

Danish, Irish or New Zealand, why should not the export of butter pay? As compared with New Zealand, we have a decided advantage in nearness of market. Personally, we believe it would be a good thing for the creamery business of Canada if we "got down to an export basis," as we should then have to produce goods which would compete with butter in a free trade market, and compete with butters made in nearly every dairy country of the world. If the quality is not good we shall hear about it in a very emphatic manner. Canadian butter has deteriorated since we began making almost entirely for home markets, because almost any sort of stuff that looks like butter can be put off on the Canadian consumer, who, in many cases, does not know good butter from bad, but takes whatever the shopkeeper recommends. Not so the English consumer. The Englishman and the English woman both have an uncomfortable habit of "sticking up for their rights," and of insisting on receiving what they pay for. Both the Canadian and the American creamery industries will be all the better for this invasion of foreign butters. Nothing else, it would seem, will cause our people to "get down to brass tacks" for improving the grade of butter turned out of creameries. All the evidence available points to the fact, that while a lot of good butter has been made during recent years, there has also been a lot of poor stuff manufactured, particularly in Western Ontario. So long as this butter could be sold for a good price, it was impossible to obtain much improvement. The position of such creameries is similar to that of a woman who makes inferior butter and trades it for groceries, dry goods, and tobacco at the country store. So long as the storekeeper takes her butter at the regular price (which he, in most cases, is willing to do, so long as she "takes trade") there will be no improvement in the quality of butter made on that farm. I have heard country merchants say they take in butter allowing full market price for same, then dump it into a shoe box, salt barrel, or any other handy receptacle, and finally sell it for whatever price they could get—perhaps half the price allowed in trade. They say they can better afford to do this than offend a customer by faulting the butter, or paying a lower price. The custom at the store is worth \$200 to \$500 a year, and the profit 25 to 100 per cent. Some of our creameries then appear to be just a step in advance of the old system of bartering butter for tea, coffee, shoes and clothing, so far as effect on quality of goods is concerned, and it is because of this that we are inclined to think, a little competition in an open market will do our creamery business some good. While twenty-cent butter may appear as a horrible nightmare after the run of excellent prices we have had, it might be a blessing in disguise so long as it did not continue too long. A run of hard luck is a good thing for a man or a nation if he, or they are made of the right kind of stuff. In the same issue of the trade journal already referred to, a case is referred to of a man who had failed a number of times in business, but who was eventually successful and retired. On being congratulated he said: "You never were more mistaken if you suppose that my retirement has brought me happiness. Why you may believe me, I feel like a fish out of water. I never was as happy as when I was in the midst of my troubles, as the pleasure I experienced in puffing out of them was supreme."

The writer commends the foregoing to our butter and cheese makers who are feeling a little anxious at the present time when things are looking somewhat blue, especially at the marketing end of the dairy business. A little extra skill in making, a little more attention to the "leaks" in the business, and 1914 may be as successful as any season we have had. Be of good courage. The dairy business is still on a sound basis in spite of "knockers."

O. A. C.

H. H. DEAN.

HORTICULTURE

Currants and Gooseberries.

Currants and Gooseberries form the subject matter of a bulletin recently compiled by E. F. Palmer of the Fruit Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. This work is well illustrated and written from a practical and commercial standpoint. While other kinds of fruit have been planted extensively and sometimes in districts unsuited for their growth, gooseberries and currants, not overly particular in their choice of soils, have in many cases been omitted even from the home garden. As a remunerative crop berries are coming to the front and with the growth of population and increasing consumption of fruit per capita the future is not unfavorable. Jam factories now require immense quantities of berries to meet their orders and they are doing much to make consumption steady rather than seasonal, thereby augmenting the demand. The exposure with a rich, well-drained clay loam is probably the currant and the desir-

of the gooseberry are similar excepting that a little heavier soil and a little moisture might be wisely chosen. If planting can be done more conveniently in the fall than in the spring it is not untimely for they usually winter well and start growth early in the following season. The distance of planting varies somewhat under different circumstances. Where they will only be cultivated one way, four feet apart with rows six feet apart is recommended. Currants are often given a little more room, especially the black currants which are strong growers. If it is intended to cross-cultivate the land, 5 feet apart each way will be found a good distance to set the plants. One prominent black currant grower in the Niagara

District allows the rows to be 7 feet apart and after every third row is left a nine-foot space to facilitate spraying with a power sprayer.

The usually recommended varieties of red currants for Ontario are: Cherry, Fay, Red Cross, Victoria, and Wilder and to this list Greenfield and Perfection might be added. The Cherry and Fay are most extensively planted in Ontario. They are similar in appearance but the stem of the Fay is longer than that of the Cherry, thus facilitating picking. In Gooseberries, Pearl, Downing, Red Jacket, Smith's Improved, of the American varieties, and Whitesmith, Industry and Keepsake of the English varieties are generally considered to be the best.

