Ontario Crop Reports.

The monthly crop reports for June, as issued by the Ontario Vegetable-growers' Association, shows vegetable crops throughout the Province to be one or two weeks late, owing to the cool and wet weather.

There have been several hard frosts since the 20th of May at Ottawa and Kingston, and early potatoes, beans and other crops that were doing nicely, were killed. The crop of early cabbage at Ottawa will be nearly double that of last year. Cauliflower and corn will be a light crop, potatoes heavier, and there is no increase in the acreage of vegetables reported near Kingston.

In Prince Edward County beans and tomatoes will be grown on an increased scale this year, and corn, peas and berries less. A marked increase in the planting of potatoes, tomatoes and onions is reported from Napanee.

Around Toronto, correspondents at Doncaster and Humber Bay state crops are looking well, but there will be a light crop of asparagus and a decrease in the crop of seed onions. Large quantities of early celery has been planted.

Around Burlington there will be more onions than usual. Vegetables under glass are at a more advanced stage than last year. Tomatoes, late and early, will be planted extensively.

At Niagara Falls South, tomatoes, corn, beans and beets are being contracted for by the canning factories at last year's prices. There is a decrease in the acreage under contract. The great scarcity of late tomatoes planted is reported.

In the south-western portion of the Province there will be a big increase in the shipments of early tomatoes in the vicinity of Leamington, the acreage having been considerably increased.

Some of the early vegetables were ruined around Sarnia by the severe frost in May. Early potatoes, will, however, be a large crop.

Ontario Compared with the Western Provinces.

Recently having had the pleasure of a trip throught the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia, I could not help comparing the conditions of our farmers and fruit-growers in Ontario with those of the West. I had been led to believe that the fruit-grower in B. C. only had to plant his trees and his troubles were over, the fruit all growing perfect, no spraying necessary, that the trees and fruit were not subject to injury from insect pests. I found that, while they have not the same insects and fungous diseases to combat that we have, they have as many or more of other kinds, or that some that are comparatively harmless here, are very bad there, spraying being as necessary, if not more so, than here. There is also a proportion of the fruit not marketable, and weather conditions have to be reckoned with, in the shape of drouth in summer, and one cold dip in the winter.

There are nice valleys adapted to fruit-growing, and many will do well, but we have broad areas here where the progressive grower can do as well, and have the peasures and comforts of a more closely-settled neighborhood. Of course, if our fruit-grower should be of a sporting type, in B. C. all he has to do is to step across the valley a few hundred rods and he is in the foothills and mountains, and can have plenty of shooting and fishing. It is a good climate, and forms a good place for the settler who has been on his prairie farm for some years, and either has made a little money out of the fertility of his homestead, or can sell at an advanced price to some of the new settlers, to move west and secure a home where he can have a moderate climate, and end his days in a degree of comfort that he cannot hope to enjoy on the prairies.

In the prairie country, the farmer from Ontario who works in a rough and ready way, or the young man who has no cash, will do well, but will feel the want of many home comforts that go to make life worth living. Settlers are pouring into all the Western Provinces from the Middle and Western States. The land is so plentiful and fertile that the same precaution is not exercised in seeding or caring for the crops. This makes it look very wasteful and slipshod to the Ontario farmer. I firmly believe if many of the settlers going into that country were to purchase land in Western Ontario counties, where many of our own farmers are leaving, or these same farmers would put the same amount of energy into their work on the Ontario farm, that as much money would be made, and, as for the fruit-grower, I have no hesitation in saying that the prospect is brighter here than in the West. Here we have more growers together, thus enabling them to secure facilities for shipping that the Western grower cannot hope to have for many years. Then, here we have better and more openings for the sale of our fruit, and, contrary to my expectations, I found every dealer in the Prairie Provinces say that they preferred Ontario apples, provided they were packed properly. Many of the dealers stated that they were receiving good shipments, well packed, from Ontario, and the general expression was that there was a great improvement in the packing the last two seasons. Our Ontario shippers have only to pay more attention to their packing and packages, and they will be able to hold their own for years to come. Reaching home April 25th, I have often since wondered whether it was the contrast with the West, or whether it is a fact, but I must say that never in my recollection have I seen the country here look better, and our growers and shippers are preparing to pack and ship regularly to the West this season, to the same points where they sent some thirty cars last year. Our people only want to boom our advantages, as do the Westerners, and we will have a more contented, happy and prosperous lot of citizens.

