

Fruit-crop Outlook.

Prospects are bright for a fine crop of fruit in Canada's fruit-producing districts. The report issued by Alex. McNeill, Chief of the Fruit Division, under date of May 31st, shows that in Eastern Canada the winter was mild and trees and bushes came through with little damage by frost, sleet or mice. Near Winona and Fruitland, in the Niagara district, some of the peach buds on lower branches were killed in orchards along the lake. British Columbia experienced severe cold and light snowfall. In irrigated districts, where cultivation was continued late in the season, some killing of young wood has been reported. Strawberries suffered from heaving, except where thorough mulching was practiced. Some damage was done also to peach, plum and pear buds, but apples escaped with little injury.

The unusually backward spring, with cool, wet weather, is said not to be unfavorable for fruit, as the bloom was held in check until danger of frost was past. Cultivation and spraying, however, have been delayed. In Ontario fruit sections the bloom is at least two weeks late, but fine weather at the end of the month was favorable for the setting of fruit. In Nova Scotia spraying and cultivation commenced about May 10th, but cool weather resulted in late bloom in the Annapolis Valley. Extremely backward weather in British Columbia gives rise to reports that fruit buds are nearly a month behind their usual time.

For convenience in estimating the marketable crop, the fruit districts of the Dominion are divided as follows:—

District No. 1.—Counties north of Lake Erie and Niagara district.

District No. 2.—Counties on Lake Huron and inland to York County.

District No. 3.—Counties bordering on Lake Ontario north to Shabot Lake and Georgian Bay.

District No. 4.—Ottawa and St. Lawrence valleys to Lake St. Peter and south-western Quebec.

District No. 5.—New Brunswick, with north-eastern Quebec.

District No. 6.—Hants, Kings, Annapolis and Digby Counties, Nova Scotia.

District No. 7.—Nova Scotia not included in District 6.

District No. 8.—Prince Edward Island.

District No. 9.—Lower mainland and islands, British Columbia.

District No. 10.—Inland valleys, British Columbia.

Districts 1, 9 and 10 ship the commercial crop of peaches and other tender fruits.

Districts 1, 2, 3, 6, 9 and 10 grow plums, pears and winter varieties of apples for long-distance markets and export.

District 4 ships Alexander, Wealthy, Fameuse and McIntosh Red apples.

Districts 5 and 7 will not produce sufficient winter fruit for home consumption.

APPLES AND PEARS.

Apple trees everywhere give a good showing of bloom.

In District 1 the apple bloom would indicate a moderate to good crop. The early varieties that bore well last year are not showing so full a bloom as the winter varieties this year. Spies, Baldwins and Russets are showing well.

In District 2 the winter varieties, particularly, are showing an abundance of bloom. The early and fall varieties are not blossoming so heavily.

In District 3 the prospect is for a heavy bloom. At present the indications are for a good apple crop.

In District 4 the bloom is from ten to fifteen days late in the Ottawa and St. Lawrence valleys; but nearly all varieties will blossom out for a full crop.

In Districts 5, 7 and 8 the bloom is very backward, but conditions are favorable.

In District 6 (Annapolis Valley) the indications are for a full bloom for all varieties.

In Districts 9 and 10 (British Columbia) the apple bloom is fairly heavy.

Pears have blossomed well everywhere. In the Niagara Peninsula and District 1 generally, the showing so far is for a good crop.

There are excellent bloom prospects reported from the County of Prince Edward and the counties along the north shore of Lake Ontario, in District 3.

In District 2 there has also been a good showing of bloom.

The prospect for the pear crop in British Columbia is better in the lower mainland than in the interior valleys. A heavy bloom is reported from District 9; but in District 10 the Bartlett

Clapp and Duchess suffered in some instances from severe winter frosts. The Anjou, Winter Nelis and Kieffer varieties are showing the best bloom.

PLUMS, PEACHES AND CHERRIES.

All kinds of plums budded out remarkably well in Ontario. An exceedingly heavy bloom is recorded in the Niagara District, particularly of the Japan varieties. There is every prospect of a full crop in the commercial plum section. Plums and Italian prunes have blossomed out well in British Columbia.

There has been an abundance of bloom in the Ontario peach belt, and the prospect, on the whole, is very encouraging. Along the lake front, however, in the Niagara district, from Stony Creek to within a short distance of Grimsby, peach buds were thinned in the lower branches by winter frosts. A short distance back from the lake to the mountain the peach orchards were full of bloom. This condition is reversed in the immediate neighborhood of Jordan Harbor and Port Dalhousie. The peach orchards nearest the lake show the best bloom. There has been very little wet weather during the blossoming season to interfere with the "setting" of the fruit. In several instances more or less serious damage to peach buds is reported from British Columbia, which will likely bring the crop below the average.

Cherries everywhere have blossomed heavily. At present the outlook is for an abundant crop throughout Eastern Canada. All varieties have blossomed well in British Columbia, except in certain localities in the interior valleys, where sweet varieties are reported injured by frost.

SMALL FRUITS AND TOMATOES.

Strawberries have wintered well in Ontario, especially where the patches made a good growth last fall. Small fruits of all kinds are doing well. Raspberries, blackberries, currants and gooseberries give promise of an average crop in British Columbia.

Most varieties of grapes have come through the winter well. In the Niagara District the Concord especially are looking thrifty, but the Niagaras in some cases are reported partially killed back by winter frosts.

Tomato plants are being set out in large numbers. They should do well if not hurt by frosts.

INSECTS AND FUNGI.

