

difference between handling the common grades of the fruit, and the returns, but, with pears, only a few are wanted. Bartlett's are known as the best of the land. Duchess is a favorite of the home market of fine quality; Clapp's, also, are well known, and are good shippers.

TOMATO-GROWING UNPROFITABLE.

That tomato-growing does not pay in the London district, is the conclusion of many members of the branch of the Ontario Vegetable-growers' Association at that city. For three successive seasons the crop has been a failure. This season blight has taken the profit from the tomato crop. Last year, frost did the damage.

This branch of the Provincial organization has gained rapidly in strength since its affiliation, two years ago. There are now over fifty members doing good work, and laboring with a view to make the growing of vegetables assume the position it should hold. As yet, nothing definite has been done to perfect a system of co-operation in selling, but arrangements are being made that will benefit the producers. The growers express a hope that Wednesday afternoon closing of retail shops may not come into general effect, as it would injure the sales of Tuesday's collections, particularly the tender products.

The officers who have charge of the local association are: C. W. Baker, President; B. Bristow, Secretary; and Wm. Bartlett, Jr., press agent.

FRUIT NOTES FROM THE KOOTENAY.

(Special correspondence.)

The season of 1908 has been a year of progress and development, as far as fruit-growing is concerned. More trees were planted than in any previous spring. All of the nurseries were sold out of most of the leading varieties early in the season. Some of the newcomers and inexperienced growers have not paid as much attention as they should to the needs of the young growing trees, but they are fast learning that this is absolutely essential. As Farmer Vincent used to say: "Trees are like children; in the beginning they give us a great deal of trouble and worry, but in the end we are proud of them."

The energy and enthusiasm of the fruit-growers was evidenced early in the spring, by the reorganization of the Kootenay Fruit-growers' Association. They secured a practical fruitman of many years' experience from Hood River, Oregon, to act as manager, signing a three-year contract with him at a high salary, and although for several reasons, that we will touch on later, their operations have not been singularly successful from a financial standpoint, yet they are full of hope, and determined that with a big pull, a strong pull, and a pull all together, they may overcome the difficulties of selling and transportation that now lie in the way.

The strawberry crop, the first fruit crop on the market, was a heavy one. For several reasons it was not as remunerative to the grower as in some former years. The Hood River crop was late, and that threw the berries of Hood River and Kootenay on the market at about the same time. Commission men also complained that the depressed financial conditions on the prairie had a bad effect upon the market. Pickers were hard to obtain, and, as a result, some of the berries became too ripe to ship, and as a consequence were thrown on the local market, causing a glut. The berries shipped through the association netted about \$1.60 a crate. One grower placed letters in the crates as he sent them out, requesting the consumer to write and let him know what kind of condition the berries were received in, and what he had to pay for them. He received seven replies, all stating that the berries were delivered in good condition, prices ranging from \$3.25 to \$3.50 a crate in Winnipeg. Thus the producer only got half the retail price—a rather big leak. Some growers have become rather discouraged, while some of the, perhaps, shrewder ones, have intimated their intention of doubling their area in strawberries, affirming that if handled right they are extremely profitable. And, indeed, this is amply proved by the well-known success of O. J. Wiggen, the Creston strawberry king, who last year sold \$4,300 off four acres.

Cherries were a fair crop, and good prices prevailed. The production of peaches is not large enough to be considered commercially as yet. Plums, prunes and apples are a good crop. The B. C. Fruit and Produce Exchange reports having received a large apple order from Australia, but intimate they will not be able to supply more than about thirty cars. Of this amount the Grand Forks district will supply fifteen cars, being guaranteed \$1.15 per box, f.o.b. Grand Forks.

A large number of settlers have come in from the prairie and from the British Isles; also a few from Washington, Oregon and California. The latter maintain that land can be procured more cheaply in British Columbia, and the better market facilities also appeal strongly. Outside small fruits, the home market is not yet nearly supplied. Nelson wholesalers imported last year forty thousand boxes of apples alone.

