



Report on the Philadelphia Raspberry.

OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE FRUIT GROWER'S ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO.

It is now four years that the writer has had this Raspberry in bearing, and has in that time grown it with most, if not all, of the leading sorts of Raspberries, and carefully compared it with them as to vigor of growth, hardiness or ability to endure the cold of our winters and the heat of our summers, productiveness, size of berry, and flavor. After such a test and comparison there seems to be a propriety in giving the opinions and conclusions that have been formed with regard to this fruit to the public in the form of a report to the Fruit Grower's Association.

Among all the Raspberries generally known or cultivated, the common Black Raspberry, or as it is sometimes called, the Black Cap, so universally to be found in neglected clearings and fence corners, is the most hardy sort we have, withstanding perfectly our coldest winters, and enduring the heat and drouth of our summers. But this berry, with all its good qualities, still lacks the size and juiciness of the Antwerp class, while the Antwerp, though yielding large and juicy berries, could not withstand the cold of our winters without protection, and suffered off a very severely during the trying heat and drouth of our summers. A Raspberry that should combine the powers of endurance possessed by the Black Cap, and yield a fruit as large, juicy and high flavored as the Antwerp, was and is a great desideratum. The writer procured the Philadelphia under the assurance that it did combine these qualities in a good degree, and it is the purpose of this Report to show how far this variety may lay claim to such great excellence.

In flavor it is not equal to most of the Antwerp class. The Brinckle's Orange stands at the head of all the raspberries growing in these grounds for richness and delicacy of flavor, and I ranconia, Hornet, Imperial and Naomi all take precedence, in the writer's estimation, of the Philadelphia in point of flavor, not that there is anything unpleasant in the latter variety, but it lacks the richness of the others.

It is much more pulpy and juicy than the Black Cap, and in this respect is a decided advance on that variety, yet not quite as juicy as the other varieties above mentioned.

It is also larger than the Black Cap, considerably larger, yet not equal in size to the Franconia, and much shorter of the great Hornet.

In productiveness it far exceeds any of the sorts mentioned in this report, and is in this respect far superior to any variety that has been cultivated here. Indeed the load of fruit is quite surprising, and were it not that the canes are more stout than most varieties produce, the burden of fruit would drag upon the ground. In abundance of fruit it is (as was stated by Mr. Arnold, of Paris, at the last meeting of the Association) among the raspberries what the Wilson is among strawberries, head and shoulders above its fellows.

The test of five winters leads the writer to believe that the Philadelphia is perfectly hardy, as hardy as our native Black Cap. It has not killed back at all in some winters, and in others only the extreme tips have suffered. The blossoms are not injured, but come out along the whole length of the cane, hence the very abundant crop it produces every year.

It also endures perfectly the heat and drouth of summer, growing luxuriantly and perfectly its fruit much better than the Franconia. Not that in such an extreme drouth as has prevailed in this vicinity for the past five weeks it perfect every berry, or shows no lack of moisture, or that in hard or nearly sterile soils it will not flag under such intense heat and continued drouth; but in the same row with the Franconia, in the same soil and receiving the same treatment, it suffers less from heat and drouth, and brings to perfection a heavier crop.

The habit of growth is unusually vigorous, stout, and upright, enabling the plant to sustain its enormous crop; the foliage is deep-colored and heavy, and thus far there has no disease or symptom of disease appeared.

The conclusion to which we are carried by these experiments and comparisons is, that in the Philadelphia we have a raspberry that leaves nothing to be desired in health of natural constitution, in hardiness to withstand the cold of winter or the heat of summer, nor in immense productiveness. On the other hand, it does not possess all that we could desire in flavor nor in size of fruit.

Here is opened a field that needs at once to be cultivated by the careful hybridizer. With a mother so hardy and productive as the Philadelphia, what may be not hope to attain by crossing with the Brinckle's Orange for flavor, or with the Hornet for size? He who will add to the perfect hardiness and abundant fruitfulness of the Philadelphia, the size of the Hornet and the flavor of Brinckle's Orange, should receive a gold medal from the Association, and the lasting gratitude of his countrymen.

Meanwhile we must not do without our raspberries, and until such a happy combination is achieved, we can do nothing better than recommend every one to give the Philadelphia a trial.

Your most obedient servant,

D. W. BEADLE.

St. Catharines, 22nd July, 1868.

Failure of Young Orchard Trees.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

SIR:—I have noticed recently considerable failure among young fruit trees (the apple in particular), of two, three and four years' growth. As I own quite a number of different varieties, and from fifty to two hundred and fifty of each kind, my experience may be interesting as showing which are the hardy, which the tender varieties. The Baldwin seems to suffer most with me, the greatest part of them being dead to the bottom of the stem, while in some few the tops are entire, and others have escaped with the loss of a few branches.