Lincoln Co., Ont. ROBT. THOMPSON.

Co-operation Among Fruit-growers.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

During my recent tour on Fruit Institute work throughout Ontario, I have been greatly struck with the favor that co-operative marketing of fruit has gained throughout the Province. In fact, in many districts we found the people most anxious for information in that line, and I have every reason to believe that the number of active Co-operative Associations will be twice or three times as many as last year. In Western Ontario, particularly, a strong feeling prevails in favor of such a system. Growers and farmers are awakening to the fact that something must be done in order to renew an interest in this industry, which, in most districts, is fast declining.

In such districts in Eastern Ontario as Brighton, Trenton, Colborne and Cobourg, the competition of resident dealers has done much to promote an interest in fruit-growing there, the result being that orchards are given much greater attention there than in the ordinary Western Ontario district. Orchards are being extensively planted in the East, while they are being cut down in the West. The reason of this is: One has a continuous market, such as it is, while the other depends upon buyers, who may stay amongst them, paying whatever circumstances and their consciences will allow. The result is, that the ordinary orchard of Western Ontario is in a fearful condition. It is but necessary to drive the concessions to be convinced of this fact, where many of the orchards are a disgrace to the proprietor and district as well.

There is no doubt but that the reason of this is the want of a proper market, and, while co-operation may do much in this way, yet the Government should take up the matter, and encourage such efforts on the part of growers, by advertising their fruit and endeavoring to get grower and consumer together.

During the past season the most fortunate growers did not receive more than three dollars per barrel for their apples, while the same fruit was retailing by the pound in England at prices ranging from twelve to eighteen dollars per barrel. It is evident, by these figures, that the fruit-grower is a laborer for the dealers, receiving labor pay.

During the past two or three years the Government has done much to encourage the organization of growers into co-operative associations. Now that a number of these associations are in existence, many of them appearing for the first time in the trade, it is very important for the welfare of such movement that they should be assisted in every possible way to dispose of this year's output to good advantage. If they meet with success this season the movement will go forward by leaps and bounds, but if difficulties in disposing of their produce meet them, it will, instead, be a staggering blow.

I have found a very strong feeling among fruit men throughout the Province that something in this line should be done. Other industries have been helped and placed on a paying basis by public aid in marketing, why not the fruit industry? If such were done, it would do much to renew an interest in this industry, which has been allowed to go almost to the wall, but which, with a little assistance, would be a credit and pride to the country. D. JOHNSON,

Pres. Forest Fruit-growers' & Forwarding Ass'n.

Potato Seed.

Have some mature potato bolls. How shall I save and use the seed? R. S.

Ans.—To grow potatoes from seed, they should be handled much the same as tomatoes. The seed should be sown in a box in good soil, and when a couple of inches high should be transplanted into other boxes for transplanting again, or into a row in the garden. This, of course, should not be done until all danger of frost is past. It is best to set the hills a foot and a half apart, so that they have plenty of room for development. Care must be taken to prevent beetles eating the plants, as a few of them early in the season would destroy the whole crop of young plants. Each plant gives a new variety of potato. Sometimes they vary considerably from the same lot of seed, showing great variety in shape and color of tubers. At the end of the first season the tubers will not likely be larger than a pigeon's eggs. Each hill should be gathered and stored separately, and the best tubers saved for planting again next season. It takes three or four years to develop the tubers to full size. H. L. HUTT.

