

excellence in its habit of stooling rather than making runners. He had also found it best adapted for clay soil. In this opinion Mr. Smith and others fully agreed. Next to the Agriculturist and the Triomphe de Gand the Jucunda received the commendation of those who had grown it. Mr. Gray confines his cultivation to two varieties, Wilsons and Triomphe de Gand. The latter he considered the finest flavoured strawberry we have, the former he had found an enormous bearer. He cultivated in hills, carefully taking off the runners. Dr. Cross, of St. Catharines, after having tried most of the varieties under discussion, now only grew Wilson's, Hovey's, and Triomphe de Gand.

After a short recess the second subject was taken up for discussion, and in connection with this topic Mr. Bishop gave some account of his new seedling strawberry, a cross between Triomphe de Gand and Wilson's Albany. He had now had it three years. It was, he said, rather earlier than Wilson's and will last longer; he considered it also as hardy a variety as any that we have in cultivation. In crossing to procure the hybrid, he had fertilized sometimes with the Triomphe de Gand, and sometimes with the Wilson.

Mr. Beadle said that he considered the flavor of Mr. Bishop's seedling to be its chief excellence, in which respect it was superior to most of the varieties generally cultivated.

Mr. Mills fully endorsed what was said by Mr. Beadle, and spoke in addition of its peculiar and delightful fragrance.

The specimens on the table were exhibited under the disadvantage of having been gathered on the day previous and being over ripe. Notwithstanding this drawback, the flavor was to our taste very agreeable, and we were favourably impressed with the general excellence of the seedling, and considered it deserving of a careful trial.

The following resolution, moved by Mr. C. Arnold, seconded by Mr. Gray, was carried unanimously—

"That the thanks of this Society be given to Mr. Bishop for his efforts in producing a new seedling strawberry, and that it be recommended for further trial."

At this stage of the proceedings the following resolution was moved by Mr. Leslie, Junr., seconded by Mr. Gray, and carried—That the recommendation of the Fruit Committee contained in their report on Mr. Bishop's Seedling Strawberry, viz: "that before appointing a committee to examine seedling fruit on the grounds of the producer, such fruit should have been exhibited at least once at some meeting of the Association," be adopted as a rule of this Society.

The next subject in order, namely, the best six varieties of Cherry, was then taken up, and after some discussion, a vote on the question was taken, resulting in the recommendation of the following in the order named, the first three receiving each an equal number of votes: Governor Wood, Black Eagle, Elton, Black Tartarian, and Black Heart.

Mr. Gray spoke well of the wild cherry of the country as a stock for grafting the cherry upon; not the bird cherry or choke cherry, but one bearing clusters of red berries in the same manner as the cultivated kind.

The fourth topic for discussion was then introduced by Mr. Arnold, who exhibited some white raspberries, ripe at this early season. They were a hybrid between the White Marvel of four seasons and the White Cap. Mr. Beadle thought the Franconia, Philadelphia, Arnold's red, and Arnold's white hybrids to be the most hardy. Mr. Chisholm found the Black Cap to be the hardiest. Mr. Eccles considered the Fastoff the most excellent in this respect. Mr. Gray preferred the Brinckle's Orange and the red Antwerp. Mr. Read grows successfully Brinckle's Orange, Fastoff, Franconia, and Doolittle's Black Cap. Mr. Arnold finds Franconia and Belle de Fontenay the hardiest European sorts, but none of them can be depended upon, while the Philadelphia is perfectly hardy, and is among raspberries what Wilson's is among strawberries. Mr. Caldwell, of Galt, finds the Franconia and Philadelphia the hardiest. Dr. Cross prefers the red and white Antwerp and Franconia.

