

HORTICULTURE

Co-operative Fruit Growers Meet

The annual meeting of the Co-operative Fruit Growers of Ontario, was held in Toronto on June 9th. Representatives from local associations in all parts of the province were present. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: Hon. President, A. E. Sherrington, Walkerton; President, D. Johnson, Forest; 1st Vice-President, Robert Thompson, St. Catharines; 2nd Vice-President, James E. Johnson, Simcoe; 3rd Vice-President, Elmer Lick, Oshawa; acting Secretary and Treasurer, P. W. Hodgetts, Parliament Buildings, Toronto; Auditor, C. W. Gurney, Paris.

The report of the past secretary and treasurer, A. B. Cutting, Peterborough, pointed out the work that the association had done during the past year, and indicated progress. The delegates present expressed most favorable opinions respecting the work and worth of the organization. They look forward to a good crop this year, and a successful season. By the co-operation of all co-operative associations in the province only good can result. Every local association should send for information and become affiliated at once with The Co-operative Fruit Growers of Ontario.

Fruit Crop Report

The past winter has been very favorable for the fruit industry. With the exception of a few days in January, there were no snow blockades to interfere with the regular movement of apples from the storehouses in Ontario to the seaports. Few apples were injured by frost either in storehouses or in transit.

The most serious losses were in Nova Scotia warehouses as the result of the mild weather with excess moisture in the atmosphere. Rots, moulds and other fungous diseases developed to a serious extent, particularly on fruit not altogether sound when stored. The reputation of Nova Scotia fruit was lowered perceptibly in the British markets from this cause.

Practically no serious injuries to trees have been reported, although the damage, caused by severe frosts in previous years in the Ontario fruit sections, is still showing in some localities, particularly among the older trees that bore heavily last season.

Apple trees everywhere have come through the winter well and are looking healthy and vigorous. Few injuries are reported from mice and rabbits.

Small fruits in Essex and the Niagara peninsula have come through the winter in excellent condition. Very little killing back is recorded.

Correspondents from Nova Scotia, Quebec and British Columbia report that fruit trees have come through the winter practically without injury.

To assist in estimating the marketable crop, the fruit districts of the Dominion are divided as follows:

District No. 1—Counties north of Lake Erie.

District No. 2—Counties on Lake Huron, and inland to York County.

District No. 3—Lake Ontario Counties north to Shabro Lake and the Georgian Bay.

District No. 4—Ottawa and St. Lawrence valleys to Lake St. Peter, and southwestern Quebec.

District No. 5—New Brunswick with northeastern Quebec.

District No. 6—Hants, King's, Annapolis and Digby counties, Nova Scotia.

District No. 7—Nova Scotia not included in District 6.

District No. 8—Prince Edward Island.

District No. 9—Lower mainland and islands, British Columbia.

District No. 10—Inland valleys, British Columbia.

APPLES

All varieties promise well with the possible exception of the Spy, Baldwin and Russet, where they bore heavily last year. All growth is sufficiently early to insure a season long enough for the full development of fruit.

In District 1 and in British Columbia the bloom is abundant and fully developed.

In Districts 2 and 3, bloom is not yet fully developed in the colder sections, and on the later varieties.

In Districts 4, 5, 6, and 7 only the earlier varieties are in bloom, but all the conditions are favorable.

PEARS

In Districts 1, 2, and 3, bloom is heavy, and the conditions are favorable for "setting." Trees are reported to be in excellent condition.

In British Columbia the Bartlett is reported to be somewhat light in bloom.

PLUMS

Japan plums wintered badly in District 3 along Lake Ontario, and plum fruit buds are reported scarce in Prince Edward. But the Japan varieties for the most part in Districts 1 and 2 came through the winter in good condition. In the commercial plum orchards in Districts 1 and 2 and in the Georgian Bay district the bloom is full, and the conditions otherwise are all very favorable for European and American varieties. British Columbia prospects are all favorable.

PEACHES

Peach trees came through the winter in excellent condition. There is an excellent promise for all varieties in the Niagara and Essex peninsulas. The majority of correspondents report prospects for a full crop. The bloom is more universal and some

what heavier than last year. An encouraging feature is the statement by some correspondents that they expected to thin their peaches in nearly all varieties.

CHERRIES

Cherries have bloomed full everywhere. There has been no winter-killing nor early spring frosts.

Grapes have wintered well, look healthy and show an abundance of vines.

SMALL FRUITS

Strawberries have wintered well everywhere, but are a week or ten days later than usual in southern Ontario and in British Columbia.

Raspberries also wintered well with the exception of some old patches which suffered from the drought of last summer, and in a few instances where canes were broken by snowfall. Otherwise berries of all kinds look well.

The season in the northern sections growing small fruits is not so much later relatively as in the small fruit districts to the south. It is probable, therefore, that the home-grown fruit in the vicinity of Ottawa, Montreal, and other northern markets, will shorten the period during which shipments from the south will be profitable. The indications are that raspberries will overlap strawberries in the markets, as the former are relatively earlier than the latter.

FOREIGN PROSPECTS

The spring in Europe is much later than usual, and frosts and severe storms have done some damage to small and tender fruits. It is not likely the apple crop will suffer severely.

The prospects for the apple crop in the United States are favorable. The failure of the apple crop in the southwestern and western States last year, together with the fairly good growing season of 1907, has made it probable that the crop this year will be at least an average one. Up to the present there have been no unfavorable conditions to report.—A. McNeill, Chief of the Fruit Division, May 10th, 1908.

In Orchard and Garden

Weed the new strawberry patch and keep the surface soil well stirred. Remove all blossoms, so that the strength of the plant may go towards the production of an abundance of runners. Larger and better berries may be secured by this system but not so many of them.

When picking strawberries, do not leave the berries in the sun. Choice fruit should be picked by pinching off the stem, touching the berry as little as possible. Do not remove the hull until preparing for the table.

Every garden should contain a number of salad crops and garnishes.

To have big, choice specimens of fruits from your trees, such as plums and peaches, thin the fruit on the limbs soon after they are well set.

All kinds of fruit trees and bushes should be sprayed. Where the plot is not large, get some of your neighbors to co-operate with you in the purchase of a small spraying machine.

When danger of frost is past plant sweet corn, cabbage and cauliflower and sow tender vegetables, such as cucumber, pumpkins, squash and melon.

The use of the water hose will give better results in the vegetable garden than if the weather alone is depended upon for moisture. The best time to apply water is in the evening, but water at any time rather than allow the garden to suffer from drought.

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