

fungus pests of the orchard and vineyard, the Minister of Agriculture for Ontario has arranged for a series of experiments and demonstrations at eight centres in the Niagara peninsula. The first round were held April 13-21 at the following places: Mr. Murray Pettit's, Winona; Mr. Ambrose Pettit's, Grimsby; Mr. R. Kelly's and Mr. Bartlett's, Beamsville; Mr. J. Fretz's, Jordan; Mr. George Robertson's and Mr. Pay's, St. Catharines; Mr. Jas. Hutchinson's, Virgil; Queenston and Niagara Falls.

The following substances were used in the plum and vineyard experiments: Copper sulphate, and the lime-sulphur wash on dormant vines, and Bordeaux and soda Bordeaux at intervals during the growing season.

Prof. W. Loomhead, of Guelph, has charge of the demonstrations.

### The Price of Tomatoes.

The fight this spring between the tomato growers and the canning factories in regard to the price of tomatoes has to a certain extent ended in a draw. In some sections the growers have given in and have accepted 25 cents a bushel, the price offered by the canners, while in other districts the growers have refused to grow tomatoes for that figure. This has forced the companies to contract with growers living at considerable distances from the factories, with the result that the cost per bushel to the factories will probably be as high as if they had paid the price asked for by the growers.

In a letter received by The Horticulturist early in April from Mr. W. C. McCalla, of St. Catharines, it is made clear that the growers in that section have stuck to their guns. In part the letter is as follows:

For a time it seemed probable that our association members would get contracts totalling 60,000 bushels at 30 cents, and on the strength of this hotbeds were put up and seed sown. Negotiations, however, failed, and as many growers in other districts had contracted at the old price, some of them officers of associations who had pledged themselves not to grow for less than 30 cents, we felt that there was no hope of getting contracts at the advanced price this season. These facts were faced and discussed by our members at a recent meeting. The roll was called and in response every member present (47) reaffirmed his determination not to grow tomatoes for less than 30 cents. Many thousands of seedlings will be destroyed by our members.

While we have not secured the price asked for we feel that by loyally standing together under trying circumstances we have gained much, and are in a good position to continue the effort another year, when, with the aid of a strong provincial association we should be able to obtain our reasonable demands.

#### THE STAMFORD GROWERS.

The secretary-treasurer of the Stamford Fruit Growers' and Market Gardeners' Association, Mr. Thomas R. Stokes, of Niagara Falls South, has written The Horticulturist as follows:

As regards the tomato situation the Consolidated Canning Company is going to outsize places to contract for tomatoes at 25 cents a bushel, supplying crates and paying freight for shipping and in some cases the plants. This must make the price of a bushel of tomatoes 22 to 35 cents. They also pay the weighing. We are wondering what kind of stuff a dead ripe tomato will be after it has been jolted in a wagon and bumped in the cars. It is not likely to be fit to make first class or second class canned goods.

### Items of Interest.

The sum of \$9,700 has been subscribed for a canning factory at Milford, Prince Edward County, Ont., and Bloomfield, in the same county, is talking of a similar factory owned by a joint stock company of farmers.

The county of Huron is said to lead in the number of apple trees—373,613. Northumberland is a good second with 366,381. Leeds has 93,717 and Grenville 68,145.

A cooperative canning company has been formed to operate at Niagara-on-the-Lake, where the steel works have been rented for this purpose. A new building will be erected in the fall.

California fruit growers are receiving 44 to 55 cents a box for oranges. Every box of Canadian apples, grown, graded and packed with the same care and intelligence as Californian oranges, has brought a higher price than this. It would seem then that a man does not need to leave Canada to do a profitable business in fruit, but Canadians do not yet appreciate the lesson taught to Californians by much bitter experience that it pays to export only the best.

The Fruit Division, Ottawa, has received word from British Columbia that there are very heavy importations of nursery stock coming in this spring: as much as six carloads in a single day was received of Oregon stock, all of which was carefully inspected and fumigated. Mr. Thos. Cunningham, Inspector of Fruit Pests for British Columbia, estimates that there will be 500,000 trees imported and planted in addition to the homegrown stock.

A strong deputation representing the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association waited on the Hon. Nelson Monteith, Minister of Agriculture, early in April, and asked for an annual grant of \$1,000, that arrangements be made to include an exhibit of vegetables in the Provincial Fruit, Flower and Honey Show, and that the professors at the Agricultural College at Guelph be requested to conduct experiments in the growing of vegetables. The deputation was introduced by Hon. J. W. St. John, and received a favorable reception. Mr. W. A. Emory, of Aldershot, Ont., and Mr. Joseph Rush, Humber Bay Ont.