The migrating of a large colony of Doukhobors, under the leadership and direction of Peter Veregin, from Saskatchewan to Kootenay, has been the subject of a good deal of both favorable and unfavorable com-

ment. They have located on the east side of the Kootenay River, near Waterloo. Many citizens have regarded themselves as being desirous of in every way assisting the Doukhobors, but that people of that colony do not want. However, the Doukhobors have quietly to work, already have a lot of land cleared, and expect to have one hundred and fifty acres ready for planting next spring. In view of the aggressive and industrious way they are conducting themselves—and, as so far they do not appear to have conspired the fashion plates of the days of our first parents—public sentiment is regarding them in a new light. Peter Veregin intimated to your correspondent that as soon as arrangements could be made, he proposed bringing out a large number more—about seven thousand in all. The great difficulty is to get enough good land in one place upon which to locate the colony.

APPLE PRICES.

Shippers of early apples are meeting with success in their consignments to Great Britain this season. The Duchess, and one or two other varieties, have sold exceedingly well. Some Duchess recently sold in Liverpool and Glasgow at 16s. to 20s., and Gravensteins and Alexanders at 20s. to 26s. per bbl. At these prices there is good money for the shipper.

Because of these successful sales with early fruit, growers are advancing their ideas in regard to prices for winter varieties. The crop of early apples, however, is large, and there are large quantities to be marketed yet, and until these are well out of the way holders may not be able to realize their expectations regarding winter apples. The latter crop is not large, but it is of very good quality, and will turn out a large percentage of No. 1's. For the finest Spies and Kings, some of the co-operative associations are looking for \$3.00 per bbl. f.o.b. It is reported that some sales have been made at this figure, but it is doubtful whether this price will be reached for large quantities, though it is possible that if the associations can hold their fruit for a while they may be able to reach the figure, and more for choice quality. Just now from \$2 to \$2.25 per bbl. would be a fair price for the general run of firsts and seconds. Growers in the Lake Erie belt began picking Greenings two weeks ago, and in a few weeks more the winter-apple season will be in full blast.

Apple buyers are not so keen in making contracts ahead this year for fruit on the tree. The grower had considerably the best of it last season. The buyer is evidently seeing to it that he does not come out so well this year. There has been some buying, however, and many orchards have been contracted for at about 75c. for early and \$1.00 to \$1.25 per bbl. for winter fruit on the tree. This kind of buying is confined to the individual grower. The co-operative associations pick, pack and prepare their own fruit for shipment, and get all there is in it. Taking one season with another, this is the better plan, even for the individual grower.

POULTRY.

It is doubtful whether a strain of 200-egg hens will ever be developed and the ability permanently established. The further one goes in attempting to raise production the harder it is to score an additional notch of progress. The late Prof. Gowell undertook a large order. However, the average farmer's flock might better its production by several dozen eggs a year without necessarily overtaxing the limit of its vitality, and the trap-nest system should be an aid towards improvement.

In an egg-laying competition it may be very clearly demonstrated that by careful breeding very high averages can be reached in a few years of careful breeding and selection, and that these high averages may be maintained for several years. Beyond that the competitions as yet have nothing to teach us. But beyond that the competitions if continued will probably teach within a few years what experienced breeders know—that it is extremely rare for these high averages to be maintained for more than a very few years. Experienced breeders know this just as well as they know the other. They know that in every character of a fowl fixed quality is hard to keep—and especially so in matters which make a drain upon vitality.—[Farm Poultry.

ORGANIZATION OF LOCAL POULTRY ASSOCIATIONS IN ONTARIO.

We have been favored by A. P. Westervelt, Director, Live-stock Branch, Department of Agriculture, Toronto, with the subjoined copy of regulations providing for the organization of poultry associations in the local districts in Ontario, and for the amount of the grant paid to these societies out of the appropriation made for this purpose by the Legislature.

