

a surprise, and as was the case with apples due much to the unusual size of the fruit. I have particularly in mind the fruit from a block of Duchess growing in the orchard of Mr. J. S. Freeman. I have several hundreds of trees of this variety which I consider have borne several large crops of extra fine fruit, but never have I handled or seen such prodigies in size as were these fifty barrels of Mr. Freeman, many of which were well colored. A selection from them was exhibited at Toronto, Ottawa, London and other places and was successful wherever it went. For many years we have not suffered as we did this, from heavy winds, which destroyed a considerable portion of the crop, besides seriously injuring the trees.

Plums have been lately, and are still, being very extensively planted. They show little black-knot. The crop this year was very large. Lombard, Yellow Egg, Imperial Gage and Bradshaw are favorites. We have a variety we call Ireland's Seedling, which bids fair to take a prominent place.

There are no large peach orchards here. Alexander and Early Crawford are mostly grown. Of late years peach trees have been more profitable; the crop this year being large in proportion to the trees. I know of no yellows.

Cherries are being put out but as yet no large plantations are fruiting; E. Richmond and Montmorency are preferred.

Quinces and apricots are not much grown; experiments are being made with the latter.

Grapes are not extensively grown, but more attention is being paid to them of late. Sulphur is used to destroy mildew, of which we have had but little. Concord, Worden, Delaware, Moore's Early, Niagara, and Rogers' No. 4 succeed best.

Currants are extensively grown and being planted very largely. Crop was very large of both red and black. Of black, the Lee's Prolific and Black Naples are favorites. The Champion promises well. Of red, the Cherry receives the most attention at present and, by many, is thought good enough. Fay's Prolific is also being largely planted and bids fair to become a leading currant.

Gooseberries, like currants, are taking a large share of our people's attention just now, having been already, and are being heavily planted. The crop was excellent both in quality and quantity. Smith's Improved and Downing are grown. We have no mildew.

Blackberries are grown to a considerable extent. Crop was large, mostly Snyder. Lawton and Kittatinny require some winter protection for best results.

Raspberries are grown largely. The Cuthbert is preferred. Hansel, Brandywine. Highland Hardy and Marlborough are leading sorts. The crop was fair, but season too dry for best results.

The strawberry is one of our main crops. All the leading varieties, both new and old are grown. The vines ran well and are in a healthy state. We had a good fair crop. Had the weather not been so dry the crop would have been very large.

The district comprises about six miles of water front and the country back of it; but this report refers more particularly to that lying within three miles of the lake, a very small percentage of the fruit shipped from here coming from beyond that limit.

I have taken considerable pains to procure correct figures for the quantity of fruit shipped from this district, and, from the best information I could get, find it to have been about ten thousand barrels of pears and apples, and eight hundred tons of fruit in baskets.

Mr. J. P. COCKBURN, Gravenhurst, presented the following report on the

PROGRESS AND POSSIBILITIES OF FRUIT GROWING IN MUSKOKA.

That portion of Ontario lying north of the river Severn, comprising the district of Muskoka and Parry Sound, extending nearly 100 miles northward, is generally broken and intersected by rugged ranges of granite rock, which underlies the whole surface and is watered by many beautiful lakes and streams, on whose sloping sides and rich valleys