; can't some of them tell us how and where to sell them at a profit. It appears to me we must quit growing small gooseberries and selling them green, and grow the large ones and sell them ripe. People won't can green, sour gooseberries, when they can get other fruit as cheap as they could last year.

Apples, contrary to expectations, will be a fair crop. No Red Astrachan, but plenty Yellow Transparent and Oldenburg, and many of the winter kinds are bearing well.

Cherries will be a fair crop. Early Richmond injured by May frost. Montmorency and English Morello very well loaded. Very few sweet cherries grown here.

Plums give great promise, especially Lombard. I have fifteen trees in chicken yard, and they are already bending with the fruit. I have not sprayed and I see no stung fruit yet. Varieties—Lombard, Bradshaw, Golden Prolific, Imperial Gage and Quackenboss. In another lot I have Pond's Seedling, Shipper's Pride, General Hand, the latter a very shy bearer. I have also Abundance, Willard and Burbank, but no fruit, though blossom. I begin to fear that the Japan plums will only do in the more favored sections of Canada, or where the peach will thrive.

Blackberries are in bloom now and promise an abundant crop.

Yours truly,

A. W. GRAHAM, *St. Thomas, Ont.*

Huron County.

SIR,—I went through my orchard recently. The cherries are a heavy crop, plums very good and very free from curculio; pears well loaded, small fruits in abundance, grapes showing well; apples, although very thick with blossom, will be a very light crop, nearly all off; all the time they were in bloom it was very wet weather; I said then I was afraid the apples would not set well, the pollen was all washed off, besides the bees couldn't work on it; we had no frost to hurt. I have found the Spys and Cabasheas generally shy bearers, but this year they were covered with bloom, young Spys as well. I find the Baldwins to be standing the best of all, but they will be a light crop; all other varieties almost no crop.

WALTER HICK, *Goderich.*

Ontario County.

SIR,—I have just got in after a drive of twenty miles through the fruit growing part of this district, and from notes taken, summarize the following:—Apples, 70 to 80 per cent. of a full crop; pears, 90 per cent.; plums, a full crop, and more, as many varieties are literally crowded; cherries, nearly a full crop, say, 90 per cent.; gooseberries and red currants, heavily loaded. Some complaints of mildew on gooseberries, where not properly sprayed; black currants, about 70 per cent.; strawberries, good; grapes are late, but plenty of clusters formed.

Taken all round, the fruit crop will exceed last year, except in apples, which will be about the same, according to present appearances.