

Astracan, Duchess of Oldenburg, Gravenstein, Cranberry Pippin, Baldwin, Spy, King, Roxbury and Golden Russets. Such varieties as these will pay for the most careful attention, and not prove a source of disappointment as the other varieties have done of late in so many instances.

Strawberry culture frequently pays the agriculturist, but not unless he has the time and the means to give it more than ordinary attention. Many a man has already more irons in the fire than he can attend to, and he will surely get burned with one of them, if not with several. But, given the conditions necessary, and success will surely follow. They are such as, a good rich loam soil; plenty of nitrogenous manure from the barnyard in the autumn—the late Mr. E. P. Roe advised 60 tons per acre; a mulch of straw in December as soon as the ground is frozen; constant cultivation all summer, both before and after fruiting season; and careful gathering and marketing. Now if any agriculturist is prepared to make a specialty of strawberry culture in this way, let him try the Crescent, the Wilson, and the Sharpless, and go to work with confidence, and he will succeed. Four and five thousand quarts per acre are reported as among the possibilities, especially with Crescents fertilized with Captain Jack.

The same advice may be given with reference to the culture of raspberries and blackberries. Grown as many people grow them, without sufficient cultivation, without manure, without pruning, they cost more than they come to. Any specialty which the agriculturist undertakes beyond what he has time, money, and knowledge to care for in the best manner, will prove an eyesore to him, and a certain loss. The berry patch, of which one-half the produce is thistles, and which is inseparable on account of numerous unpruned straggling branches is a disgrace; but our experience is that where a plantation of Cuthbert red, or Gregg black raspberries, or Kittatinny blackberries, has received proper treatment and attention, there is money in them, even at the low prices lately prevailing. The day is passed when we could get from 17 to 23 cents per quart for our large Kittatinny berries, and from 15 to 20 cents for red raspberries. A fortune might have been made out of them in those days; but even now good returns may be counted upon by giving them careful and thorough culture.

A fine specialty in the horticultural line is the currant. "Bah," says some one, "the worm! it will destroy the bushes." My friend, that is one reason for planting them freely—you will have less competition. Plant an acre of such varieties as the Cherry and Fay's Prolific, on good rich clay loam well drained; give them the best of cultivation and manure as you would for a good crop of potatoes; prune back in spring one-third of the last year's growth to induce branching, and to keep the stems stocky; give a good sprinkling of hellebore and water whenever the currant worm appears; and ship your crop to market in twelve-quart baskets or strawberry crates, and you will succeed.

In short, our country has advanced beyond the time when it pays to be a Jack-of-all-trades. Our agricultural friends must now be specialists—they must in short be professionals in the lines they pursue. Division of labor must be more and more the habit of the age among our farmers. The rule must be, not to follow in the line of one's neighbor, and do just what he does, so that when one man devotes his attention to some specialty, every other man in the section rushes into the same thing until there is a surplus of that article, and no profit in it; but on the other hand, to choose each a separate line of his own, and to persevere in it. Let him make a study of his subject, reading those books and magazines which treat of it, talking with those who have experience, and in this way let him pursue with confidence his chosen line of work.

Thus, I am convinced, shall days of greater prosperity dawn upon our agricultural community, and less hardship result to our country at large from a general failure of any one department of industry.