

## British Columbia Has Heavy Bloom.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

We have not had such promise of a big crop for four years in the Okanagan Valley as we have this year. The fall was unusually mild, with no early fall frosts to top-kill the under-ripened wood. The winter, all through, was mild and cloudy, easing off gradually and keeping cool at night, not hurrying the buds.

This year brings a great many of the new apricot orchards into fruit, and an exceptional yield is expected. Nine thousand cases went out last year, and fully one-third more is looked for this year. This fruit can be picked well on the green side, ripened in transit, and still have practically as good a flavor as the tree-ripened fruit. This will practically insure all the crop getting to the market. Cherries bloomed a week after the light frost, and at the present time (April 28th) are in full bloom. There never was such a promise of a cherry crop nor such a wealth of bloom. The bees are busy, and strong winds during the day and night insure a good setting of fruit. Rains in no way affect this crop as in many places where the cherries split after a rain. If we get any rain during the summer it is generally while the cherries are ripening. Pear slugs gave us a little trouble last season, but did not lessen the crop much, and as lead has to be used we sometimes have to let the spraying go if the fruit is ripe.

Apples right through the valley are promising an exceptionally heavy yield. Pears are in bloom and promise a light crop and are being watched for blight, as it is chiefly while the bloom is on that they become infested. Apples are just beginning to bloom and will require some care. We are looking for an easing off of the blight, because of the care that was given last year. We figure on a thousand cars of apples this season. The blight might reduce this fifteen per cent, but not likely. A large per cent. of these will go out of Canada. Prunes were a good crop last year with over 65,000 crates, and will be considerably more than a third over that this year. Tomatoes we expect this season will more than double the crop of last year. Summerland alone will probably ship 50 cars, but it is difficult to estimate this crop as yet. Plums will be a good crop also. There will probably be over 3,000 cars of produce shipped from the Valley, and over half of that will be tree fruits and tomatoes. The other part largely hay and vegetables.

The Kootneys will probably have a hundred cars of fruit this year, and a good percentage of that will be prunes. The Coast and the Okanagan Valley, which includes a short part of the C. P. R. main line, are the only parts of the province that figure at all heavily in the output of fruit. The Coast will ship heavily in pears, apples and prunes, and will be about the same in total quantities as the Okanagan Valley. Pears will be much heavier there than in the Okanagan.

British Columbia. WALTER M. WRIGHT.

## Ottawa Valley Prospects Fair.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Apple trees have come through the winter well in the Ottawa district, and the present outlook is for a good crop this year. The eggs of caterpillars, which were so troublesome last year, are not much in evidence this spring. The native and Americana varieties of plums, which are the great standby in this district, also promise well. The fruit buds of cherries as usual have been badly injured. Bush fruits, including currants, raspberries, gooseberries are in good condition, and there should be a good crop. Strawberries, where mulched, have wintered well, and unless there are spring frosts after they are uncovered there should be a good crop of this fruit. On the whole, therefore, the prospects so far for the fruit crop in the Ottawa Valley are good.

Horticulturist, Ottawa. W. T. MACCOUN.

## Conditions in the Guelph District.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Replying to your favor of recent date, would say that fruit trees and plants in this district have wintered well and prospects for fruit are better than the average. Strawberries have suffered slightly, but not to any serious extent. Fruit trees show abundance of blossom buds, and so far, we have had no extremely warm weather to force them too rapidly. Aphids are somewhat in evidence, but there were as many last year at this time as there are now and no special injury resulted.

J. W. CROW.

## Dominion-Wide Prospects.

The most outstanding feature of the outlook for fruit in Canada for the season of 1914 is the almost certain failure of the peach crop in the different fruit-growing zones. This is probably due to two circumstances, the winter no doubt is responsible for the destruction of the buds, but in many places the fall was late and warm and the buds did not mature sufficiently before the winter set in. Peaches at best are a rather uncertain crop, and a frequent failure in this line of fruit will tend somewhat to limit future plantations. Apples at the present time promise a satisfactory crop, but there is always the June drop and other circumstances to be considered before the fruit may be harvested. We do not wish to be pessimistic, but there are conditions which always arise to influence the final production. A notable circumstance, too, is the cessation of the mad rush in tree planting. Especially is this true as applied to the principle of absentee landlordism. City people, clergymen, college professors and many "would-be" fruit growers, laboring under the delusion that they have sufficient knowledge and money to develop a successful commercial orchard at long distance, have come to the conclusion that dividends are not so certain and large as they expected, and the planting which is now going on is based on a safer principle.

Plums and cherries promise a good crop, and it is to be hoped, in the interests of orchardists, that plums will not see the same profuseness as was experienced last year. Rarely was there a plum tree in the back lot or fence-side that was not loaded to over-bearing. This has a disastrous effect upon the market, and in many cases plums from large orchards were marketed at a loss last year. Owing to the pear blight which so ruthlessly attacks most varieties of pears and which requires such vigilant attention, pears for many years will be a good price, and growers need not fear very much an over-production in this fruit. Cane berries, owing to their nature of growth and habits of bearing are usually annual in their production, and having wintered well prospects are for a favorable crop. Strawberries, where mulched, are likewise promising, but where this practice of protecting the plants throughout the winter and early spring was neglected the crop is problematical.

