

On the other hand, when the dealer buys the fruit not packed but just as it comes from the tree "and usually at a big price," he thinks he must pack and sell everything and he puts a lot of trash marked No. 3 on the market, and it is having a depressing effect. This applies to the local market in a large measure. One great fault with the Nova Scotia fruit grower is the tendency to dump an inferior article into the local markets. This grade of fruit should never leave the farm but should be given to the stock. It is the exception and not the rule to find first-class fruit in the local markets.

What is the result of all this? It is that other provinces are sending good fruit into a fruit-growing locality, while that locality is sending its fruit to a foreign market. This is not as it should be. The apples in Nova Scotia were only fair at picking time last fall and the mild winter has not been favorable for keeping fruit in storage, and consequently the output at present is rather over ripe, and in some instances subject to black spot. The No. 1, or first grade, has upon inspection been found good and well packed. The No. 2 grade has been found inferior. Perhaps a definition for a No. 2 would be a good thing.

Toronto Growers' Monthly Meeting

Increasing interest is being taken in each successive meeting held by the Toronto vegetable growers. At a special meeting on March 17, over 70 members were present. Celery growing was taken up by Mr. Harris, the celery king, of Humber Bay. Messrs. Thos. Courtice, J. McKay, Joseph Rush and George Syme took part in the discussion that followed. The cultivation of beets was dealt with by Mr. Albert Shuter. Mr. James Stevens, of Todmorden, gave an interesting talk on growing cabbage, and the shortcomings of the present tariff rates.

The membership of the association has been increased until it is now nearing the 200 mark. This necessitated the election of two more members for the executive board of the provincial association. Messrs. John McKay and Albert Shuter were unanimously chosen. The following correspondents were selected to furnish crop reports during the coming season: Messrs. K. Gibbard for the east, Joseph Rush for the west, and Albert Shuter for the north.

At the next meeting on April 7, Mr. H. Reid will discuss glass in its relation to outdoor work; Mr. James Dandridge will take up the growing of early potatoes, and Mr. James Gibbard will deal with early tomato growing.

New Fruit Growers' Association in Southern Ontario

A number of fruit growers of the Winona-Grimsby district met in February and organized an association, to be called the Southern Ontario Fruit Growers' Association. The purpose of the new organization is to promote the best cultural methods and, by united effort, to seek to apply the principles of co-operation in the packing, sale and transportation of their products. A resolution was passed to the effect that "the members of the Southern Ontario Fruit Growers' Association desire to express their appreciation of the work done by the Niagara Peninsula United Fruit Growers' Association, but as they realize the difficulties that the members of that association in this district labor under in attending meetings at such a distance, they consider that an organization in this district, working in co-operation with the one in the east, would be in the interest of fruit growers in general."

The following officers were appointed: Pres., Jonathan Carpenter, Winona; v.-pres., Geo. Awrey, East Hamilton; sec.-treas., E. M. Smith, Winona. It was decided to have as many directors as there shall be sub-organizations having 10 paid members within its boundaries for the first director; for the second director, 30 members; for third director, 60 members;

for the fourth director, 100 members; for the fifth director, 150 members within the sub-organization, and by whom the directors shall be elected.

Meetings have been held at Stoney Creek, Winona, Grimsby, Beamsville and elsewhere, and sub-organizations have been formed at each of the places. Other sections promise to do likewise before long. The Southern Ont. Fruit Growers' Assn. bids fair to become one of the strongest and most useful organizations of its kind in Canada.—(A.B.C.)

