

be taken to have the carriers, crates, boxes, etc., in good shape. The matter of pickers is sometimes a vexed question, but if possible it is best to have women rather than young girls and boys.

The question of a market is an important and necessary fact of strawberry culture. The canning factories take a larger quantity each year, but if the plan, which was tried on a small scale last year, namely, the shipping of the berries to Winnipeg and other places at a distance, could be developed to advantage it would relieve the home markets, and have a tendency to make prices better, and the canners less independent. One thing is very necessary if the berries are going to look well and keep well, and that is careful picking. Care must be taken not to pick over ripe berries, nor should they be picked too green.

The first crop having been harvested, it is then a question as to whether it is best to try to save the patch, and get another crop or simply plow it up. If the patch is a good one and not too dirty, perhaps it will pay to cultivate it for another season. The after harvest cultivation should first begin by using the mower to cut the vines off close to the ground, and then the vines or any straw that may be left can be raked up and taken off, and a light furrow run down on each side of the rows leaving them about a foot and a half wide. After this the cultivator can be used, and the weeds in the rows hoed or pulled out. The winter protection should be the same as for the new patch.

There are a great many varieties of strawberries, many of which have proven to be very good. Care should always be taken not to plant a variety, or any number of varieties that have imperfect flowers. It is best to plant about every third row of a perfect variety. Bulletin No. 62, issued from the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, recommends the following varieties: Commercial: Beder Wood (per), Splendid (per), Warfield (imp.), not suited to light soil, Williams (per.), Greenville (imp.), Bissel (imp.), Sample (imp.), Buster (imp.), Domestic: Excelsior (per), Splendid (per.), Senator Dunlap (per.), Lovett (per.), Ruby (per.), Bubach (imp.), Wm. Belt (per.).

Blenheim, Ont.

J. O. LAIRD.

Leamington Onion Fields.

The Leamington district has been bulging into prominence of late in a most surprising way. Situated, as it is, near the western end of Lake Erie, it enjoys a climate milder than that of any other part of Ontario. This gives it a great advantage in the early maturing of vegetables such as tomatoes and muskmelons, and these products of its gardens have made a place for themselves in the markets of all our large cities. For the raising of peaches this district has also become famous. In the town itself the strong odor of tobacco makes itself felt in the vicinity of two large factories, which work up the product yielded by the farmers' fields in the surrounding country. Yet more important than all is the corn crop, which, throughout the whole of Essex County, is brought to greater perfection than anywhere else in Canada. As if all this were not enough, Leamington has become noted for the production of onions on a large scale. While onions are grown to a considerable extent on the high sandy ground close to the town, the onion fields proper are about six miles away, on the reclaimed marsh lands of Pelee Point.

Only a comparatively small portion of the Pelee Point marsh has been reclaimed, and much of this artificially drained land is but low-lying dark clay, not especially suitable for the growing of onions. But there are hundreds of acres there appreciably lower still, in which the level clay is overlaid by black muck to a depth of from one to six feet, with occasional pockets much deeper. On a typical farm that was visited by "The Farmer's Advocate" representative on his mission of enquiry early last December, the muck at the front of the farm was two feet deep. At the rear end, about a mile distant, the depth of the muck was five feet. At any point between, the depth of muck could be safely estimated varying exactly in proportion to the distance from front or back, so uniform is the surface of the underlying clay. The proprietor states that since his occupancy of the farm, the depth of muck has decreased by a foot in consequence of being drained and tilled. The surface of the land is almost exactly level with that of Lake Erie, drainage being secured by a huge ditch or canal which has been dredged out across the point, and out of which the water is pumped at either end into the lake by steam power.

Some six or eight years ago it began to be realized that "The Marsh", as it was locally termed, was great onion soil. Since that time the area devoted to this crop has rapidly increased. As every Ontario onion grower knows, the year of 1911 was one of light crops and high prices. In consequence a much larger acreage was planted everywhere in 1912, and the yield

being unusually heavy, though but of indifferent quality, the crop has been hard to sell at even the low prices prevailing. In the Pelee Point Marsh District about 200 acres of onions were grown, and the average yield is estimated at 600 bushels per acre. There may be slight exaggeration here, as is the case with most estimates, but yields of individual fields varied from 300 bushels to (in several cases) fully 800 bushels per acre. In the early part of December a very considerable part of the crop was still in the hands of the growers, and a problem new to most

required to tend them. They go from farm to farm in succession, and are owned and run as are threshing outfits.

The onion sacks as filled are piled like cord-wood in airy sheds so that the curing process may continue. Before being shipped the sacks are emptied onto large, slatted, sloping sorters, the culls picked out and the rest bagged and weighed, 75 lbs. being put into each sack.

On the farm of John Ross, one of the leading onion growers, the Government, through its county representative, conducted experiments for

some years. The main purpose of these was to determine the most suitable fertilizers to apply for onions on that muck soil. The one conclusion that stands out clearly is that barnyard manure is the best. Commercial fertilizers did not prove as satisfactory as was hoped, though in some instances excellent results followed their use. For the general crop, it may be safely said, that comparatively little of it receives fertilizer of any kind, and yet onions are grown on the same plots year after year.

