

HARD TO GET PICKERS

GROWERS of small fruit generally find considerable difficulty each year in handling the crop. This is the case in most sections this season. The trouble was not very great with the strawberry crop, which was light in many districts, but now the raspberries are in the trouble has begun. Growers have to use different methods to secure pickers, and many of these methods are far from satisfactory.

While talking to a representative of The Canadian Horticulturist who visited his place recently, Mr. W. Walker, of Grimsby, said: "It is very difficult to get pickers—in fact, we can't get good ones. Some growers bring in Indians from Caledonia, but perhaps they only stay at one place for a day or so. They are unsettled and sometimes other growers coax them away. I hope to get all my crop harvested without experiencing any serious loss, as I have the promise of about 40 pickers for odd days.

"The cost of harvesting a crop of berries often comes pretty high. We have to sup-

ply shanties or cottages for them after paying their fares on the train or car. Of course they board themselves. Some growers give a reliable woman 50 cents a day extra to oversee the job and secure pickers. The usual price paid for picking ranges from one cent to a cent and a half per box, depending on the variety."

"We simply have to do the best we can in getting pickers," said Mr. J. M. Metcalf, of Grimsby. "We can get a few from surrounding villages. A good plan is to go back on the mountain and bring down a load of farmers to help out. We pay one and a half cents per box for picking black and red raspberries and one cent for thimble berries."

"It is going to be a serious problem," said Mr. E. D. Smith, of Winona, "to get pickers this season. It is now some years since we had a heavy crop of raspberries. I suppose the best plan will be to make contracts for the berry season with a number of Indians from the reserve."

STRAWBERRIES FOR THE WEST

ONTARIO strawberry growers, it is the conviction of Mr. Alex. McNeill, chief of the Dominion fruit division, who has recently returned from a trip to the Pacific coast, will have to use more care in the growing and shipment of their fruit if they ever expect to build up a profitable trade with Winnipeg and western points. "When I was in Winnipeg in July," said Mr. McNeill to The Horticulturist, "strawberries from points in British Columbia were meeting with a ready sale. I asked one of the commission dealers how it was he did not sell Ontario fruit, and found he was a man with a grievance as far as Ontario fruit was concerned.

"This merchant informed me that he had ordered a car of Ontario berries to be delivered on Thursday, July 29. He showed

me a telegram he had received stating that the fruit would not be delivered to him until Friday, and another telegram stating it would not reach him until Saturday, and finally a third telegram stating that the Ontario shipper would not be able to let him have the fruit at all. This promise to ship the fruit and the breaking of it had caused the merchant great loss, as he had relied upon receiving this car of fruit to fill his local demand and had been putting off his customers in expectation of the arrival of the fruit.

"I presume that the trouble with the Ontario shipper," continued Mr. McNeill, "was that he was unable to make proper arrangements for securing the fruit. The trouble in Ontario is that very little fruit is grown for export, as all that is shipped to