## POULTRY.

### Hens That Pay.

W. H. Dale, a Middlesex Co., Ontario, farmer reports what seems to be a very good year's success with poultry. He had 180 fowl on hand January 1st, 1913, which he valued at 50 cents each, or \$90.00. Interest on same \$4.50. Marketing expenses \$15.00, which with feed brought the total cost up to \$265.27. The proceeds from fowls and eggs sold amounted to \$525.40, leaving a balance of \$260.13. There were extra fowl on hand January 1st, 1914, to bring this up to \$269.63. All the birds consumed at home were valued at 50 cents each, the same as charged in taking stock. Fifty cents is low enough when poultry sells as it does now. In January, 1914, the eggs sold brought \$49.08; in February, \$53.85; in March, \$58.56, and in April, \$61.65. It pays to keep winter layers. In this report the owner estimated that the poultry droppings were of sufficient value to offset the cost of labor. We scarcely think they would be, but at any rate this is a very good record for an ordinary farm flock.

### Feeding Young Chicks.

[A few suggestions given by the Poultry Division, Experimental Farm, Ottawa.]

DO NOT FEED TOO SOON.—When the chick is hatched it has a sufficient supply of nourishment in the yolk of the egg to last it for several days. What the chick requires for the first few days is not feed but warmth and rest.

When the chicks are removed to their brooding quarters there should be some coarse sand or fine chick grit scattered where they can have free access to it. They should then be left until they show positive signs of hunger, which would be between the second and third day after hatching. They may then be given some bread crumbs that have been very slightly moistened with milk; this may be scattered on clean sand or chick grit. If being brooded by a hen she will see that no food is allowed to lie around, but if in a brooder that part of the food that the chicks do not pick up in a few minutes should be removed, as nothing in feeding causes so much trouble as leaving food of that nature around until it is sour.

FEED FOR THE FIRST 10 OR 12 DAYS.—The following daily ration of five feeds, given about two and a half hours apart and continued from the time the chicks are two or three days out of the shell until 10 or 12 days of age, may be altered or adapted to suit conditions:

First feed: Dry bread crumbs slightly moistened with milk.

Second feed: Finely cracked, mixed grains or commercial chick feed.

Third feed: Rolled oats.

Fourth feed: Dry bread crumbs moistened with milk.

Fifth feed: Finely cracked, mixed grains.

In addition to the above give the chicks daily a little green food such as grass, lettuce, sprouted oats, etc. Do not have the moistened bread sloppy but in a crumbly state, and during this period let the chicks onto fresh soil or grass every day if possible.

After the chicks are ten days to two weeks old coarser foods may be allowed. The infertile eggs may be boiled and mixed with the mash food, and the bread and milk discontinued. Hoppers in which is put cracked grains and dry mash or rolled oats may be placed where the chicks can have free access to them. As soon as they become accustomed to the hoppers, all hand feeding except the mash may be discontinued. If the chicks are on range it will be found that after a time they will get careless about coming when called, at which time the mash may be dropped, and dependence placed entirely on the hopper feeding.

Place grit and water, also a dish of sour milk if possible, where the chicks will have free access to them. Nothing provides animal food in better form than does milk, the chicks like it and thrive on it.

## FARM BULLETIN.

### Sweet Clover, Four Horse Teams and Kicking Horses.

G. V. Anderson a Norfolk County subscriber of "The Farmer's Advocate" writes regarding sweet clover that there are hundreds of miles of it along the roadways in his section, self-seeding and growing between the wheel tracks and the ditch but that very little has gained a foothold between the ditch and the fence. He reports that he has seen sheep eat very little of it when it is young and tender but has never seen a cow that would eat it. It grows from two to five feet high, but he would not think of sowing it for feed and though he believes it might be profitable to plow under he still pins his faith to the common red clover.

Referring to several questions which he has seen answered in the Farmer's Advocate recently on four-horse teams he advises standing the four horses even and joining the centre horses with a short tie strap from the bit of one to the bit of the other. If one horse is tender in the mouth it is better not to fasten this cross check from bit to bit but rather use two straps as an ordinary cross check from the bits to the hames. He advises putting the fastest going horse in the centre. If an outside horse goes wide or fast a strap may be used from his bit to the hame of the mate to hold him back. This does not interfere with the lines.

On Mr. Anderson's farm, the ordinary widths of implements are used and two sections of the drag harrow are fastened with a short double-tree and trace chains behind the disk, cultivator or roller and the harrowing is done at the same time as the disking, cultivating or rolling which in his opinion makes a far better job than harrowing several hours after these other cultivations and separately.

He also reports good success in breaking horses of kicking by using inch elastic bands with buckles sown on one end and these are pulled tightly around the leg of the horse just above the hock. Like most good horsemen he believes that the best practice to follow is preventive measures rather than curative treatment.

On May 5th, when the letter was written many farmers along the lake front of Norfolk County had not made a start on the land and at that time several days of good dry weather were needed before a commencement could be made. Fall wheat is reported in that section to have been rather severely injured during the winter. Clover is heaved in places but is a fair stand. Prices for cattle and pigs are reported very high, young pigs being quite plentiful, however.

### A Noted Fruit Grower Passes.

Fruitgrowers and farmers generally will regret to hear of the sudden death at Grimsby, Ont., on May 7th last, of Linus Wolverton, one of the most prominent fruit specialists in Canada. His life work was with fruit, and he was known and respected the country over. On his father's farm, Grimsby, Ont., he was born 68 years ago and on this farm he died, the old place being famous as the farm upon which was planted Canada's first peach orchard. He was perhaps best known as the author of that fine work, "Fruits of Ontario," and also of the good