

REPORT FROM DIVISION NO. 5.

In accordance with a resolution passed at a meeting of the "Board," at Owen Sound, and in conformity with your notice of the 6th inst., I submit the following Report on Fruits, etc., for the Fifth Agricultural Division of the Province:—

The strawberry crop was unusually good in the northern part, and a good average in the southern part of the division. Prices ranged from 15 cents to 8 cents per quart. Contracts were made with some of the larger growers for 8 cents for the whole crop. The Wilson is almost the only strawberry grown here, and so long as this variety continues to produce such excellent crops of large, luscious and beautifully coloured berries, people will be slow to speculate with new varieties. From a large lot ready for the market, I selected five baskets, and found them to contain an average of sixty-eight (68) berries to the basket.

Raspberries were less than an average crop. The canes—where I had an opportunity of observing them—seemed to lack vigour; they bloomed freely; but the fruit did not set well, and, when ripe, was much smaller than usual. Probably the extremely low temperature of the air in January last may have so weakened the canes as to prevent the fruit setting freely. The kinds generally grown here are the Philadelphia, Brinkle's Orange, and the Mammoth Cluster. The kinds distributed by the Association have not yet become favourites. The light-coloured one (I have forgotten its name) which was sent out about four years ago promised well for the first two seasons, but during the last two seasons it has not fruited as well as the older varieties. The berries were lighter-coloured than Brinkle's Orange, a little larger, and much finer in flavour. The canes, too, were much more productive at first. There was no fruit this season, although the canes seemed healthier than the Philadelphia or the Brinkle's Orange growing near by.

The purple one, one of Mr. Saunders' hybrids, is disliked because of its colour, and also because the berry crumbles so badly while being gathered.

The one distributed in the spring of 1880 is generally reported as making an unusual growth of wood. It has fruited satisfactorily with some persons. I have not yet seen the fruit.

Currants of all kinds, red, white, and black, did well, the crop being above the average.

Gooseberries never fail altogether in this section, and this year the crop has been very good. The kinds generally grown are Houghton's Seedling and Downing. A few persons grow the English Whitesmith, but this variety does not withstand the peculiar treatment usually accorded to gooseberry bushes by most growers in this locality, and is therefore not a general favourite. The practice here is to gather the fruit as soon as the caterpillars have destroyed the foliage, which will be when the Houghton and Downing berries are about the size of large peas. Such fruit sells readily in this market at from 6 cents to 7 cents per quart, the bushes being allowed to remain without a leaf until the following spring. What wonderful vitality these two kinds must possess to endure such treatment year after year, and continue to yield a fair crop! The Whitesmith, which usually does so well in our rich clay soil, yielded rather below the average this year. It sold readily at from 12 cents to 15 cents per quart.

Pears.—There are but few bearing trees in this neighbourhood, but the quantity produced this season was above the average. A considerable number of pear trees have been planted in this vicinity during the past ten years. Most of them, however, have died, as they were varieties unsuited to this soil or climate. The Flemish Beauty and Clapp's Favourite succeed well, and so will—possibly—a few other varieties; but the present prospects are, that the number of the varieties will be few.

In the southern part of this division, where the pear has hitherto been more successfully grown, the crop was below the average; but the quality—judging by the exhibits at the Cobourg Show Fair made by Mr. Ramsay, Mr. M. Evers, and several others—was equal to the best exhibited at the Provincial Fair. Some 25 or 30 varieties were on the tables, and nearly all first-class samples. Louise Bonne de Jersey, Beurre Gris de Hiver, Beurre Clarigean, Glout Morceau, Josephine de Malines, Flemish Beauty, Howell,