

HORTICULTURE

Canadian Apples in South Africa

No fault is to be found with the barrels, half barrels and boxes in which Canadian apples are packed for export to this country, reports Mr. J. A. Chesley, Canadian Trade Commissioner, Cape Town, but complaints have been made that the apples are frequently slackly packed, so much so that in handling the packages the fruit is more or less damaged, and is therefore unsalable. It necessitates, moreover, filling up and repacking before offering them for sale.

This condition incurs unnecessary expense, considerable inconvenience to importers, and should be discontinued as being very detrimental to the successful continuance of the Canadian apple trade in South Africa. Carelessness in packing should be studiously avoided in future.

Cabbage and Cauliflower Growing

At the recent convention of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association in Toronto, Mr. A. McMeans, O.A.C., Guelph, made a report on his investigations in cabbage and cauliflower growing in the United States. The average price to growers the past few years, who have not contracted, was \$5.50 a ton. Owing to the bad season this year the price went up to \$40.00 a ton. Planting is done with a special machine, two boys planting alternately. The machine waters the place where the plants are planted in then covers the wet spot with dry earth.

The large growers in the United States reduce expenses by conveniences in storage and shipping. Where possible railway sidings are run alongside storage buildings. Shrinkage in cabbage stored is as much as 25 per cent. up to April 1. The wetter the season of growth the greater the

shrinkage. In the shelf method of storage cabbages are put one deep, stump down in rack. A large quantity of cabbage is used in the manufacture of sauer kraut, the consumption of which is not confined to the German element. At Saginaw the average crop is ten to twelve tons an acre, and the prices from \$6.00 to \$10.00.

Vegetables at the Jordan Station

A report on vegetable growing at the Jordan Experimental Station was made by Mr. H. S. Peart, the director, at the vegetable growers' convention in Toronto. There was a number of varieties and fertilizers tested, including varieties of corn, squash, melons, carrots, beets, tomatoes and potatoes. Over 4,000 crossbred tomatoes were fruited, and two at least give promise of future usefulness.

Fertilizers caused a decided increase in yield of tomatoes and cabbage, where a complete fertilizer was used. In potatoes no decided results were evident. In corn, potash and phosphoric acid gave largest yield of ear. For onions, potash gave best and heaviest bulbs.

Forcing Vegetables

Mr. W. C. Waid, New Carlisle, Ohio, gave an address on 'Greenhouse Growing of Vegetables,' at the convention of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association. Development in this line has taken place during the last twenty-five years. As a rule vegetable growing under glass has been remunerative. Mostly lettuce, cucumbers and tomatoes are thus grown. An increase in the number of the vegetables forced is probable.

The soil in the forcing house is seldom renewed, but well-rotted manure is added each year. The speaker spreads manure over the soil and uses a sprinkler system of watering in order to extract the fertility for the use of the plants. Sterilizing the soil is sometimes necessary when disease has been present the previous season. The

overhead system of watering is best, but sub-irrigation has given good results with lettuce, and radishes. The higher the temperature, other things being equal, the more rapid the growth, but the greater the risk of disease. Good ventilation is a requisite.

Growing Cherries in Ontario

Mr. F. G. Stewart, Homer, discussed the subject 'Sweet Cherries for South-western Ontario,' at the recent fruit growers' convention in Toronto. He said that the soil for this fruit must be light and dry. The trees must be well cared for particularly in the matter of spraying. Plenty of spraying material should be applied. Use one barrel to about seven trees to keep the rot under control. Among the varieties recommended were, Governor Wood, Alton, Napoleon Biggareau, Black Tartarian and Windsor. Mr. C. E. Bassett, Pennville, Mich., pointed out the absolute necessity for air drainage in the cherry orchard. He said that a free circulation of air will largely prevent fungous diseases.

In an address on 'Cherries for the Commercial orchards of Ontario,' Mr. A. E. Sherrington, Walkerton, said that sweet cherries are not a success in the northern parts of the province. Yellow Spanish is the most essential. To prevent rot in cherries the trees should be sprayed in the spring before any growth appears with three pounds of bluestone to 40 gallons of water, again with Bordeaux just before the bloom opens, repeat after the blossoms fall and again 10 days later. The soil should be warm, dry and sandy. The Morello class can be grown on well drained clay loams. On sandy soils the trees may be planted 20 feet apart and on clay loams 25 feet. In pruning direct the growth by pinching when young. Some varieties recommended by the speaker were: Early Richmond, if well cared for and fed; English Morello, profitable but the tree is short lived; Mont-

morency, best commercial variety; Olivet, satisfactory.

Do cherries pay? This question was answered by Mr. Sherrington with figures. At 25 feet apart there are 70 trees to the acre which should yield 8 to 10 baskets a tree at 8 to 10 years of age, or 500 baskets an acre. At a net price of 60 cents per 11-quart basket, this gives \$350 to the acre. This shows that it is profitable to grow cherries of this class. Harvesting, the package and the market are the problems. Cherries can be shipped to the west successfully. They should be harvested when ripened and when dry as they will then stand up much better. Three or four pickings should be made from a tree. The fruit should not be handled but picked by the stem, clipped or pulled. Mr. Sherrington pays 12 cents a basket for picking. He said that the 11-quart basket is not the best package for cherries. We require a smaller package or a box which should be flat.

Making Friends.—The following extract from a letter received from Mr. John P. Bowen, Stanstead Co., Que., is indicative of the favorable manner in which Farm and Dairy is being received by those for whom it is intended: "Mr. R. P. Hurlbut, one of your subscribers has handed me one of your papers and it seems to be such a good one for our Canadian homes that I ask you to send it on to my address for one year from date. Enclosed please find \$1.00, the subscription price." Do you show your copies of Farm and Dairy to your friends? You can greatly extend the circulation of Farm and Dairy by so doing and receive for your trouble a cash commission or valuable premium, as you prefer.

One expedition plan for warming up and extracting sealed honey combs is to set the super with the combs in it over a wash boiler of boiling water. Have the boiler on the stove with a very small fire under it and the super covered with a bee quilt.—R. F. Whiteside, Victoria Co., Ont.

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