Insects are commencing to be noticeable. The codling moth is likely to be numerous on account of the mild winter. The bud moth is plentiful. It has been seen working on old trees as well as young. The cigar-case borer is also at work. It is interesting to note that spraying is becoming more general among the smaller orchardists. Outside of sections infested with San Jose scale and oyster-shell bark-louse, three or four applications of properly-prepared poisoned Bordeaux mixture will control at least seventy-five per cent. of insects and fungi attacking the apple. The injurious work of the bud moth and cigar-case borer on the buds and foliage can be prevented largely by the first spray applied just as the buds are expanding. This application is also important in checking the development of apple scab. The second and very important spraying just after the blossoms have dropped is the death knell of the codling moth or apple worm. The subsequent sprayings are useful in controlling leaf-eating insects and fungous diseases.

Peach-leaf curl is quite prevalent this year on unsprayed trees, but is hardly noticeable where the peach orchards were sprayed with lime and sulphur.

Black-knot is very prevalent on the plum and cherry. Cutting out a few inches below the knots and burning the affected branches is the only remedy. Spray unaffected trees with Bordeaux as a preventive.

FOREIGN PROSPECTS.

The season has been very backward in Great Britain on account of late cold winds. Reports received in the middle of the month indicated a prospect for more than an average yield of all fruits in England, with the exception of plums, which have bloomed very light. Later reports of severe May frosts have been received, which may alter the prospects. The first early estimate of the conditions on the continent is favorable for a good fruit crop. In Belgium and Holland the trees are reported looking better than they have for a number of years.

An Apple-buyers' Game.

Early in the season, apple-buyer No. 1 strikes the "easiest mark" in the locality—some man hard up—and offers him about half or three-quarters of what his apples are worth. He haggles around for an hour or so, and then goes away, without buying. In a few days, buyer No. 2 appears, and haggles some more, but offers about \$5 or \$10 more for the orchard, so the owner thinks he must be getting about what the fruit is worth, and lets them go, little dreaming that No. 1 and No. 2 are really working together. Co-operation among the apple-growers will block this game.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

Field Crop Competitions.

The Ontario field-crop competitions are being taken up more vigorously than ever this season. The Provincial Department limited the number of societies that could take part this season to 100, and present indications are that the full number will be reached. There are already 91 applications in, and some more to come. Owing to the lateness of the season the time for making entries has been extended, and it is possible that more than the limit will be received.

The number of farmers in each society entering averages 20. With 100 societies entered, this will mean 2,000 individual farmers engaged in these crop competitions this season. Entries have come in from all parts of the Province, from societies extending from Glengarry in the east to Sault Ste. Marie in the west, and also to south-western Ontario.

As was the case last year, a society can enter for only one kind of crop. Out of the entries so far, 60 are for oats. There are entries also for fall wheat, goose wheat, barley, corn, beans, peas and potatoes. Several societies have not yet decided upon their grain. While oats, as was the case last year and the year before, is the chief crop chosen, there will be a sufficient number of other grains selected this year to make the competitions of more general interest to grain-growers. The progress made by these field-crop competitions has been remarkable. Three years ago, when first organized, about 200 farmers took part. Last year the number was increased to 650. This year it will be 2,000 or over, and these, distributed as they are, pretty much over the whole Province, will mean an increased interest in crop production and improved grain yields.

The Superintendent of Agricultural Societies is endeavoring to interest local societies in field-crop competitions for boys and girls. No Government grant will be made for this purpose. Societies are urged to make this a feature at their fall shows, and many of them are taking the matter up. These competitions will be limited to boys and girls from 10 to 18 years of age, and will be confined to wheat and oats, and prizes for sheaf exhibits only. Each competitor will be expected to select from the standing crop a sufficient number of the best plants with the best heads to make a good-sized sheaf, and to enter this for a prize to be given at the local shows. The object of this work is to encourage boys and girls to take an interest in grain crops, and in the production of a better quality of grain. CHRONICLE.

Saving Daylight by Law.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate."

The measure which was brought before the House of Commons during the past session, and which is commonly known as the "Day and Light-saving Bill," has been referred to a select committee to obtain evidence, and will, no doubt, be brought before the House again next session, and unless strong representations are made, it will doubtless become law. I have not noticed in any of the farming or horticultural papers any discussion on this point, and think it well to bring the same to your notice, and that of your readers, as it is one which will vitally affect fruit-growers and farmers generally, particularly those branches of agriculture which have anything to do with the catching of trains. In the first place, it seems to me that the measure is intended to benefit a class of people who already have too much consideration at the hands of our Legislatures. It is proposed to put the clock back eighty minutes, so that the city man will get up an hour and twenty minutes earlier than is his usual wont, and that there will be that length of time for recreation after the close of business. If the measure becomes law, it means that the railway time tables will be made to conform to the new state of affairs, and the farmers who have to ship their milk to the city on the early morning trains, and who are obliged to start milking anywhere between half-past four and half-past five in order to accomplish this, will virtually have to start their operations an hour earlier. I feel quite confident that the majority of farmers do not realize what this means. The farmer does not need to have the clock put back, as his business calls him early in the morning, and in the busy seasons, such as haying and harvest, very often necessitates his working quite late in the evening. An hour and twenty minutes tacked onto the beginning of his day, to suit city men who are too lazy to get up in the morning, is asking too much, when one considers the very large proportion which the farmers form of our total population. With the fruit-growers, especially in the Niagara district, the change of time will affect them at the latter part of the day, especially during the summer and fall during the picking season. All those engaged in this business will remember that it is a very common thing to have to wait until the dew has become