

Vegetable Crops Have Suffered from Drought

THE drought in Ontario during the past 6 or 7 weeks has left its mark on the vegetable crops. Reports from the crop correspondents of the Ont. Veg. Assn. indicate that dry rot and drought have caused a partial failure of the tomato crop, particularly in the Niagara district. As an indication of how seriously the canning factories view the situation, the canners, who usually do not commence to pack tomatoes until the late varieties come in, began to buy and pack all they could get of the early varieties. Potatoes, likewise, were threatened and, due to scarcity, are bringing good prices. Other vegetables also have felt the need of moisture. Showers that fell the latter part of Aug., however, improved the situation considerably. Cauliflower and cabbage are under the average, but may improve, if it rains frequently. Onions will be about $\frac{1}{2}$ a crop of good quality. Root crops are holding their own. Celery, good. Sweet corn, small in ear. The detailed reports are as follows:

OTTAWA DISTRICT

Owing to drought and hot weather, crops are in a peculiar condition. Tomatoes have ripened too quickly, and consequently a glut is on. Corn is not well filled out, but there is lots of it. Carrots, beets, parsnips and onions are still coming in fast and of good quality. Lettuce is in good demand and no supply. Plenty of cabbage, but small, hard and tough. Cauliflower, very scarce. Late cabbage and cauliflower are expected to be a short crop unless it rains soon. Early potatoes are stiffening in price; the late crop is almost a failure, being very small. I have seen or examined quite a number of onion patches, and while they are maturing a little early and small, the crop will be the best that I have seen in years.—T. Mockett.

FRONTENAC COUNTY

Kingston.—Continued dry weather and heat keeps the late varieties of vegetables stationary. No growth is noticeable. Late sown cauliflowers will be a light crop; some show signs of heading, but are of no use. Cabbages will yet head if rain comes soon. Onions are ripe, but are small owing to the check given by blight. The rot in potatoes seems to have been arrested; early maturing kinds may prove a fair crop. Tomatoes are suffering from the extreme heat. One-third of the crop is reported as useless. They are coloring too early, and will not keep long.—Chas. F. Adair, Cataract.

LENNOX AND ADDINGTON

Napanee.—Tomato crop is not as large as was expected; the fruit is not ripening as it should, but there will be a fair crop. Potatoes are rotting badly. Onions are a poor crop, owing to blight. Cabbage is practically a failure, owing to maggot in early spring. Cauliflower, beets, radish and other garden truck will compare favorably with other years.—E. M. Sherman.

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

West Lake.—Tomatoes are short of what was expected. Potatoes are a good crop. Corn not as good as expected.—Stephen Lake.

TORONTO DISTRICT

Humber Bay.—Hot, dry weather has hurt the tomato and cucumber crop, which will be light. These crops are too far gone for rain to do much good. Onions will be of first-class quality, but small in size. Root crops are holding their own. Late cabbage is suffering for want of rain. Early cauliflower are poor. On account of the high breeding of the stock sent out by seedsmen, the foliage is small, scarcely enough to cover the heads. The outlook for late cauliflower is not very bright. Late corn is doing well. Celery is an abundant crop, of good quality, and free from blight. Squash

is a good large crop. Early potatoes are almost all dug. Late potatoes are a light crop, and scarce on the market. Prices have gone up to 80c. a bu., and will reach \$1 by end of the month. Prices for vegetables vary every few days; the following are for Aug. 22: Lettuce, 15c.-20c. a doz.; cucumbers, 25c.-40c. a bu.; tomatoes, 40c.-50c. a bu.; beans, 75c. a bu.; onions, choice white pickling, \$2.25 a bu.; Yellow Danvers, 75c. a bu.; beets, 30c.-40c. a bu.; carrots, 50c. a bu., or 10c. a doz. bnchs.; corn, 5c.-8c. a doz.; celery, 25c.-50c. a doz.; cabbage, large size, \$2.00 a hundred.—J. W. Rush.

Doncaster.—Crops promise to be good. Although onions have blighted considerably, they will be a fair crop. Celery is suffering from blight. Cauliflower, cabbage, carrots, beets, parsnips and cucumbers are doing well. Tomatoes are a good crop, but are showing some rot. Late cauliflower promises to be extra good.—C. Gibbard.

Bracondale.—Crops in general are looking exceedingly well. Early tomatoes are about all over owing to the need of rain; late varieties, such as the pinks and larger kinds, are looking and picking much better than at first expected. Seed onions will be an average crop. Prize-takers, badly blighted, with the sample small. Late cabbage and cauliflower are in fine shape, but need rain to mature nicely. Celery is slightly blighted, but probably will pull through. Prices are good for the summer season.—A. W. Shuter.

PEEL COUNTY

Clarkson.—The early potato crop is good, and prices also good; late potatoes not so good. Sweet corn, a big crop with prices low. Onions on light soil have suffered from drought; on heavier land, looking well.—W. G. Horne.

