

with the wet weather, and will, if it continues, cause a serious depreciation.

Peaches are also a large crop. Mr. J. L. Hilborn, of Leamington, says: "Peaches of all varieties except those subject to curl leaf are heavily loaded. The Elberta, a variety much subject to curl, has suffered very little where it was sprayed early, but where spraying was done late or not at all many of the trees will probably die."

Small fruits are a heavy crop everywhere except in the eastern portion of the province, where the drought is responsible for the failure.

THE "KING" APPLE.

THE "King" is one of the favorite varieties in the market, but unfortunately it is so shy a bearer on its own roots that it is not at all profitable. It has, however, frequently been noted that by top-grafting it on any vigorous stock it becomes much more prolific.

The Fruit Division, Ottawa, invited correspondence upon this subject, and has received some valuable information. Mr. C. L. Stephens, of Orillia, has the King top-grafted on Duchess, and finds that its bearing qualities are quite satisfactory. Mr. Wm. Read, of Jarrat's Corners, has twelve King trees grafted on Duchess, and reports equally good results. Mr. Judson Harris, of Ingersoll, has an orchard of two and a half acres, the crop from which the past eight years has never brought him less than \$500. Many of these trees are Kings grafted on Russets. Mr. Robert Murray, of Avening, has a number of King trees on their own roots and others grafted on Tolman Sweets, and notes that the top grafted trees are the only ones that give him paying crops.

The experience of these growers and many others goes to show that it would be a very profitable piece of business to top-graft at least some of the early apples to be found all

over Ontario with Kings. The King is an apple that exactly fills the bill as a fancy market variety, as it is of excellent quality, color and size, and well known in the English market. If its only defect, want of productiveness, can be cured by the simple method of top-grafting, it should prove a boon to many people who have vigorous trees of undesirable varieties.

THE GIFT PACKAGE FOR GRAPES.

OUR readers, who have been hoping to see a market in Great Britain for Canadian grapes, may be interested in a view of the interior of a salesroom in Covent Garden, London, England. These old wicker baskets, which have been in use from time immemorial in that country, may look clumsy to us, but owing to their great strength they endure shipments for years, thus avoiding that most serious annual expenditure for baskets, which bids fair to keep the Canadian fruit grower poor. Once when fruit prices were high, the gift package came into use, and was looked upon as a saving of trouble; and so it was, but can we afford the luxury? Very often the money we fruit growers pay the basket maker exceeds our own share of the proceeds of our fruit crop. Indeed, the basket bill of many a fruit grower in the Niagara district reaches \$1,000 in a single season. Is it not time to call a halt and ask ourselves whether, after all, this old world conservative custom of using such fine strong baskets, as are shown in the illustration, is not worthy of introduction into Canada. Such baskets would last for generations, and are returned free by the carrying companies, so that when once a stock is secured the basket expense is over.

Of course in this we refer only to home markets; for it would be almost impracticable to have export packages returned, even if they were so made that they could be nested.