

been sorry ever since, as they are paying \$5.50 for the same quality now, and the price is likely to advance to \$7.50 before June. However, we may learn a lesson to benefit us in our future buying and caring for our fruit.

It has been a remarkable season—unusually mild all winter. Still apples never kept better. It was not an unusual thing to turn out barrels of certain varieties on March 1, and not find one decayed specimen. This firmness that has caused such good results must have been due to the season—shower and sunshine when the apple needed it.

Our market is well supplied with oranges, bananas, grape fruit. Strawberries are arriving in limited quantities at 40 cts. a qt.

## Our Letter From Nova Scotia

G. H. Vroom, Middleton, N.S.

In 1904-5 the winter was very severe, and deep snows covered the ground from Nov. until the end of March. This was a great benefit to the grass land, and insured an abundant crop of hay. It was not so good, however, for the fruit trees. Mice worked under the deep snow and destroyed the tender bark of the young trees, and hundreds were lost in this way. The heavy snows piled on the branches of the large bearing trees, and many splendid orchards were injured very much.

The winter of 1905-6 has been very different. The falls of snow have been very light. In fact, only on a few occasions has their been enough for sleighing. Alternate freeze and thaw has been the condition of the weather. I have been watching the effect of this on the fruit trees, and have gone carefully over a large number. Up to date I can see no bad effects. There are no signs of winter killing, and there is an abundance of blossom buds which look healthy and strong, and indicate a full bloom this spring. It is within the bounds of reason to expect N.S. to export over 500,000 bbls. of apples this coming season.

Mice have done little or no damage to young trees. In fact, it has not been a favorable winter for them to work on account of there being no snow to shelter them.

There seems to be a strong feeling among fruit growers to produce a higher class of fruit in future, and pack it better than in the past. This is laudable, for there is great need of improvement in N.S. There is, also, a growing interest in spraying, and it will be carried on extensively in the Annapolis Valley this spring. I understand the spray pump vendor has been doing a good business. Pruning is being attended to, but the weather is too cold and the soil too wet for cultivation. There are, perhaps, 3,000 bbls. of apples in N.S. for export yet. These are Nonpareil.

## Preventing Potato Rot

Ed. THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST:

In the December number of your paper I notice an article entitled "Results of the Potato Rot." The article I mention tells of the prevalence of the rot in Ontario, and the great loss resulting therefrom. All of this is true, but in the article there is a statement with which I take issue. It is the plea that the farmers of this Province must learn to use more commercial fertilizers rather than barnyard manure to prevent rot. I have read also in articles from other writers that barnyard manure was the cause of "scab."

I have only an acre of land, and the most of that is in fruit, but I always try to grow my own potatoes (being part Irish). There are two plots of land on which I have grown them alternately except the last two years. The dividing line between these two plots is a row of grape vines. Part of the ground has had three crops of potatoes. It takes a bushel of potatoes to plant these plots, that is, I plant one bushel each year. Every year I manure the ground

with barnyard manure—all we can possibly plow in, for as I keep a horse and a cow I have all I know what to do with. The last two years the potatoes have been on the south side of the row of vines, and on the south side of this potato patch is a row of large apple trees shading part of the land, and up the centre is a row of plum and cherry trees and a grape vine. This row used to be all plums but some of the trees were frozen out during the winter of 1903-04. Notwithstanding all these things being against securing a good crop, I had 12 bushels of fine saleable potatoes and a barrel of small ones and those with green ends. Only two rotten potatoes were found in the patch.

I attribute the absence of rot to the sprayings that I gave them. They were sprayed with Bordeaux on the following dates: June 20, July 5, July 10, July 21, Aug. 7, and Aug. 23. They were of the American Wonder, Delaware, and one of the Carmens, the No. of which I do not know, varieties. The Carmens were best in yield but a little rough; all were of good quality but Delawares were best.

The point that I wish to make is that since the ground was manured heavily every year for the last six years, why did not these potatoes rot or scab, if barnyard manure causes these troubles? I still have them in my cellar except those we have used and there is no sign of rot. I firmly believe that it was the spraying that saved them, for other patches on each side where nothing was used except a little Paris green for the bugs, were very badly affected with rot.

J. FRED. SMITH,

San Jose Scale Inspector,  
Glanford, Ont.

## Toronto Growers Meet

That the interest of the Toronto vegetable growers in their organization is not waning was shown by the large attendance and the interesting discussions that took place at their meeting at the Albion Hotel on April 7. Glass in its relation to outdoor work was discussed by H. E. Reid; Jas. Dandridge dealt with the best method of growing early potatoes; and the most satisfactory handling of tomatoes for an early crop was taken up by Jas. Gibbard, Sr.