HALTON COUNTY

Burlington.—Late tomatoes have suffered from drought; the rain of August 20 has helped it somewhat. Early tomatoes were not as heavy in yield as last season but prices were good. Onions will not be more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the crop they were last season, due to hot and dry weather. Transplanted onions are doing better than seed patches. Late potatoes do not promise more than $\frac{1}{2}$ a crop. Celery, about the same as last year—with prices better. Peppers are an average crop, with prices none too good—too large an acreage. Egg plants are a fair crop and paying about the same as last season. Late cauliflower and cabbage promise a good crop, if weather from now on is favorable.—J. A. Lindley.

HAMILTON DISTRICT

Hot and dry weather has threatened the tomato crop, but the heavy rains of Aug. 20 helped it considerably. However, the yield will not be as large as last year. Dry rot is ruining a large part of the crop and, besides, the blossoms and small fruit do not appear to be as prolific as in other years. Potatoes, selling at 90c. per bu., would lead one to believe the crop is a failure; while it may be light in other sections, the yield here appears to be fair. Onions are only a fair crop. Celery is fair. Early cauliflower is a poor crop. Late cauliflower and cabbage will improve after the recent rains.—Jas. A. Stevens.

LINCOLN COUNTY

St. Catharines.—No rain has fallen during the past month, only a few light showers, barely sufficient to lay the dust. Everything is suffering severely. If drought continues the result will be serious in many respects, although, indirectly, good may result. One of the benefits will be in raising the price of tomatoes. Last season tomatoes were a good crop and growers who do not look ahead, or who do not indulge in the pastime of using their brains as much as their hands, were falling over each other in signing contracts for growing tomatoes at 25 cts. a bu. for the season; as a result, all the growers had

to accept 25 cts. The shortage this season will force prices up. The contract price for 1907 should be 30 cts. No grower should sign a contract for less before March 1, 1907.

Melons are ripening, but small in size. Onions are drying up and will only be a half crop, but should cure well. Potatoes, early, are a fair crop; medium, will be of good quality, but under average; while late look like a failure. Carrots, fair. Sweet corn will be very small and short in the ear. Tomatoes have been affected more or less with the black rot; blight is now showing; unless rain follows soon, the size of tomatoes will be small and the crop about one-half of average. The exception to this is that all crops on well-cultivated fields show a fairly good yield and impresses the lesson of the necessity for getting the land in good shape early in the season and following it up with thorough cultivation. Fruit looks fairly well, with a tendency to some small specimens; grapes look remarkably well.—Robt. Thompson.

WELLAND COUNTY

Niagara Falls South.—Garden crops need rain; have had only a few light showers since July 3. Beans are entirely dried out. Cabbage and cauliflower are making slow growth. Celery is suffering much from want of rain. Onions, almost matured, undersized, about half a crop. Lettuce and other salads almost ruined by the intense heat. Corn also shows signs of the drought; early corn, good; late, poor to medium. Cucumbers, fair. Melons, peppers, egg plant, squash, extra good. Early tomatoes, big crop, badly sun scalded, but eagerly bought by canners. Late tomatoes, except on moist, low-lying soil, are suffering badly from dry rot; in fact, some patches will be entire failures. The prospects for a good crop of late tomatoes have decreased 50% since last report. Second early potatoes, $\frac{1}{2}$ crop; late, without rain soon, will be no better. Roots are fair.—Thos. Stokes.

BRANT COUNTY

Scotland.—The onion crop is discouraging, owing to continued hot and dry weather; the crop is ripening fast and the onions have not fully developed. The estimated acreage of onions is 130 acres. Due to dry weather, also, the tomato crop is almost a failure. The potato crop is likewise threatened, and there is also danger to fruit. The rain of Aug. 20 may improve matters.—E. G. Malcolm.

KENT COUNTY

Chatham.—All kinds of vegetables are plentiful. June-planted potatoes are suffering from the drought and the yield will be materially lessened; early potatoes have been fairly plentiful and the prospects are for high prices. Onions are a fair crop, but as the acreage is smaller than usual, there will not be many for export. Sweet corn is very abundant. Cucumbers are yielding well on the sandy soils, but on clay they are commencing to dry up. Muskmelons promise to be a large crop, both in numbers and size. In some sections, grasshoppers are damaging the crops, especially tomatoes, which are very plentiful; the later crop may not be so plentiful. Celery crop looks well and of a fair sample; rain is needed for blanching.—Fred Collins.

LAMBTON COUNTY

Sarnia.—Late potatoes not a good crop on account of the blight; second early were a disappointment, small and only half a crop. Late cabbage are doing well, but not as large an acreage as usual. Second early, plentiful and cheap. Onions, that were left by the maggot, have done well; the acreage is under the average. Tomatoes, just beginning to come in freely; about an average crop. Sweet corn, good crop. Turnips, good, but not grown extensively. Other vegetables usual quantity and in fair condition.—W. A. Broughton.