

HORTICULTURE

Ontario Fruit Situation

There has been little change in the fruit situation in Ontario since last week. Packers seem to be having difficulty in getting the quality that they expected in their packs. In spite of earlier predictions of a large, clean crop, the amount of really fine fruit is limited. In some districts, all the high grade fruit is already absorbed or disposed of. Apples in the orchard have been sold at prices ranging from 75 cents to \$1 a barrel. A correspondent in Welland County writes: Apples, though not a large crop, were bought from 75 cents to \$1 a barrel.

A report from Brant County states: "Nearly all the apples have been gathered and sold at from \$1 to \$1.25 a barrel." Owing to the ravages of codling moth and fungous diseases this season, packers should pay particular attention to grading. While it may seem possible at time of packing to place a few blemished or fungous-spotted apples in the barrel, they are almost sure to develop considerably and to cause much waste before reaching the export market. The following reports from our correspondents indicate the general condition of things throughout the province:

ONTARIO COUNTY, ONT.

Oshawa.—Apples are nearly all picked. Snows and some greenings are scrubby. Most winter apples are good of fine size and well colored. Fall apples have been very unsatisfactory to handle owing to the hot weather. Trees have taken an upward bound and we hope they will continue to do so. Buyers paid \$1.25 a bbl. on the tree for a few lots. The average price was \$1.—E. L.

HALTON COUNTY, ONT.

Oakville.—The dry weather has shortened the crop and fruit on the trees has developed scab during the past two weeks. The sample has been better than last year. Apples picked in orchard are selling for \$1.25 a bbl. Spys are scarce. Apples have been picked and shipped before properly matured, which has injured the Old Country market. I think that there is a good future for good apples.—W. H. M.

LINCOLN COUNTY, ONT.

St. Catharines.—Fruit prices, especially for fruit for general consumption, have been fairly satisfactory but while lower than during the last two years, there have been no slumps or sacrifice prices. Peaches have sold for good prices, bringing more than the factory price of three cents. Grapes in baskets have brought from \$20 to \$25 a ton. There are average 25 cents a basket, except the Kieffers. The factories do not appear to want these and consequently the price will be low. Apple prices are stiffening. No. 1's bringing \$2.50 and No. 2's, \$2. The season on the whole has been good.—R. T.

BRANT COUNTY, ONT.

New Durham.—The apple situation is not very satisfactory. The weather has been hot and dry and has caused a large amount of dropping. The Greenings have gone bad with mildew. We have packed some of the finest Baldwins that I have ever seen. The Baldwins and Russets are the best of all varieties. There is no change in prices, the crop being now in the dealer's hand. \$1 a bbl. is the price paid on all sides. We are shipping our own. Our crop is 25 per cent. of last year.—B. J. P.

GREY COUNTY, ONT.

Owen Sound.—We have had an abundant crop of fall fruit of good quality and have handled some 6,000 bbls. through our association. We realized from \$1.60 to \$2 a bbl., i.e., here. We also have a fair crop of win-

ter apples. The quality is good but the codling moth has done considerable damage in unsprayed orchards. We will handle from 6,000 to 8,000 bbls. of winter apples at prices ranging from \$1.50 to \$2.75 i.e., b. These are principally shipped to the western markets. The hot dry weather in the latter part of September ripened the fruit rather quickly, although little or no damage resulted from it.—A. B.

NORFOLK COUNTY, ONT.

Simcoe.—The apple crop will fall short of early expectations owing to the hot, dry weather. Our week will be around 15,000 bbls.—J. E. J.

LAMBTON COUNTY, ONT.

Forest.—The fruit business is practically closed for this year. Our association has had a good crop of apples, which were sold for \$2.50 for No. 1's and \$2 for No. 2's, f.o.b. Forest. We did not care to hold apples and speculate on winter markets as so many thinking people out of employment will be disastrous to the fruit trade.—D. J.

Fruit Growers' Program

The convention of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association to be held in Toronto on November 10 and 11, promises to be of even greater interest and value than the many excellent former ones. The following is the program, subject to changes and additions:

NOV. 10—MORNING SESSION

President's annual address.—A. W. Peart, Burlington. Reading of correspondence and appointing of committees.

Report of Standing Committees: New Fruits.—W. T. Macoun, C. E. F. J. Ottawa; H. L. Hatt, O. A. C. Guelph; E. Morris, Fonthill. Co-operative.—Jas. E. Johnson, Simcoe. Transportation.—W. H. Butting, St. Catharines. "Toronto Fruit Market."—H. St. C. Fisher, Queenstown.

AFTERNOON SESSION

"Commercial Spraying of Apple Orchards."—D. Johnson, Forest. Discussion by J. C. Smith, Burlington; J. C. Harris, Ingersoll; Jas. E. Johnson, Simcoe.

"The Apple Maggot and Blister Leaf Mites."—Prof. Wm. Lockhead, Macdonald College.

The Handling of the Strawberry Plantation.—S. B. Buchanan, Jordan Harbor. Discussion led by A. E. Sherrington, Walkerton.

EVENING SESSION

"Results of Orchard Surveys in New York State."—Prof. Chas. S. Wilson, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

"Observation in the Use of Fertilizers in German Orchards."—Prof. R. Harcourt, O. A. C. Guelph.

NOV. 11—MORNING SESSION

"The Commercial Status of Our Standard Varieties of Fruits."—Open discussion by members as to the present value of our common varieties, their susceptibility to disease, etc., on the following: Apples, peaches, pears, grapes, plums.

"Prevalent Fungous Diseases of Ontario Orchards."—"Fire and Twig Blight" and "Peach Yellows."—Prof. M. B. Waite, Pathologist, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

"The Shipment of Early Apples and Tender Fruits to Great Britain."—J. A. Roodick, Commissioner Cold Storage, Ottawa.

AFTERNOON SESSION

"Observations by the District Representatives of the Department of Agriculture of Fruit Conditions": 1. Essex County.—J. McKee, Essex. 2. Prince Edward County.—R. M. Winslow, Pleton. 3. In Simcoe County.—R. B. Mortimer, Collingwood. 4. Ontario County.—J. H. Hare, Whitby. "Marketing Our Fruit."—"Packing."—Elmer Lick. "Packages."—H. L. Roberts, Grimby. "Markets."—E. G. H. Pattison, Winona.

"The Western Provinces as an Outlet for Our Fruit."—J. W. Crow, O. A. C. Guelph.

An Inspector of Packing

The Ontario Department of Agriculture has further aided the co-operative fruit associations the present season, by appointing Mr. Joe Backus of St. Catharines as special travelling inspector in barrel packing. Mr. Backus has had considerable experience along this line and has already been on the road a month.

He reports that almost all of the packers are doing good work. A few exceptions have been noted, but these have not expressed their willingness to let us. Mr. Backus has been able to give them some valuable assistance. The work of instruction will continue throughout the fall until all of the apples have been forwarded to their destination.

At the annual meeting of the Pomological and Fruit Growing Society of Quebec, to be held at Macdonald College, Dec. 2 and 3, it is expected that there will be a large fruit exhibit. The premium list has been issued. Write to the secretary, Peter Reid, Chateaugay Basin, Que., for a copy.

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