

many fruit growers will insist that the Spy is only a biennial bearer. The fine weather is also developing the insect pests, and unless spraying is attended to vigorously a large percentage of the fruit will be unfit to sell. There is more attention being paid to the orchards in this district this season than for many years previous, as orchardists are beginning to realize that unless their fruit is fit buyers and shippers will pass them by.

We had our first ripe strawberries on the 29th ult., two weeks earlier than last year. Small fruits, with the exception of grapes, are looking splendid, and promise a good yield if weather is favorable.

Whitby.

R. L. HUGGARD.

FROM SIMCOE.

With regard to the fruit crop. We have had a fine rain lately, but too late to save the strawberry crop from serious injury by the previous long spell of drouth. The crop is below average in quantity and quality. Raspberries will likely be a medium crop if showery weather continues. Blackberries are in fine shape and promise a very large crop. Plums, medium, some trees heavily loaded, many entirely barren. Cherries and pears are light; cherries not half a crop. These were no doubt injured by the heavy frosts in May, just when the blossom buds were bursting, as there was a heavy bloom, but it failed to set fruit. Early apples will not be more than half the crop of last year. But winter apples so far promise an excellent yield, about average, and the quality will likely be good.

Craighurst.

G. C. CASTON.

FROM ST. CATHARINES.

W. H. Bunting, in a report on the fruit situation to the Sun, says: "The prospects at present, barring a heavy dropping of the tree fruits owing to the continued dry

weather, are very promising for a large and abundant crop of all kinds of our more important fruits, with the exception of apples, which, owing to the unusual crop of 1902, will be of only moderate quantity this season, some varieties and some localities showing good average, while others are comparatively light, and in some cases none whatever. We are now experiencing a great lack of moisture, and while in some localities there have been a few showers and heavy rains of short duration, which have relieved the situation to some extent from many portions of the province reports are coming in of scarcely any rain since the first of April. This fact, coupled with the heavy frost early in May, which did considerable damage in the eastern part of the province, points to a marked scarcity in the smaller fruits, such as strawberries, raspberries, etc.

"In this (St. Catharines) section strawberries are ripening about ten days earlier than usual, and the season will likely be of short duration. Cherries and plums are well set, and as a great deal of spraying has been, and is still being, done, no doubt these crops will be of satisfactory quality.

"Peaches promise a full crop, with the exception of Early Crawford's, which were cut down by the May frost, and the Elberta, which has suffered severely from the curl leaf, and will no doubt drop their crop. I have as yet heard of no successful remedy for this difficulty, although the Bordeaux mixture and the lime, sulphur, and salt mixtures has in some cases lessened the effects of this disease.

"Pears have not set heavily, with the exception of the Kieffer, and one or two other varieties, which have promise of full crop.

"The vineyards generally are looking well, and give promise of a heavy crop of fruit this year. A word of warning to our vineyardists will, however, be in order. During the past two or three years the dis-