The fifth and last subject came up too late in the day for any prolonged or adequate discussion. Mr. Beadle stated in answer to enquire that the caterpillar which had proved so destructive to the orchards between London and St. Thomas, was a species of tent caterpillar, not the common variety, *Clioscampa Americana*, known by its large webs or tents, but a closely allied species, *Clioscampa Sylvatica*, which does not make so large a web, and is therefore in its early stages not so easily detected. In the district alluded to they occurred in countless myriads, and had been mistaken by some for the army worm, probably because "their name was legion." A few remarks were made in reference to that ubiquitous pest the Curculio, the majority of the members present concurring in the opinion that jarring the trees, col-

lecting the beetles, as they fell and destroying them, was the only effectual remedy. Mr. Arnold, however, stated that he had failed to make any impression on them by this method, and had found liming or white-washing the ground about the trees more efficacious.

Mr. Beadle presented a report on the Fruit Prospects of the Niagara District, but said that he would not detain the meeting by reading it then, but would leave it with the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER for publication in that journal. We append the document to this report. The observations on the strawberry may be deemed now beyond their season, but are valuable as a record of experience.

After a very interesting session the meeting adjourned.

During the latter part of the proceedings, the chair was occupied by Mr. Leslie, senior, Mr. Mills having been obliged to return to Hamilton early in the afternoon. The thanks of the meeting were voted to the chairman.

#### THE FRUIT PROSPECTS IN THE NIAGARA DISTRICT.

To the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario.

When the spring opened, and the fruit trees put forth their buds and blossoms, there seemed to be a promise of an abundant crop of fruit, and expectations were entertained of a more than usually large supply. But as the season advances we find that many of our fruit trees are but very sparsely set with fruit, and that from one cause and another the quantity of fruit is likely to fall far short of our previous expectations.

At the time that our apple and pear trees were opening their blossoms we were visited with a season of protracted rains, the prevalent wind was from the north-east, and was very bleak and chill. Owing to this circumstance, the pollen of the flowers was but imperfectly developed and was washed to the ground. Had the air been usually dry and warm, the delicate grains of the pollen would have been carried by the currents of air, and by the busy insects, to the stigmas of the flowers, resulting in an abundant fertilization; but on the contrary, during the period of fructification the pollen was kept wet and paste-like, so that it could neither float in the air nor adhere to the hairy legs of the bees and other insects, and so failed of reaching its nature-intended destination. Hence but a small proportion of the fruit is set, and our apple trees and pear trees, so loaded with flowers, will yield but little fruit.

To this cause may also be attributed the curled leaves on the peach. Any one who has grown the peach under glass knows how sensitive the foliage is, when it is just putting forth, to any chilling draught or current of air, and has seen the leaves curl and at length drop off from this cause, just as they have curled and dropped off in the open air this spring. It may be that of late years we have been much more subject to the chilling easterly winds in the spring, that from the clearing up of the forest those winds have a longer sweep and greater power, and that our peach trees, from continued exposure to debilitating influences, are become less vigorous and more sensitive to atmospheric changes. Be this as it may, the unpleasant fact remains that for a number of years our peach trees have more or less been afflicted with this curl of the leaf in spring, resulting in the loss of the first foliage and a dropping off of the fruit.

As the season has advanced the pear trees have again been afflicted with the blight, large branches have turned black in the bark, the leaves have withered and turned black, the fruit on those branches shrivelled and dried up, and the trees look as though they had been scorched with fire. It is not necessary to offer any speculations upon the nature and cause of this disease; as yet it is shrouded in mystery, and he who shall be able to discover a preventive or a cure for this destructive disease will confer a boon of no ordinary value upon the cultivators and consumers of the pear.

The strawberry crop has not been as large as usual this season. The deficiency is probably owing to the long-continued drought of last summer. Plantations that were carefully covered during the winter fell short full as much as those that were left unprotected, and of all the varieties usually grown in this Township, the French's Early and the Wilson seemed to show the greatest deficiency, as compared with their usual yield, while the Triomphe de Gand came more nearly up to its usual standard.

