

The unusually dry season was very unfavorable for fall ploughing, but recent rains have improved the prospect in that respect. As for our leading industrial and agricultural exhibitions, they are getting to be very little better than so many circuses. The worst point about them is not merely the horse racing, though that is bad enough, but offering prizes to induce fast ladies to exhibit themselves in the capacity of riding and driving jockies—*equestriennes* is the fashionable term—and the county exhibitions are following suit. I remain, sincerely yours,

CHARLES JULYAN.

Presque Isle P.O., Sarawak, Co. Grey.

AN AMATEUR'S EXPERIENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

DEAR SIR,—You often request your subscribers to express their views and give their experience of horticultural matters in your valuable publication, and although I am only an amateur gardener, I thought the results of my attempts might not be uninteresting.

My residence is in Deer Park, a northern suburb of Toronto, and the soil sandy, I may say very sandy, so much so that I have failed in cultivating the strawberry, because in hot weather the roots are burnt.

Raspberries grow well, and the only fault I have to find is with the shoots, which are as bad as weeds. The crop this year was very abundant and fine, and the canes for next year are strong and ripe. I adopt the system of nipping the top when the cane is about two feet high. Three shoots are thrown out from the top, and when these are about six inches long I nip again, and each of these throw out shoots which are again nipped, and so on. Thus a bushy plant is formed, which I think more easily resists the cold and is not so liable to draggle on the ground, and

I think the productiveness is increased. I have some "Cuthbert's," and have found the canes hardy and productive, and the fruit showy and good. On the 18th August, I gathered large ripe berries on this year's growth of wood. I have the "Caroline;" it is hardy and productive, but the fruit is poor. In my opinion all the cap varieties are dry eating. I have the "Hopkin's" black cap. It is an exceedingly hardy and rank grower and productive—large berries, and as good, so far as I can judge, as the "Gregg," which would not grow with me. I have the "Taylor Prolific" blackberry. Every winter it killed to the ground until last winter, when it was untouched. It was loaded with fruit, but the dry weather in August destroyed them. I picked the first on 10th August. I treat the blackberry and black cap the same way as the raspberry.

Gooseberries were a very poor crop. I do not know the cause, unless the late May frost. I have "Downing" and "Smith's Improved;" both mildew very much.

Black currants do not do very well, the berries drop off. Red currants not productive.

GRAPES.—I have about ninety vines, about one-third Delaware. The rest are Rogers' 3, 9 and 44, Jessica, Purity, Lady, Pocklington, Elvira, Martha, Moore's Early, Brant, Creveling, Alvey, Burnet, Worden, Brighton, Iona and Vergennes; also the Prentiss. I always prune about the first week in November. During the summer I go over the vines once a week and prune the laterals with my fingers. The trellises are ten feet apart and eight feet high, cedar posts, four by four. Three longitudinal slats, two by one and a half inches. The first one foot from the ground, the second five feet, and the third at the top. Between the