The Rhode Island Greening comes next. A few have passed the season with the loss of the tops, and others with loss of last year's growth, but the greater part are doing well. I have lost others from the bark splitting from the ground from six to nine inches up the stem. This occurred early in the fall, as I supposed from too rapid growth. I should like to know if there is any means of preventing this. I have observed it before in trees of the same age, but with less fatal effect. It generally happens about the second year after planting, when they have begun to grow well.

Other varieties have been affected, but not to such an extent as the Rhode Island Greening and Baldwins. I shall try and send you a correct list of the loss on the different varieties as soon as I can get time. Pears have been damaged by the frozen sap blight. I have over one hundred dwarfs and standards, from four to six years old. In many cases I had to cut within one foot of the ground in order to get sound wood, and to remove a good many branches off others. Plums seemed to promise well, but now some trees shows signs of girdling, out, the stem getting dead first, others losing half of the tops. Out of about fifty trees there are only about six healthy, and the plums on all of them are shrivelled, on the branches and dropping off from the excessive heat and dry season, although the trees were early mulched.

There was a good show of blossom on all fruit trees, but what was formed is now dropping off. I have older planted apple trees of the same varieties as those above mentioned that have stood well. The complaints are general respecting the young orchards here. I should like to know if in other parts of the Dominion the young orchards have been similarly affected. I may mention that we have had one of the coldest winters on record; an early break up in spring, cold weather again setting in. The fall was late, and exceedingly fine.

I have this spring destroyed the gooseberry caterpillar by mixing two dippers full of kerosene and one of air-slaked lime in a pailful of water, and thoroughly drenching the bushes with it, the leaves and ground remaining white with the lime. The variety on which I operated was the Houghton.

J. M. L.

Owen Sound, July 20th, 1868.

Toronto Electoral Division Society's Show.

THE Summer exhibition of the Toronto Electoral Division Society was held on Thursday, 16th ult., in the Horticultural Gardens. The grounds, as usual at this season of the year, presented their varied attractions of foliage and flowers. The exhibition of Horticultural products, was laid out in a spacious tent at the northern part of the grounds. We are sorry to confess that the display altogether very much disappointed us; and it is a cause of much regret that the praiseworthy efforts of the Society to produce a love of horticulture are not more generally seconded by the gardeners and amateurs of Toronto and the neighbourhood. But for the liberality and generous interest taken in the institution by a few gentlemen in the neighbourhood, the show would have been meagre indeed. As it was, it owed its principal attraction to some fine collections of stove and greenhouse plants contributed by Hon. D. L. Macpherson, C. S. Gzowski, Esq., Judge Morrison, F. C. Chisholm, Esq., and one or two others. The number of exhibitors was remarkably few, and the prizes were distributed among only nine or ten persons altogether. A horticultural show in such a city as Toronto ought certainly to be very differently supported. The scarcity of exhibitors does not, however, in the least detract from the merits of those who competed, and who enriched the collection with some very beautiful specimens.

The centre of the tent was occupied by a long table, on which were displayed a very fine collection of stove and greenhouse plants, among which were very beautiful fuchsias exhibited by F. C. Chisholm, Esq. The same gentleman showed also on this table some fine black Hamburgh and Chasselas de Fontaineau grapes growing in pots, and well loaded with rich-looking clusters of fruit. Conspicuous in this collection were a number of foliage plants and ferns, native and foreign, shown by C. S. Gzowski, Esq., Judge Morrison and Hon. D. L. Macpherson had also a variety of beautiful greenhouse plants on this centre table. Ranged on each side, upon the ground, were some palms and fruit trees grown in tubs, the latter bearing well, and all looking remarkably healthy. These were chiefly furnished by Mr. Gzowski. The remaining flowers were displayed on a table along one side of the tent, the table on the opposite side being occupied, very sparsely however, with specimens of garden vegetables.

Among the flowers we noticed specially a plant of Yucca Filamenta flowering very handsomely and profusely, shown by Mr. James Fleming; also a variety of cut flowers, some very fine, some good hand and table bouquets, and a few beautiful basket of flowers.

There was a small display of fruits—among them some fine grapes shown by Mr. Chisholm; peaches and other greenhouse fruit grown by Hon. D. L. Macpherson and C. S. Gzowski, Esq. Mr. Leslie showed some good cherries of the following varieties—Cleveland Biggareau, Belle de Choisey, Guigne Noir, Lincante, Napoleon Biggareau, Elton and Black Eagle. The same gentleman showed a few strawberries of the Agriculturist and Jacunda varieties, but these were past their prime. There were also, notwithstanding the dry season, a few plates of large raspberries, and none finer than those of Mr. Edwards, the Secretary. Judge Morrison and Hon. D. L. Macpherson showed some very fine currants.

Of the display of vegetables we cannot say much. We only trust that the exhibition in this department was no indication of the general produce throughout the country.

The judges were Messrs. Charles Weston, David Murray and Edwin Townsend, all of Hamilton.