Of the newer varieties not one has been able, under the treatment given, to equal the Wilson for general cultivation and productiveness. The "Agriculturist," with special care and high feeding, will yield some monstrous berries, but beyond that has nothing to commend it, and in that respect must yield to the "Dr. Nicaise," whose monstrous fruit astonishes the natives. The celebrated "Tribune Straw-

berries" have failed to exhibit any special excellencies, and will soon be dropped from cultivation. The "Jucunda" has so far done the best of the newer sorts; its berries are large, more nearly uniform in size than the Wilson, of a better colour, and the crop is larger than that of the Triomphe de Gand. The "La Constante" has not yet been sufficiently grown here to judge of its merits. The "Russell's Prolific" fails to fertilize itself, requiring Longworth's Prolific, or some other variety abounding in pollen and flowering at the same time, to be planted near it, in order to perfect its fruit. The writer is disposed to believe that the "Russell's Prolific" and the "Jucunda" flourish best in a strong clay loam. The strawberry cultivator is not likely to lack new varieties with which to experiment for some time to come. Not less than fifty new seedling berries were exhibited at the last meeting of the Western New York Fruit Growers' Society, held on the 24th June, each one supposed to possess some new excellence and special claim upon the attention of the public. There is, however, yet wanted a strawberry of vigorous habit and hardy constitution, as productive as the Wilson, berries large and more nearly uniform in size, bright colour, high flavor, sufficiently firm to bear transportation well, and ripening after the Wilson is gone.

Our cherry crop was thinned from the same cause which lessened the apples and pears, but the Heart and Bigarreau Cherries have thus far suffered less from rot than they did last year, so that we have more fruit than we realized last season. The "Reine Hortense" and "Belle Magnifique" and "Late Duke" varieties are yielding little or no fruit, but the "Mayduke" has an abundant crop.

The currant worm and gooseberry saw-fly are much less numerous this season, whether owing to the use of White Hellebore, or to one of those unaccountable disappearances which every student of entomology has noticed, it may not be easy to determine. The fact is none the less gratifying, and our gooseberry and currant trees are yielding a good supply of fruit. Even those who continue to cultivate the English varieties (with a perseverance worthy of better success) are hoping to escape the fatal mildew this season, at least in a good degree.

Of the raspberries, several varieties passed through the winter either wholly uninjured or but slightly hurt, while even the tenderer sorts will yield some fruit. The "Hornet" and "Pilote" suffered but little, "Brinckle's Orange" and "Franconia" still less, and the "Philadelphia" and "Arnold's White" and "Arnold's Red" not injured at all. The "Naomi," judging from two years' trial, is but little more hardy than Franconia. "Souchetti" is as tender as the old White Antwerp. There is every promise of an abundant yield of Raspberries, and if we are succeeding in obtaining a class of raspberries that will endure our winters without protection, with juicy, high flavored, and large sized fruit, a new impetus will be given to raspberry culture. Of the "Clarke" and "Davison's Thornless" varieties it is too soon to speak.

Blackberry culture is as yet very limited in this vicinity. The "New Rochelle" is large and very productive, but the plants sometimes are a good deal killed back in winter, and the fruit, unless left on the vines until ready to drop off, quite too acid. Experiments are being made with the "Wilson's Early" and the "Kittatiny," in hopes of finding something more desirable.

Those who have been faithful in carrying on the war with the curculio, or plum weevil, are reaping the reward of their labour in a fine crop of smooth, uninjured plums; several have found that a little well directed labour in jarring down the insects, and destroying all fruit stung by them, secures a fine crop of plums at but little cost.

The grape vines have bloomed freely, and are setting their fruit well, so that there is every prospect that when the Association holds its October meeting in St. Catharines, the Niagara District will be able to exhibit an abundance of grapes.

From this hurried survey of the fruit crop in this vicinity, we can see that the Fruit Grower has his difficulties to meet, but that on the whole he has much to cheer and stimulate him to careful experiment and untiring zeal.

D. W. BEADLE.

Grantham, July 7th, 1868.

#### Hamilton Horticultural Show.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—As it may be interesting to many of your readers to note the progress that horticulture is making in Canada, I send a brief report of the recent Hamilton Fruit Show. The Directors of the Hamilton Horticultural Society held their second show of