

NOTES FROM THE PROVINCES

By our Regular Correspondents and Others

Prince Edward Island

Rev. Father Burke, Alberton

The extraordinarily remarkable conditions for the spreading of orchard pests last year, will make this season an active one for the orchardist. The oyster-shell bark-louse is very prevalent. The whitewash process is being used for its destruction. Many applied the pure lime wash; while this remedy is helpful when applied in November, it is not likely to rid the trees of the pest when applied in spring. Rains remove it too quickly. Whilst there are a few indications of mice ravages, we are not apprised of any considerable damage.

Considerable new planting is being done. We have every hope in the business. In the meantime, spray, spray, spray.

Quebec

Auguste Dupuis, Director, Fruit Stations

Although the blooming of fruit trees in eastern Quebec is 19 days later than last year, it is very promising. Cherries, plums, and apples make a good show, excepting Fameuse, Alexander, Duchess and Russets. According to reports received from several counties, the cloudy cold weather and occasional rain in May and the first 10 days in June, have been most favorable to trees planted this spring.

Small fruits of all kinds are in the best condition generally, but specially promising in the fields and gardens near Quebec city. Market gardeners have suffered considerably by the heavy frosts of the first days in June; their tomatoes and other tender vegetables were destroyed.

British Columbia

C. P. Metcalfe, Hammond

The weather has been exceedingly dry and drought has done little to help the frost-injured crops along. Strawberries are in full swing, but the crop will be a light one, probably not more than 50%. Raspberries are showing poorly, the dry weather causing the frost-injured canes to turn yellow. Blackberries promise a medium crop. Both apples and pears will average a fair crop, some varieties being heavily loaded and others light. Prunes will be a lighter crop than last season.

Proper and frequent cultivation is one of the most important details of orcharding. Most fruit growers hoe and cultivate only when necessary to keep the weeds down, and pay little attention to the loss of moisture. In dry spells, instead of paying particular attention to the retention of moisture in the soil by keeping the surface from crusting with a dust mulch, they allow the cultivations to become less frequent because the weeds do not thrive any better than the trees from lack of water.

Owing to the limited number of nurseries and the rapid growth of the fruit growing industry in this province, fruit growers have had to import most of their nursery stock from the eastern provinces and from the United States. All imported stock has to pass through the fumigation station, and be subjected to examination. If found infested with insect pests or fungous diseases it is destroyed, and the apparently clean stock is fumigated. Now, many of the fruit growers are complaining that the fumigated trees seem to have very little vitality left and some are killed outright.

A provincial cooperative association is be-

ing formed, and is seeking incorporation, for the handling of the fruit and produce of the province, composed of the local associations. The following have joined: Kootenay, Revelstoke, Salmon Arm, Kamloops and Chilliwack, and others have signified their intention of doing so. One rule governing the association is as follows: Each local union, or exchange, shall subscribe for two shares for the first 50 members or fractional part thereof, and an additional share for each additional 50 or fractional part thereof. The idea is to control the output of the local associations under one management. The scheme is perhaps a little premature, as the local associations and fruit growers of the province are hardly educated in the benefits of thorough cooperation, but it is a step in the right direction.

Montreal

E. H. Wartman, Dominion Fruit Inspector

Cherry, plum and apple trees on the island of Montreal bid fair for a crop. The way in which California fruits are appreciated in this city was told on Friday, June 14, by the prices paid for the first car of California apricots, peaches and plums. Apricots sold at \$2 a crate of 12 quarts. This figure means over \$5 a bushel. Peaches brought the same price. Plums, being less numerous in packages, went as high as \$3.55, which is over \$9 a bushel. In years gone by, it was a common occurrence to buy any of these fruits in California for one cent a pound, or 60 cents a bushel for canning. This leads one to believe that some person is making money out of them. This car arrived in excellent condition, and must have been very gratifying to Hart and Tuckwell, who are the agents of the Earl Fruit Co.