ORGANIZATION OF LOCAL POULTRY ASSOCIATIONS.

The local poultry associations which have received a grant during the past year shall be recognized as such by the Minister of Agriculture, and shall each receive an annual grant of fifty dollars (\$50.00), if complying

with the regulations appended. If these regulations have not been fully complied with by any association, a lesser grant may be made to that association, the amount to be decided by the Minister of Agriculture. In addition, a local poultry association may be organized under these regulations in any electoral district in the Province, where an association is not at the time recognized by the Minister of Agriculture, and shall receive under the following regulations an annual grant of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00); but where there is more than one electoral district in a county, the annual grant shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00), during such time as there is only one recognized local poultry association in the county. Where an association fails to comply with the regulations during any calendar year, a new association may be formed to represent that district.

REGULATIONS.

(1) Application for recognition must be made through the Director of the Live-stock Branch to the Minister of Agriculture. With the application must be sent a copy of the constitution of the association, the minutes of the organization meeting, and the list of officers and directors.

(2) Each association must hold a poultry show between October and February, inclusive, for which it is financially responsible.

(3) The poultry show must consist of at least 300 bona-fide entries, and the prizes offered, \$200, exclusive of pigeons and pet stock.

(4) Proper accommodation, to include cooping, must be supplied for holding the show; also accommodation for lectures, in or convenient to the exhibition room.

(5) A lecturer will be supplied by the Department of Agriculture, to speak on practical poultry subjects, and the local association must use every reasonable means to properly advertise and interest the public in these lectures, which must consist of at least two sessions.

(6) There must be sent to the Director of the Live-stock Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture, application for a lecturer at least two months prior to the date of holding the show, and there must also be submitted at the same time a copy of the proposed classification for the exhibition. Within one month after holding the show there shall be forwarded to him a full report, showing all receipts, expenditures, number of entries in each class, names of judges, and a general report of the exhibition and meetings.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

SCHOOL AND TARIFF QUESTIONS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The feeling seems to be gaining ground throughout the older Provinces of the Dominion that our public schools are mainly responsible for the human drift to the towns and cities; that rural public schools should teach the country children to be farmers, and that the town schools should educate our future men of all other professions. Now, it seems to me that there is already a dividing line between farmers and those of other modes of living, and if the above ideas were acted upon the division would become more deeply marked. Our public-school system should be so arranged that a child would have a foundation for any profession, and then let him follow such courses of study as will enable him to succeed in his chosen profession. This plan would stimulate each industry, by bringing in fresh blood, and would enable every person from either town or country to follow his or her own bent.

It should be the aim of our legislators to place all industries on an equal footing, so that people of suitable natures would be drawn to their choice, no matter where their birth took place.

In the manifesto of the executive of the Dominion Grange, published in "The Farmer's Advocate," it is stated that we pay an average duty of 27% on all manufactured articles, in order to help establish home manufacturing, and they are now after more, and always will be, until the farmer wakes from his lethargy and calls a halt. This duty business is what is sapping the heart out of our farming profession. It enables the manufacturer to pay wages that could not be considered by a farmer. It also attracts the cleverest of our young men to the manufacturing centers, where a few brains can make a competence, and also a fortune, with less labor than could be done on a farm. To balance things up, may on his death bed, leave an endowment to some agricultural college, to educate the farmer's sons and daughters in the mysteries of agricultural science. But we never hear of the manufacturer's sons attending any college to improve their methods.

Now, I have nothing to say against educating the farmer for his calling; the more the better. Free rural-mail delivery will help a great deal. Farmers' institutes, fall fairs, agricultural colleges, nature study in our schools, and last, but not least, our agricultural press—each is doing its duty in that direction. But they cannot place the farming profession where it ought to be under present circumstances. Let us elect members to Parliament who will try to remove these duties gradually, in as short a time as possible. Let schools or colleges be placed in the country to educate our manufacturing element, so that they may progress on their own exertions. My reader will no doubt be