The Basket Situation

The Hamilton branch of the Vegetable Growers' Assn. held a meeting Sat., Mar. 10, and another on Sat., Mar. 17, to discuss the basket situation. It appears that all the basket mfrs. have combined for the purpose of advancing and maintaining a fixed price on baskets for the coming season. Prices have been received from most of the mfrs., and they are all the same, namely: 11 qt. fruit baskets with covers, \$42 per M; without cover, \$34; 6½ qt. grape baskets with cover, \$36 per M; without covers, \$28; berry boxes, \$3.50 per M; 24 box crates, \$11 per M; Lena covers, \$10 per M; wood covers, \$6 per M. These prices are considerably in advance of last year's. On 11 qt. baskets there is an advance of \$7 per M, and on 6½ qt. baskets an advance of \$4. This is a very serious matter, when consideration is given to the large number of baskets required by the members through this district. If the crop should be as large this season as it was last, the members will have to pay about \$25,000 more for their baskets.

The growers as yet do not know what to do, but it is expected they will decide to take legal action as against a combine should the manufacturers not lower their prices.

Important Questions Discussed

The newly formed Southern Ontario Fruit Growers' Assn. held an interesting meeting at Grimsby on Mar. 2. Cooperation, quotations by dealers and shippers, transportation facilities, and the telephone service were ably discussed by leading members of the assn.

In introducing the subject Cooperation in Packing, H. L. Roberts, said that 4 to 10 growers should unite and have their fruit packed in a central packing house by competent men. Then it should be sold direct to the trade or to a local dealer. The telephone question was ably handled by W. H. Brand, H. L. Roberts and S. Culp. It was pointed out that another line is needed between Winona and Jordan, and a committee was appointed to interview the Bell Telephone Co. and see if something could not be done to give a better telephone service between Stoney Creek and Jordan Station.

In dealing with the question of quotations on the various fruit crops, J. A. Livingston pointed out that the fruit business is injured every year and the markets demoralized by dealers under-quoting each other. The general opinion of the meeting was that the dealers should arrange to give uniform quotations. A committee was appointed to interview the dealers regarding this proposal. Transportation facilities were dealt with by E. D. Smith, M.P., who showed that the express rates are exorbitant, and the freight service practically useless. He compared the freight service given in Ont. with that in Eng. and showed that Canadian ry. cos. could give the Canadian growers much better service if they tried. The light and weak baskets, that are being supplied by most of the basket manufacturers also were referred to. It was pointed out that many baskets went to pieces during transportation, and he urged the members of the assn. to make arrangements with the basket firms to supply them with better baskets, even though they had to pay a higher price. In reply, it was

claimed by C. W. VanDuzer that the fruit growers themselves were largely to blame for the inferior baskets that were being made. They did not want to pay high prices, and the manufacturers vied with each other in producing cheap baskets.

Experiments in Orchard Culture

A bulletin on Experiments in Orchard Culture has been prepared under the direction of Prof. W. M. Munson, of the Maine Agricultural and Experiment Station. It contains a report of work done on the farm of Mr. Chas. S. Pope, Manchester, Me., and includes a discussion of cultivation and mulching as methods of treatment for orchard lands; stable manure compared with concentrated fertilizers; the Fisher formula, orchard renovation, top-grafting of orchards, and the effect of cultivation upon the keeping quality of apples.

Results in the "renovation orchard" show plainly that with proper care and food there need be no "off year," even with the Baldwins. As might be expected, better results were obtained from the application of a complete fertilizer than from the use of any one or two of its separate components. The severe winter of 1904-5 injured many trees, but where good cultivation and feeding are practised the trees are rapidly recovering.

About 20 Ben Davis trees which were top-grafted two years ago to Baldwin, Sutton, Jonathan and Spitzenburg, have all made a remarkably strong growth and in some cases fruit buds are developing, but conclusions are not drawn from this work as yet.

Results of the keeping test indicate that while the color of the fruit from sod-grown trees is unquestionably better than that from cultivated trees, there is very little difference in the actual keeping quality of such fruit.

Bulletin 122, giving full details of the work in question, will be sent free upon application to the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station. In writing, please mention this paper.

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I would canvass for THE HORTICULTURIST for two reasons. First, because I believe it to be the best magazine on horticulture I have yet seen, and secondly because it is Canadian, "made in Canada," a text for which I always have a sermon.—(D. C. Crosby, Berwick, N.S.)