Strawberries have been coming in in fair quantities. The Maryland strawberry boxes hold, when level full, 56 cubic inches. The fruit weighs about one pound, two ounces. The man is a hero who ventures to pay \$2,000 for a car of fruit so perishable in its nature. The quality of Maryland berries, and the manner in which they are crated are a credit to that noted berry state.

In many cases, Ontario berries arrive too slack. Purchasers some times have to take 10 boxes out of 60 to fill the balance properly. This calculation has to be made by a shrewd buyer, or he will be out on the deal. To be an all-round expert on fruits and fruit packing, one should see the systems of packing from other countries, and then couple this with his own experience and ability.

Southern Ontario Apples

Editor, THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.—Your readers in southern Ontario will have read the interesting letter on "Apple Growing," by James E. Johnston, Norfolk County, in the May number. With this letter I heartily agree, except upon one point; and even on this one point, namely, the keeping qualities of the southern-grown winter varieties, Mr. Johnston and I are at one practically. No finer apples are grown in the world; few trees are more prolific, and I quite agree with Mr. Johnston that if proper care is taken of the apples, they can be kept fairly well into the winter season; but as a matter of fact, neither farmers nor apple buyers will go to the trouble of taking proper care of these apples, and consequently

there is a comparatively poor market for these apples when northern grown fruit of the same varieties of no better flavor, and not so good looking, are selling at high prices. These are facts that can be verified by hundreds in southern Ontario as well as by the apple buyers.

Under the circumstances I could not agree with Mr. Johnston when he recommends the planting of Baldwins, Spies, Kings, and Russets. Why grow these apples and sell them for a mere pittance! A Brighton buyer reports that he bought several thousand barrels of these winter varieties in the neighborhood of the town of Simcoe, Norfolk County, at 50 cents a barrel last year. Of course Mr. Johnston says very truly, that if proper care had been taken of these apples; if cooperative associations had been formed and cold storage plants established, these apples could have been doubled or trebled in value; but the same care bestowed upon Duchess and Wealthy would certainly yield much larger profits.

Nature has marked out southern Ontario as the early fruit region of Canada, and the area of this early fruit region is comparatively limited. Why then should this early fruit area attempt to compete with the late fruit area that is almost unlimited? My advice to the fruit growers of southern Ontario is to follow the teachings of nature and of experience, and devote themselves to the early and tender fruits and avoid as far as possible competition in late fruits.—A. McNeill, Chief, Fruit Division, Ottawa.

Gardening in Vancouver

M. J. Henry

Ornamental gardening in Vancouver is becoming an established fad. Very few new residences are built without the owners investing from \$5 to \$200 in ornamenting their grounds.

Jobbing gardeners are rushed with work, and command from 35 to 40 cents an hour, and some of them more. A few years ago the owners employed white gardeners to lay out their grounds and then had the work finished with cheap Chinese help. To-day "John" has got on to the job, and wants "allee samee" white man's pay.

Two Leading Societies

The two largest horticultural societies in Ontario are located in Ottawa and St. Catharines. Considering the population in its vicinity the St. Catharines society leads all the others in the province as regards the largest proportionate membership. The Ottawa society started out at the beginning of the year with an ambition to secure 400 members. It already has obtained about 350.

The St. Catharines society already has over 300, and is fast increasing its membership. It is not unlikely that the St. Catharines society by the end of the year will lead all the other societies in the province. This speaks well for the work of Mr. W. B. Burgoyne, the president of the Ontario Horticultural Association, who is also the president of the St. Catharines Horticultural Society, as well as for the work of his capable board of directors, and specially the secretary, Miss L. A. Radcliff.

The increasing demand for perfect fruit has caused fruit growers to give greater care to the picking of the fruit. No other device is as necessary as a ladder that is light, easily adjusted, and strong. Many fruit growers have expressed themselves in the highest terms of the ladders manufactured by the Berlin Woodenware Co. of Berlin. The new illustrated booklet just issued by this firm contains a full description of the goods they manufacture, and it is well worth writing for.