

EXTENSION OF FRUIT GROWING.

mental principle of business, that cheapness increases consumption, and enables him to make larger profits by handling larger quantities with despatch.

Then we must not lose sight of a probable market in England for our grapes. I make no doubt whatever, but that with proper cold storage we can lay our grapes down in Britain in perfect condition, and further; if the market there is fully tested we shall be able to cultivate a taste between the middle and working classes of Britain for our grapes, on account of their cheapness and good quality. Malaga and Black Hamburg, and other fancy grapes usually offered for sale, are too dear for these people to use freely. If we can once get these classes to like our grapes we have a market for all we can grow in Ontario. I have thus far spoken chiefly of grapes, mainly because we here grow them largely, and seem to have the soil and climate suitable to their growth in the greatest perfection, and because many are in doubt as to the future. Before I finish speaking of grapes, however, I want to say, that even this year with all its enormous crops of all kinds of fruit, grapes paid a profit of at least \$30 per acre net, over all expenses. Where is the farm crop that did it?

Taking up other fruits in their order, no one could complain of the price of strawberries during the past season, and yet this is a fruit more easily overplanted than any other, for the simple reason, that they can be grown over the whole country with success. Strawberries have been overdone, but now there are not enough planted. Raspberries have never yet, on good soil, failed to return a handsome profit; they paid less in 1893 than last season. It has always been a mystery to me why raspberry growing is not overdone. This fruit is more easily and cheaply grown than almost any other,

and succeeds over a wider range of territory, and yet it has not yet ceased to be an extremely profitable crop. Doubtless the imposition of a duty by the U. S. government will strike a blow at the trade, though it seems to me I have heard somebody say that the consumer always pays the duty, when goods come into Canada, and if this be so maybe the consumer of our raspberries in the United States will somehow help us out.

The currant is a fruit more likely overplanted for market than any other, in my opinion, as it is not a fruit so universally used as other fruits, and, moreover, it is so cheaply and easily grown. Another year or two is required to speak with certainty about this fruit. I am inclined to the belief that the great scarcity of money had more to do with the low prices of currants last year than anything else; the crop the year previous was nearly or quite as heavy, but owing to money being more plentiful and other fruits dearer in price, currants paid splendidly. Even last year my Fays turned me \$200 from two acres, clear over all expenses of picking and baskets, though like the rest, I suffered with the hitherto most profitable Raby Castle and got no profit out of them.

Blackberries will always be a profitable crop on land best adapted to them, in my opinion, as they come at a season when fruit is usually scarce, there being only early peaches to compete with them, and, moreover, there is not a very wide range of land suitable to this fruit, ripening as it does three years out of four during a prolonged drought.

As for peaches, I well remember the season of 1880, when Crawfords sold for 25 cents per basket and less, and everybody prophesied the absolute ruin of those who had been foolish enough to invest large sums in peach plantations, and yet, after 16 years of steady planting,