

tection is as much needed in the dry weather as in the cold. Last summer there was a great outcry that the dry weather would cut the crop short, and so it did; but what we ask is that the horticulturist should so cultivate as to reduce the uncertainties of the weather to a dead certainty as regards the yield. Protection would go far to remove the uncertainty.

We have said that new varieties are successfully competing with the old and valuable varieties. Our hybridists are making wonderful inroads upon old-established notions. Arnold's No. 1, which has been shown year after year at our spring meetings ever since we met at Chatham, has been gradually gaining the confidence of our strawberry connoisseurs. It has indeed a delicious flavour—the highest flavoured berry with which I am acquainted—the highest flavour, we think, of any cultivated variety. Its size, too, is greatly above mediocrity, in fact is enormous, and the plant is a marvel of prolificness. We augur for this new claimant on public favour an immense success. It is not altogether apart from the object of this paper and of the present meeting to say that Mr. Charles Arnold, our premier hybridist, has over a thousand distinct hybridized varieties of strawberries.

In point of excellence, at no great distance behind Mr. Arnold's No. 1 comes Mr. C. H. Biggar's new variety, "The New Dominion." It has been successfully shown for two seasons. It came through the late trying severe winter scathless, and has been proved to be a variety of great hardiness. We would strongly urge upon the members of our Association, that in due time both Mr. Arnold's and Mr. Biggar's strawberries should be disseminated over the length and breadth of our Province. It not unfrequently happens that new varieties do well from home, and we are certain that both sorts would take kindly to the soil in the Ottawa Valley, and give an ample return to any extra kindness shown them by our horticultural friends around the capital.

RED AND BLACK CURRANTS.

Somebody has said that currants and gooseberries are the poor man's fruits, and so they are. There is no long time lost in waiting for their fruiting,—and along with no delay, there is little loss from mildew, cold or heat, drought or wet. They are a yearly crop, almost always to be depended on for a prolific return. The mode of cultivation is easy, and every man may become his own gardener. The red currant in its pruning requires to be switched up very much in the fashion of trimming a privet hedge; the black should never be topped, but thinned out, and the young wood carefully preserved. We must repeat, too, our caution about mulching. Currants mulched will produce fully a third more than when left exposed—this, too, we mean both in winter and summer. The plant itself is a sort of protection to itself, but as its roots are not deep in the ground, there is the greatest need of continued mulching. Short, well-rotted barn-yard manure is the best mulch that can be applied to the currant. We have used with success the scrapings from the firewood heap—chips have a roughness and dampness about them that to the plant is very refreshing.

Certain improvements have been made in currants which ought not to be overlooked—of late years the cherry or grape currant has come into very general cultivation. The size is often something extraordinary, though we would whisper in the presence of currant growers, that the size has been cultivated somewhat at the expense of the *recherche* in flavour.

In the market, however, the grape currant has a wonderful demand; this on the principle, we suppose, that as a rule people like a large mouthful.

Mr. Dougall, of Windsor, has some fine seedling currants. We have for some years cultivated six or eight new varieties of his. With one of these we are especially pleased—it combines almost the size of the grape currant with all the richness of flavour of the best Dutch varieties.

Mr. Saunders, of London, has a hybrid, a very fine black variety, which for size and flavour exceeds any variety with which we are acquainted. We can only quote the words of one of our veteran horticulturists in regard to it, and say that in respect of flavour, size, foliage and health, it surpasses by far any known variety of black currant. This particular one of which I speak is only one of several successfully raised by Mr. Saunders. We have only to add that the price of black currants ought to secure a larger competition in our markets than it has yet done. There are few fruits more wholesome, few more easily preserved for