O. A. C., Guelph, Ont.

APIARY.

Swarming: The Farmer's Bugbear.

With June comes the swarming season and the honey crop—the time of hard work for the bees, and harder work for the beekeeper, especially if he has not got the swarming business well in hand. If only a few bees are kept, it may be all right to let them swarm naturally, and have to climb trees to get them down; but a few such trips, with the thermometer up in the nineties, has a tendency to make the average person want some easier way. Especially with the farmer who has a few hives, the swarming of the bees is sure to be more or less of a nuisance, for he is liable to be called in from urgent work in the fields at most inconvenient and unexpected times, to spend perhaps an hour or more chasing a troublesome swarm all over the premises before finally getting it hived. A great deal of time is also lost by watching for swarms, which is often done for long before and after it is necessary, simply because the people who do it do not know when it is necessary to begin watching and when they may leave off; they have to guess at it.

All this work and bother is unnecessary if the bees are kept in modern movable frame hives—the only kind anyone can afford to keep them in—and it is easier for the owner of the bees to have the swarms at his convenience, instead of at the bees', than any person who has never tried it would believe it to be. The writer has, for two summers, run an apiary of from fifty to one hundred colonies without watching, and with only about half a day each week for six or eight weeks to attend to the swarming part of the apiary work; and anyone who knows a queen cell when he sees one can do the same. All that it is necessary to understand is that the presence of queen cells in a hive with a good laying queen at this time of year is a sure sign that that colony is preparing to swarm, that it is not once in a thousand times that the bees will swarm until such cells are present, and that, with a hive as shallow as the Langstroth, and with straight, even combs in well-spaced frames, with narrow bottom bars, it is not once in a hundred times that such cells are present when they cannot be seen by looking in the bottom of the hive.

When the clover season comes on, and the bees are strong and booming, so you think they must be about ready to swarm, instead of setting somebody to watch them day after day for the swarm that persistently "hangs fire," until you are particularly unable to spare time to hive it when it comes out, take a half hour once a week and see for yourself whether the bees are preparing to swarm; and if they are, make a "shook" swarm at your earliest convenience. To find if they have the swarming notion, light your smoker, put on your bee-veil, and go to each hive in turn. It is supposed all hives have bottoms from which they may be lifted. If they have not, they should have. Blow a puff of smoke into the entrance, and then quietly raise the hive up on end, turning it so the sun will shine on the bottom of the combs, so that you can see better. Use a little smoke to drive the bees up from the lower edge of the combs, and then look for cells. If you don't see any, look a little more carefully. Give the corners an extra look. When you are satisfied there are no cells being built, replace the hive on its bottom and pass along. If cells are found, mark the hive to be shaken. If the cells are sealed, this had better be done at once, but if they are only in the egg or small-larvæ stage, it may be left for a few days. If left too long—until the bees are on the very "extreme edge" of swarming, they will sometimes swarm anyway, after being shaken off their combs into a hive with only foundation in the frames, and will swarm out as often as hived, until the beekeeper despairs of ever getting them to "stay put." Better results will generally be obtained by shaking before preparations for swarming are quite so far advanced, but they should be pretty well under way. To examine hives as described above, does not require more than perhaps five minutes for each one, and if they have no cells started, they may be left a week with an almost absolute certainty that they will not swarm in that time. In two years' operations, the writer had just one case where a colony made preparations for swarming which were not visible from the bottom of the hive. They had just one cell, and the combs were examined twice after the swarm came out before the cell was located about half way up the end of a frame, in a small opening between the end of the comb and the end-bar of the frame. But that was one case in about five hundred. E. G. H.

Do you remember in what condition you put away those haying and harvesting machines? Did they not need some repairing? Sometimes it takes three or four weeks to get the needed articles for the repairs, and if you delay ordering, your machine may be worthless junk to you when the time comes to use it.