

REPORT OF THE FRUIT CROP FOR 1892—THE COUNTY OF LAMBTON.

By B. GOTT, ARKONA.

Believing that a report of our fruit crop may be both profitable and interesting to others, I attempt, as briefly as possible, to offer ours for 1892. In the first place I may say that we have had a very peculiar season in three or four particulars. (1) Contrary to what we expect usually to take place, we had this year little or no frosts late in May or again early in September, and the consequence is we have had a far longer season than usual. (2) The great extremes in the rainfalls, it being very heavy in June and July and scarcely any for many weeks after. (3) The early and very severe attack of fungus upon the leaves and fruits of our trees and other damaging influences causing us severe injury and great loss. In consequence of this attack our pears and apples in many cases were almost a total ruin, the damage falling on pears the heaviest upon Flemish Beauty; and upon apples, the heaviest upon Early Harvest, Snow and Northern Spy. (4) It has been noted for one of the most beautiful, charming and enjoyable Octobers in our remembrance. We are thankful for all favors.

Strawberries and raspberries of almost all sorts were this year the finest and most abundant ever seen in this county. They were the most admirable in quality and beautiful in form and color, and to the grower or buyer all that could be desired. The sorts of the first fruit mostly used here this season were Crescent Seedling, Wilson, Captain Jack, Daniel Boone, Manchester, Bubach No. 5, Jessie, Sharpless, James Vick and Eureka. All were good, but the three or four last named were extra fine and beautiful.

Of raspberries, Cuthbert is the one sort having the most good qualities and consequently most to be depended upon for a good satisfactory and splendid crop. Besides which, however, we use Turner, Highland Hardy, Shaffer, Marlboro, Golden Queen, Hilborn, Souhegan and Gregg and some others not so noted.

Never was any sable queen decked out in her most beautiful gems so gorgeous as were our blackberry bushes this season, for whole acres of plantation the sight was the most astonishing of the kind, of anything ever seen here. The fruit in the greatest abundance was without a fault, and grandly filled an empty niche just at the proper time. The one sort standing high above all others here for market planting is the Snyder, which has more good qualities than any other so far tried.

Currants of all colors were good and very plentiful, but it is surprising what a quantity of these fruits the markets can be induced to take and use. For some purposes nothing can be substituted, and therefore we must seek by the best means to perfect our currants for these purposes. The sorts used are for Red: Ruby Castle, Red Dutch, Cherry and Fay's. For White: White Grape and White Dutch; and for Black: Black English and Black Naples. Nothing new appears in these lines to merit special mention.

Mulberries and Dewberries, although much lauded and much written about, are as yet amongst the doubtful investments. Neither Russian mulberries or the most approved dewberries have ever returned in this county the interest of the outlay.

With gooseberries it is quite different, and the crop this year was very large and varied. The quality was fine, and the market good. The sorts mostly used are Houghton, American Seedling and Downing, with some Smith's Improved. But if we we could grow the Pearl, as I saw it growing this summer in the eastern counties, it would at once be generally adopted.

Apricots are another doubtful investment. The Russian sorts have been extensively planted here and for some time, but I have yet to hear of the production of a single sample of their much and eagerly desired fruit. If we could only get them what would we care about the loss of the peach or plum either. But it appears it is not at the present at any rate so to be. Climatic conditions utterly and totally forbid it and who can strive against fate? Not one.

The old Kentish Red cherry, so old and familiarly used for so many years, is now