It was claimed by Mr. Reid that the chief drawback in attending to greenhouses in connection with outside gardening is the difficulty of securing labor. For the greatest profit, he said, attention should be given to glass. When the two are run together the outside rush commences when the crop from the houses is ready for market, and in many cases it is not put on the market in the best condition. It is only by strict attention to the minor points that a profit can be reaped from greenhouse crops.

For producing early potatoes Mr. Dandridge explained that his seed is started in the hot bed or in the greenhouse about April 10. The potato sets are placed close together and covered with light loamy soil. The buds on the bud end, or on the end opposite where the roots are attached, commence growth more readily and are the best for an early crop. If started in a hot bed or greenhouse they have buds 1 or 1½ in. long, and a mat of fibrous roots by May 1, at which time they can be put in the field. He recommended planting them 12 in. apart in rows 30 in. apart, and covering them with 3 in. of soil. The early Ohio was mentioned as being the best variety for early crop.

Suitable soil was mentioned by Mr. Gibbard as a chief requisite in producing early tomatoes. Plants set on dry loam produce fruit at least two weeks earlier than those on heavier soil and wetter location. Earliana and Earliest of All were mentioned as two of the best varieties. Mr. Gibbard said that the seed should be sown in flats about Mar. 15, and the young plants pricked off to other flats as soon as they are large enough to handle. Before the plants become spindly they should be pricked off again to individual berry boxes and put in the cold frame. About June 1 the plants should be set in the field in rows 4 ft. apart

and 12 to 15 in. apart in the row. Each plant is supported by a lath, and all side shoots picked off. When the plant reaches the top of the lath the tip is nipped off. Shoots should be removed and the tying attended to at least once a week. It was claimed that this method would result in ripe fruit 10 to 14 days earlier than could be had from the old system with the plants lying flat on the ground.

Owing to a rush of work on the market garden during May and June, the members decided not to have meetings during those two months. The next meeting will be held July 7. The executive will arrange for speakers and subjects for that date, and also will arrange details for their annual excursion early in Aug.

## Hamilton Growers Meet

The membership of the Hamilton branch of the Vegetable Growers' Association has increased beyond 50. At a recent meeting W. A. Emory was appointed to act with R. H. Lewis on the provincial board. Sec. Stevens wrote THE HORTICULTURIST that the membership would soon entitle them to three directors.

Quotations from basket manufacturers in New York showed that the firm could not supply 11 qt. bskts. Owing to the lateness of the season they claim it will be impossible to have the larger baskets laid down as cheaply as the 6 qt. bskt. The association decided not to place an order with the firm. A committee was appointed to consider the advisability of forming a joint stock company for the purpose of manufacturing baskets for the members.

Two canning factory promoters were present and asked the growers to take stock in a new company to be known as The Producers' Canning Co. No stock had been subscribed, and the members decided to go no further than to promise a supply of first-class produce if the factory was put in operation.

At a meeting on Apr. 17, Sec. J. A. Stevens was appointed purchasing agent. This has resulted in a saving of 9% to members on their baskets, and should help to swell the membership. Since this step was taken several growers have joined.

## Fruit Conditions in Lambton

D. Johnson, Forest, Ont.

In Lambton County there are hundreds of acres in fruit made up principally of small orchards containing from one to 10 acres each. The greater part of the fruit is grown in the north along the south shore of Lake Huron and in the vicinity of Forest, Thedford and Arkona. In that section some have gone extensively into apples, plums, pears and berries, and these, when properly cared for, have proved to be very profitable. Peaches have been found profitable in the neighborhood of the lake. Such varieties as the Alberta, Smock, Rareripe and St. John suit best. Lambton orchards have so far escaped the ravages of the San Jose scale, but are badly affected with fungus diseases such as blight and spot. These pests greatly reduce the value of the fruit every year, unless carefully sprayed. If Bordeaux mixture is intelligently applied excellent results follow. However, many of the farmers are discouraged with their orchards, and look upon spraying as an added expenditure, although the returns do not warrant it. When they have a crop there is no demand, they say, and when there is a demand they have no fruit.

The greatest stimulant that could be given the fruit growers here, or elsewhere, would be a good market. If the Government would spend some of the money in helping the fruit growers to get in touch with the consumers instead of lavishing it upon railroads, they would greatly help an industry that would be a credit to the country as well as a source of great revenue to the railways, which would, at the rates now charged, reap almost as great a reward from the labor and skill of the fruit grower as the producers themselves.