

## Prince Edward Island Letter

Rev. Father Burke, Alberton

Looking over the year's operations in fruit growing in this section, there is nothing too cheerful in the retrospect. We came out of winter conditions well last spring; so well, indeed, as to have high hopes as to the result in crop. The blossoming period rather buoyed up these hopes; there was an abundance of flowers everywhere, except on plums. The fixing time opened our eyes to the possibility of only a moderate return in fruit. Even the prospects of those days were not to be maintained; a further falling off occurred. All through the summer season, with its excessive drought, there was a continuous dropping. Worms, despite the regular sprayings, were more numerous and persistent in attack than usual, and contributed to the abnormal amount of falling apples. When all were gathered in, therefore, we had not  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a crop. "Too many blossoms exhaust trees as badly as too much fruit," say the knowing; and this largely is given as the cause of the shortage.

Well-attended orchards are satisfying their owners even this year. A few hundreds of barrels of good apples are worth as much as twice the quantity in full years. The samples put on the markets from our own orchards are very creditable. Gravensteins from N.S. are smaller and scabbier than usual this fall. There is nothing like rigid inspection to elevate the moral standard.

We have had a severe loss to our horticulture in the death of our inspector-instructor, Mr. Richard Burke. He was in his 76th year, but nobody would have thought him half so old. He had taken a deep and more than ordinary interest, in fruit-growing from his early days; indeed, he belonged to a family with a peculiar taste for the studies which horticulture imposes. He was at the beginning of all association work here, and contributed his full share to the spread and maintenance of the sane ideas it inculcated.

Who can take his place with the same acceptance? He had knowledge and could impart it; he had unbounded faith in the fruit interests here, and could inspire others with it; he understood his official duties and fulfilled them scrupulously; and still did not bother himself unduly with the letter which killeth, but never interpreted the spirit of the ordinances under which he worked, and, therefore, helped the community he served and the administration whose servant he was. He was a model man, a lovable scientist, an honest official, a public-spirited and self-sacrificing citizen, and a model husband and parent. Representing the horticulturists of P.E.I., we are glad to acknowledge his worth before our fellows of the Dominion. May he sleep well!

The winter meets are on for this month. Amherst leads off, Dec. 3-6; P.E.I. F.G.A. meeting is posted for Dec. 10 and 11 at Charlottetown; and N.S. F.G.A. at Wolfville on 13 and 14. Those meetings are likely to be the most important in the history of the assns. holding them. The work done and left undone, at Ottawa, will likely occupy an important place on the Agenda paper. It is well that a strict reckoning be kept of all these conventions.

## Nova Scotia Letter

G. H. Vroom, D.F.I., Middleton

Nearly all apples are safely housed. Shipments continue brisk from Halifax to the Old Country markets, and satisfactory returns are coming back for good clean fruit. The famous N.S. Gravenstein is in disgrace in the foreign market, due to the fact that it is badly spotted this season; consequently, the price is low.

There is an improvement in the N.S. pack this year. The better thinking dealers and growers realize the importance of getting their fruit on the market in good condition. There are a few, however, who are slow to learn.

Several fines have been imposed for violating the Fruit Marks Act.

Up to Nov. 17 about 140,000 bbls. of apples have been exported. The steamship people handle the barrels carefully at the docks, and few packages are broken or damaged. Prices in the local markets range from \$1.25 to \$2 for No. 2, and from \$2.50 to \$3.50 for No. 1, according to variety.

## British Columbia Letter

C. P. Metcalfe, Hammond

Orchard trees are going into winter quarters in good shape. Light frosts some weeks ago ripened the wood and defoliated the trees. It is a good sign in this province to see the foliage drop early, as it usually hangs on till late in the season, indicating that the sap circulation is still going on, and that the wood is not ripened and prepared to withstand the sudden advent of winter weather.

The first winter spraying with double-strength Bordeaux will soon be in order, to catch the spores of fungous diseases; viz., "dead spot" or "bark canker" (*Gloeosporium malicortis*) on apple trees, and the "brown rot" (*Monilia fructigena*), in plums and cherries. Previous to the spraying all mummied and decayed plums should be gathered, and either burnt or buried, to prevent the spread of the spores. Spraying is not generally practised in this province, but is coming to be recognized more as the benefits to be derived become more apparent. If thorough inspection of the orchards were made by the provincial fruit pest inspectors, backed up by practical and systematic demonstrations of spraying, covering 2 or 3 years, on the part of our Provincial Govt., it would assist greatly in the education of fruit growers.

A special meeting under the auspices of the B.C. Fruit Grs. Assn., was held in Vancouver, on

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