

## SMALL FRUIT GROWING ON A LARGE SCALE

ONE of, if not the largest small fruit growers in the province is Mr. A. Railton, of Fonthill, whose place was visited recently by an editorial representative of *The Horticulturist*. On Mr. Railton's farm there are 30 acres of raspberries alone, and he grows most of the other varieties of berries on about an equal scale. The soil which has given him the best results is of a sandy, gravelly nature. The value of thorough fertilization is fully realized by Mr. Railton, who uses from 15 to 20 tons of barnyard manure every third year on his berry patches.

"I would," said Mr. Railton, "apply fertilizer more frequently were I able to obtain it." As it is, I keep about 80 head of beef cattle through the winter simply that I may obtain their manure. Seldom do I make any profit from these cattle. Some years I am able to realize a little money in the spring from the cattle, but often I am not. On the whole I only come out about even through handling this stock, and would run behind were it not for the manure I get from them.

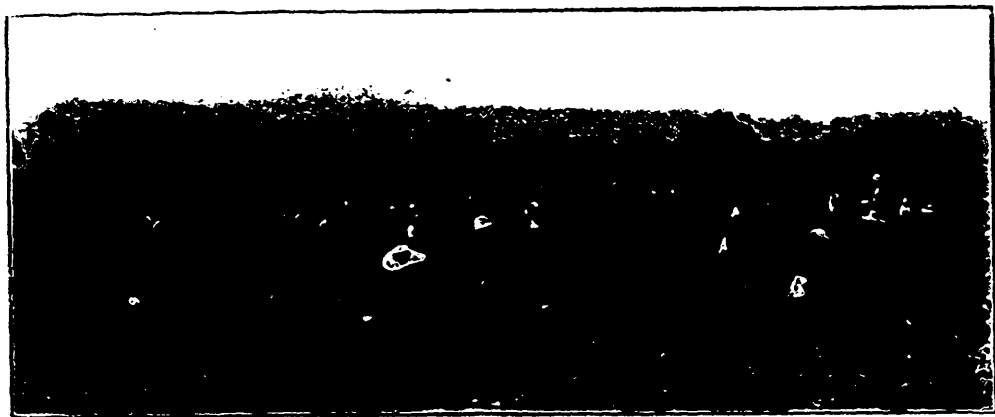
"Altogether I have 125 acres of fruits. This year I lost 27 to 28 acres of strawberries owing to the severe winter just passed, or I would have had a total of 70 acres in berries alone. Had the strawberry crop

proved all right I would have had to employ about 200 pickers this season, but as it is I have only about 80 engaged.

"My pickers are mostly women, boys and girls, a number of whom live 20 miles away from my place. For their convenience I have a house 100 feet long in which some 20 to 40 pickers live from the middle of June to the middle of August. They start with the strawberries and end with the picking of blackberries.

"Pickers are allowed one cent for each box of strawberries and blackberries, and one and a half cents for raspberries. Most of them make 50 cents to \$2 a day, although some girls make as high as \$3 a day picking blackberries. It is nothing uncommon to have pickers make \$2 a day for picking strawberries and raspberries.

"My raspberry bushes are set three feet apart, with eight feet between the rows. The rows of blackberries are nine feet apart, with three feet between the bushes. I prefer these distances, for they are convenient when we are cultivating the land. It is possible to use a disc harrow between the rows. I prune three times during the year. The old wood is taken off in the fall after the fruiting is over: the young canes are clipped back in the summer and are shortened in the spring."



**Picking Raspberries on a Fruit Farm in the Niagara District.**

Raspberry pickers at work on the fruit farm of Mr. A. Railton, of Fonthill, are here shown. As stated in the article on this page, Mr. Railton, who sells the bulk of his berries to the canning factory, finds it necessary to keep a large gang of pickers at work the greater part of the summer. They are paid according to the amount of berries they pick.