

## HORTICULTURE

### The Fruit Situation

P. J. Carey, Dominion Fruit Inspector, Toronto.

All fruit except that in hands of co-operative associations has changed hands more than once in many cases, the small dealer buying from the grower and then turning over to the larger handler. These methods of handling the crop are perhaps more in evidence this season than usual. The feeling is strong all around with dealers quite hopeful. The European dealers are making their annual sales, but are going careful. Early varieties, so short, and all available lots of Duchesse, etc., are being picked up and sold at good prices, f.o.b., mostly.

The weather conditions have been unfavorable for the landing of the fruit in good condition. On account of the late spring shortening the growing period, the fruit promises to be like in size in many sections, unless weather conditions are very favorable. There is a great variation in quality, changing from very good to very poor, even in the same county. What is the case in many sections, which is the case in many sections, which are far from an apple famine.

The situation now calls for prudence on the part of both grower and dealer. They should profit by the experience of 1907 and not gather up and crowd into the market large quantities of trashy fruit. Recklessness along this line possibly may convert what looks like a season of moderate supplies and good demand, into one of perhaps heavy supplies of irregular quality and possibly disaster. It is a rare season indeed when the appleman is sailing close to the rocks. Let us hope that this is that rare season.

### Ontario Fruit Report

Early apples are much scarcer than usual, but there is a good promise of the winter stores, which are most in demand for export. A number of complaints are made that some of the fruit is dropping from the trees owing to drought, and also that many apples are small in size. The codling moth has been rather common this season, and there will likely be a full share of the wormy fruit when not sprayed, but so far apples are said to be remarkably free from spot and other fungus attacks.

Pears are described as being from light to good in yield. Plums are variable in yield, those who sprayed at the proper time getting excellent results. The curculio did much injury to plums where no spraying was done, and odd reports of rot have also come in. While some of the yields of peaches are reported, the entire crop will be only a medium one. Cherries were plentiful this year, and of unusually fine quality. Grapes again give promise of a late return, and so far as regularity of yield is concerned, no year was now regarded as one of our most consistent fruit crops.

### Niagara District Fruit

Mr. W. H. Bunting, President of the Niagara Peninsula Fruit-growers' Association, recently exhibited on the St. Catharines market, probably the largest peach of the Triumph variety yet grown in that district. The peach was picked on the Carleton Place Farm, owned by Mr. Bunting. It measured nine and a quarter inches in circumference and weighed seven and three-quarter ounces.

Mr. Bunting said that the peach crop is very large, far better than last year, and the peaches themselves are of fine quality. Plums are fairly

plentiful, but pears are only medium. Grapes this year will be even more plentiful than during the past few seasons, and the fruit will be the best in quality for years. The weather now is favorable to an early crop, which will greatly reduce the danger of loss by frost towards the end of the season. Mr. Bunting expects that his farm alone will yield over 12,000 baskets of peaches.

### Orchard Ladders

W. S. Blair, Macdonald College

The accompanying cut may suggest some improvement in ladders commonly used in the orchard. The center of the cut, running from four to twelve feet, can be obtained from almost any hardware firm at a reasonable rate. This type of ladder cannot always be used to advantage.

The pointed ladder shown to the right is one of the easiest to construct and one of the most serviceable. The rungs of this ladder should be not placed over the sides as shown in this one, but should be flush with the side. The lumber used should be one and a half by two inches and the steps can be made one inch by one and a quarter inches lumber set in at the bottom and nailed securely. The back brace, or leg, is fastened between the two side pieces by a bolt and when not in use can be folded in and the ladder moved from place to place with ease. This same



A Variety of Useful Orchard Ladders

style of ladder can be made without the back leg as a brace, depending upon a limb to support the ladder. I prefer the extra leg, however, as it can be used either way, and does not materially add to the weight of the ladder. The advantage of having a wide step, say two to two and a half inches, over one inch wide is that it is not so tiresome on the feet, especially should one have on thin soled shoes. The steps are usually placed from 12 to 13 inches apart. The bottom of the ladder is usually two feet from outside to outside of side pieces, and may run to a point at whatever height desired.

The ladder to the left is a rigid one with a platform at the top 18 inches by 18 inches. This style of a ladder is very useful, one being able to stand on the top. It can be made to any desirable height and by proper bracing can be made very light. A ladder of this type about four or five feet high will be found extremely useful for gathering from the lower limbs. It can be made wider and any old lumber used for its construction. The one in front of the high rigid ladder is one of these, only that it is much lighter. The one inch lumber is used in its construction.

The common extension ladder as shown at the back can be used on some of the very tall trees to advantage, but it is not generally required.

The Japanese ladder, shown between the step and platform ladders, is of doubtful value. It is light, easily worked into places where others will not go, and will often be found very useful.

Everything considered, the pointed ladder with a leg at the back as a brace, will be found to be the best all round ladder of the lot, although one of each of the different kinds shown will be found desirable if many apples are to be picked.

Now is the time to have a supply of ladders made so that when harvesting is on no delay will result; if a plentiful number are at hand, one is surprised how much more quickly the crop can be gathered, even by the same number of pickers.

### For Fruit Growers and Gardeners

Are you interested in fruits, flowers or vegetables? If so, send for a free copy of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, which is published in Peterborough, Ont., in the same office as Farm and Dairy. The September issue of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST is filled with valuable information on all of these subjects. Among the many articles that deal with fruits and fruit growing are the following: "Marketing Early Grapes", "Pre-cropping Fruits for Shipment", "Plant Breeding", "The Fanciful Apple", "Keeping Bees in the Orchard", and "Ontario's Export Apple Trade". The fruit news of all the provinces is given in letters from correspondents. Accurate reports state the present conditions of fruit crops and the outlook.

In the vegetable department articles will be found on harvesting potatoes, asparagus, peas, ginseng culture and so forth. Pointers for the home garden are given in articles on hedges, peonies, bulbs, managing parks and others. The seasonable hints, that tell what to do with fruits, flowers and vegetables this month, alone are worth a year's subscription to the magazine. The issue is profusely illustrated.

Send for a sample copy, and, if you like it, send the money for a subscription—20 cents a year or \$1.00 for two years. Subscriptions sent in September will start with the January 1910 issue and the remaining three issues of this year—October, November, December—will be sent free. Address, THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, Peterboro, Ont.

### Fruits in Prince Edward Island

J. A. Moore, Queens Co., P.E.I.

Apple growing will yet be a very profitable industry on Prince Edward Island. The trouble has been that people plant a few of this, that and the other variety in order to have a supply for home use. But now, they have seen their mistake and for a few years past have been planting in blocks of fruit, in lots of single varieties. Hence, it has been almost impossible to make any considerable shipment of any one variety.

I have 400 trees, 200 of which are Wealthy, probably the most profitable variety for Prince Edward Island. The balance are made up of Baxter, Ben Davis, Crimson Beauty, Longfield and Duchesse, with a few others in small lots for exhibition purposes.

Generally speaking, apples are all copy fair. Yellow Transparent, Duchesse and Wealthy are good. Other varieties are variable. The canker worm has been getting in its work, causing fruit

to fall prematurely. The aphid is still in evidence. Plums are a light crop.—J. C. Black, Colchester Co., N.S.

Apples are only a medium crop, but still a better crop than last year. Buyers are paying \$1.00 to \$1.25 on the tree with business fairly active. Apples are clean.—Harry Dempsey, Prince Edward Co., Ont.

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