A Co-operative Onion Growers' Association which works in friendly harmony with the one in Scotland, Ont., has helped its members very materially in the marketing of their crop. Up to December the Association had

shipped 60 car loads of onions, 600 bushels to the car, and estimated that they had 20 car loads still unsold.

As whole farms in this district are suitable for the raising of onions, and as labor is there, as elsewhere, extremely scarce, it follows that only a small percentage of the land available can be devoted to this profitable crop. On the farm of Mr. Roach, indeed 55 or 60 acres were in onions last season, but practically all of this acreage was centered in small plots on shares. The process of sub-division of farms has begun, and lots of five, ten, fifteen and twenty-five acres are now not uncommon.

There has followed another inevitable result. Prices of marsh land are soaring. For property that a few years ago was of little value, \$100.00 to \$150.00 an acre and even more are asked. Some weakening of the boom may be looked for as a result of the drop in onion prices. But the feeling a year ago was well expressed by a coal dealer in Leamington who owns and works ten acres of onion ground in "the marsh", when referring to an offer of \$150.00 an acre that a neighbor had received. "I wouldn't take less than \$200.00 an acre for mine, as I can make that much on it from onions every year."

THE FARM BULLETIN.

Cobourg Horse Show.

Affairs of the Cobourg Horse Show showed a healthy state at the annual meeting recently held in Cobourg. In 1906 gate receipts were \$697 and in 1912, \$4,491; while the total receipts for 1912 were \$10,000. In the past seven years \$20,000 has been spent in prizes, and \$4,100 in improvements. The value of real estate buildings of the show is now \$25,000. The president has communicated with the agricultural societies of Northumberland and Durham with a view to ascertaining the best method of increasing the entry from these two counties.

New officers are:—Hon. President, W. J. Cross; President, J. D. Hayden; Vice-President, R. F. Massie; Secretary, J. H. Davidson; Treasurer, E. W. Hargrave; Directors, Dr. H. C. S. Elliot, F. N. Field, K. C., Percy Clarke, Geo. Plunkett, G. F. Jones, Jas. Bulger, T. M. Hawley, H. Field, J. R. O'Neill, C. E. Speer, W. R. Thompson, J. D. Haig, Geo. Greer, J. B. McColl, J. P. Field, D. Dick.

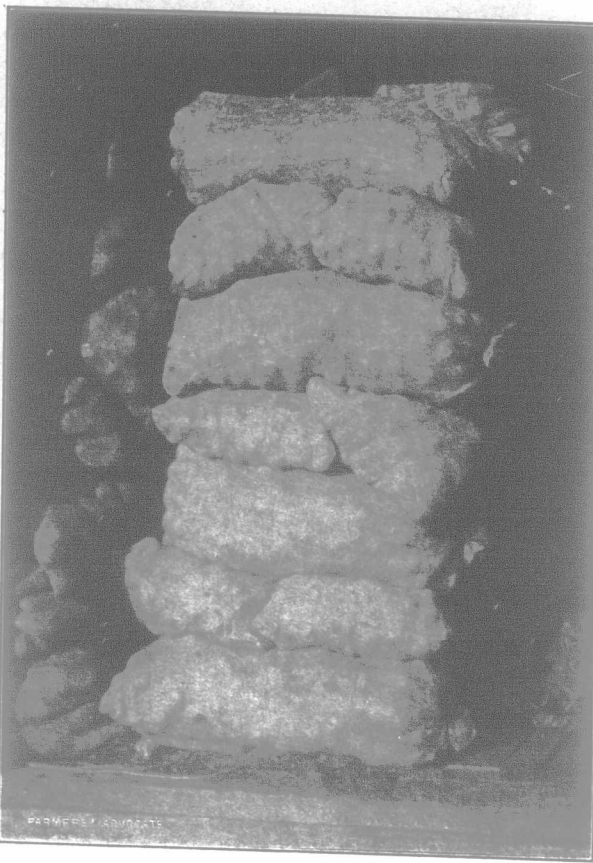
The date of the 1913 show is August 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16.



A Pelee Island Onion Field.

of them, that of winter storage, was being faced.

Cultural methods on "the marsh" differ slightly from those followed generally. Drills are wider, being 16 to 18 inches apart, and seed is sown deeper, an inch and a half being the depth aimed at. In a growthy season, such as last year, the development of top is prodigious. Where the crop was good the tops were three feet high, and so thick that the ground could not be seen. This district is blessed in being yet un-



A Pelee Island Onion Storage Cellar.

visited by that pest dreaded by gardeners, the onion maggot. At the proper time the bulbs are pulled by hand, laid in rows and left to dry until ready for topping. Topping by hand was the rule until lately, but now machine toppers, driven by gasoline engines, do much of this work. These machines top, sort, and bag the onions automatically, a gang of men, of course, being

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