Canadian Fruit Crop Prospects.

Outlook Good in Nova Scotia.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

This Spring the weather conditions in the Annapolis Valley are quite the reverse of last season, when with an April like June, and a May like March, apple buds were prematurely forced into bloom, only to be destroyed by the cold wet weather. This April has had but few warm days, and the trees will be some weeks later in putting forth leaves and blossoms. Other things being equal, past experience has shown that this kind of a season is most favorable for starting a good apple crop. All varieties show a large development of blossom buds, and this is particularly noticeable, as would be expected, in orchards that were very low in production last year. Plums, pears, cherries, etc. all give promise of a full bloom as this, for plums especially, should be the bearing year. This spring has not been favorable for strawberry fields that have not been carefully mulched. With no snow on the ground, and alternate freezing and thawing right through April, many plants have their roots broken, or are thrown entirely out of the ground. Mulching like spraying, pays big dividends seven years out of eight, but too many are ready to take their chances that each year will be the exception. Not many trees will be planted this

Lambton District Optimistic.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In this district at the foot of Lake Huron the apple, plum and cherry trees are all in good shape, and show prospects of a good crop. As for peaches it may be said that they will be a failure here this year, as the prospects now are poor indeed. I do not think it was the heavy frosts in February that killed the buds so much as the late, warm fall which did not allow them to harden and mature before the winter set in. Strawberries and all the smaller fruits look very promising, and unless the season becomes extremely unfavorable the fruit crop will be up to the standard. Much more spraying has been done on the bare wood this spring than in former years, and on the whole the outlook is pleasing to the grower.

Lambton County.

A. J. CLARK.

Grimsby District Peaches Likely Gone.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Although it is a little early yet to feel assured on one's predictions of the 1914 fruit crop and hence unsafe to place too much reliance on any one opinion, still with the swelling and bursting of the buds always comes a feeling to discuss the outlook and to hazard an opinion varying from the one extreme of "not a peach bud alive in the district" to the other non-committal one of "well, I dunno!" I am going to try to keep between these two extremes and the reader can classify my opinion as he likes.

Peaches are the pivotal crop and the outlook is for a very small one this year. A day or two ago, I travelled from Winona to Jordan, went through several orchards, and did not find one live peach fruit bud. I was not in any orchard within a quarter of a mile of the lake shore and consequently have heard since, that there is where the live fruit buds are. That may be so, but even if so, the crop will still be a very light one—Wolf! Wolf!—I am afraid it is here this year and it will be a big black one for the grower who has all his eggs in one basket.

Other fruits, I think are all in good condition. Berries especially. The strawberry patches that I have seen are in excellent condition and promise a good crop. Raspberries and blackberries, although not far advanced, seem to be all right. Currants and gooseberries appear excellent, which is only natural, as last year was an off-season for them. Cherries, both sour and sweet, give promise of another excellent crop. Plums and pears will range from poor to heavy according to variety. Last year there was a heavy crop of both these fruits and consequently many varieties, such as Lombard plums, which are alternate bearers will produce a light crop this season. On the other hand the Reine Claude variety and Gages generally look good for a medium to heavy crop. In pears the standard and most extensively planted variety, the Bartlett, will at best be a medium crop, whilst Gifford and Anjou are full of fruit buds. Kieffer orchards vary considerably in prospect.

Apples are not extensively grown here, and I am not familiar enough with their prospects to give an opinion. Grapes are not advanced far enough, the buds having just begun to swell.

Lincoln Co., Ont.

W. R. DEWAR.



Two Good Youngsters.

Included in the sale of Holsteins at Kerwood, Ont., May 22nd, the property of R. V. Demaray. See advertisement.

spring, and nurserymen are having trouble in disposing of their two and three-year-old stock.

This is surely the day of the power sprayer, and perhaps no horticultural district in Canada can boast as many in proportion to its acreage as this Valley. It is certain that no district has any greater need of them, judging by the history of the past two seasons. Fully one hundred and fifty new powers have been sold here this spring, and as the growers are learning which make gives the best satisfaction, much better results can be expected. Of all losing ventures on the farm a poor power sprayer is perhaps the most wasteful of money and temper, for the farmer is not only out the price of his machine, which for the really good ones, is half that of an automobile, but, if the season is like last year loses his crop as well. We are beginning to learn that the time for spraying is very limited.

The United Fruit Companies have just closed the most successful year since their organization. Forty-five co-operative packing companies are now working, all but five or six marketing their fruit through the Central Association. Over 200,000 barrels were handled this past year out of a total crop for Nova Scotia, of about 500,000, and within three years eighty per cent. of the whole crop will probably be marketed by the growers themselves through their own organization. This Company is now giving considerable attention to the buying end of their business, and flour, feeds, seeds, spraying pumps and materials, wire fence, paint for farm buildings, etc., are being bought and distributed to the subsidiary Companies.

Nova Scotia.

MANNING FELS.