

Notes from British Columbia

C. P. Metcalfe, Hammond

The plum shipments are over and have been fairly profitable for the growers. If losses occurred it was from lack of knowledge of the market. Growers ship too much to the large centres, and as a result the prices are seriously affected. It is not a question of a limit to the market in the north-west provinces, but the lack of proper distribution. The quality of the fruit this year has been superior, owing to favorable climatic conditions. It is a matter of observation that orchards which have never been sprayed or much attention given to them have produced a greater proportion of clean fruit. A notable feature this year has been the second bloom and crop of strawberries and blackberries; especially Senator Dunlop and Magoon in strawberries, and Lawton in blackberries. Drought seriously shortened the first crop of cane blackberries, and later the fall rains developed a second crop.

Exhibitions are in full swing just now. Smaller points as well as the larger are holding their shows. I think it a mistake the multiplication of so many small shows, all drawing their government appropriation, in this province, which could be spent to better advantage in the cooperation of the people in the making of municipal or district exhibits at the larger exhibitions. The test or success of a show is not in the amount of its gate receipts, but in the impetus given to the development of the various industries in the districts.

The provincial government is purchasing and forwarding fruit for an exhibit from B.C., to be shown at the exhibition of colonial fruits, to be held under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society at Vincent Square, London, in Dec. next. Last year the B.C. exhibit of fruit carried off the gold medal against all exhibitors.

Prince Edward Island Letter

Rev. Father Burke

It is now painfully evident that the fair promise of an abundant apple crop in spring was nothing short of an *ignis fatuus*. There will be a very short crop; and short, too, in the late varieties, which we can least afford to do without. There was an abundance of bloom—one seldom saw such a display—but the fixing was exceedingly light; and even the light early crop was cut in two twice by falling fruit in the first stages, and by the defects due to prevalence of insects. Spies will be very scarce, so will Ben Davis, which never before failed to give us a pretty generous return. There are fair returns from the earlies—the Transparents, Duchess and Astrachan, but even those have fallen to only a medium crop, even where well looked after, because of the drought.

There is a difference of opinion as to what has caused the failure after the flower promise of spring. We thought it was the cold, wet, dark weather that influenced the late varieties here. East, though, which has a difference of a week or 10 days, had fair weather for pollen distribution, and we are assured by our secty. of the F.G.A., Mr. Dewar, a close observer, that this could not have affected them. He said: "We had too much bloom. It completely covered the trees, and I think exhausted their vitality to fix." Be this as it may, this will be a very slack apple year with us.

We have just been to Charlottetown to hold conference with Com. Ruddick on fruit interests. He had come from N.S., having gone to Evangeline land to consult with the fruit men there. He informed us that the show of fruit was anything but abundant in N.S. Maritime Canada is likely to have a short crop generally.

We had pleasure in Mr. Ruddick's visit, officially, for he has undertaken to straighten out many things long in demand among us. We are to have a permanent inspector-in-

structor like the rest of the world, and the "Personal Visitation Campaign," long advocated by us, and only put into operation in fits and starts, will be now formally undertaken. Then, we are to have the packing demonstrations by western experts which last year, under Mr. Boies, opened the eyes of eastern fruitmen. We have further assurances that the recommendations of last March's conference at Ottawa will be carried out. The barrel decision will go to Parliament next session and be made law; the box-package legislation, not so definite, will receive attention; the formation of national work in publications will be assumed, and much close attention given transportation problems.

Those power-sprayers, the Commissioner thinks, are not giving the satisfaction necessary to their continuance—they are not, he thinks, suitable to maritime conditions; and, therefore, we have little hope of a proximate favorable solution of the disagreeable spraying business. Next year all will certainly have to spray like demons, or with all these insect pests, old and new, fostered by the exceptional season, we will be ruined. Make up your mind to that. We are glad Com. Ruddick came to talk over matters with us, and believe good results will accrue, from such conference, to the fruit interests of the maritime provinces.

Apple Prices Good

The Ontario Cooperative Fruit Growers' Association held a meeting in Toronto recently, with the president, A. E. Sherrington, of Walkerton, in the chair. Comparison of reports showed that there would be no difficulty about selling apples this year. Indications pointed towards good prices. The apples grown by the affiliated associations are particularly good in quality, scab and insect injury being less noticeable than for many years. Packing in central packing houses, under the supervision of experts, will ensure a uniform high-class "pack." The fruit division at Ottawa has promised to have the fruit of the association specially inspected and protected.

The association does not intend to be in a hurry to sell winter apples. A number of buyers have written from the Old Country expressing their intention of coming to Canada to buy. This and the fact that Canadian buyers are anxious to secure fruit that is packed

by the cooperative plan, will have the effect of materially stiffening prices. It is proposed soon to change the name of the association, as the present name is confused by the public with that of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, which is an educational organization, not commercial.

Export of Apples

"We read and hear on all sides reports of apples arriving during the past winter in the old country in bad condition," said R. C. Fowler, of Burlington. "These reports usually lay the blame on the packer which, in my opinion, is not always fair. I can cite definite cases in my own experience, and in the case of many others, where the fault lay not with the man who put up the goods, but with the railway that first took delivery—and in our case with the G.T.R."

"Seldom, if ever, are the railway facilities for carrying apples what they should be. More than once during the past season I was forced to place apples in cars that were like ovens. The apples had to go, and I had to take whatever cars were offered me. It is not surprising that apples arrive at their destination in bad condition, when they start in cars poorly ventilated, and hot enough to roast them. It seems that the fruit grower must suffer for carelessness and negligence on the part of the railways."

A well-prepared and well-illustrated catalog of bulbs and seeds is that recently sent out for the fall of 1906 by Arthur T. Boddington, seedsman, New York City. In it the bulbs are divided into 2 sections, bulbs for planting out of doors and bulbs for growing inside. This arrangement avoids confusion and will be met with the approval of amateur and professional alike. Send for a copy.

It is an open question with many growers whether the introduction of Japanese plums has after all been very beneficial to the trade generally, from the fact that it is believed that the San Jose scale was brought into this country at the same time, and also, from their great productiveness and somewhat indifferent quality, they have to some extent destroyed the market for the better class of European and American plums.—W. H. Bunting, St. Catharines.

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