



British Columbia's Fruit Exhibit at the Eastern Fairs.

Photo taken at London, Ont., by a member of "The Farmer's Advocate" staff. Note the packing of plums, peaches and apples.

Vegetable Crop Reports.

The Ontario Vegetable-growers' Association have received reports from the Branches at Ottawa, Belleville, Kingston and Picton, regarding the condition of crops. These reports show that the tomato crop in Eastern Ontario is not up to the average, being particularly poor around Kingston and Ottawa. The potato crop is lighter than usual, although the later varieties are picking up. The condition of the onion crop is not as favorable as could be wished, owing to blight and onion maggot. Early celery will not amount to much, although the later varieties of cabbage and cauliflower will be good, if the weather continues favorable.

Ottawa reports that the corn crop is poor and that the vegetable crops generally have been poor and the prices low. Around Kingston, the vegetable crops, with the exception of potatoes and onions, have been an average crop. Picton reports that the crop conditions have been good.

In Central Ontario, the reports show that the conditions are fair; the tomatoes are ripening slowly. In some localities the crops were injured by hail. The potato crop is poor in the early varieties, although the later varieties will be good. The reports on the onion crop show that it is not up to the average. Around Sarnia the onion crop is not more than fifty per cent. of an average crop. The celery crop in Central Ontario is good, especially that sown late, and the cabbage and cauliflower crop seems unusually good—so much so, that several growers report little sale. Sarnia reports that quantities of sweet corn is being shipped, and, as this is a new departure for the growers in that vicinity, it is proving quite remunerative.

Reports have been received from Tecumseh, Ojibwa, St. Thomas, Dunnville and Brantford, and show that the tomato crop is a good average, with conditions favorable. The early-potato crop suffered from dry weather and then an excess of rain, while the late potatoes are improving. The reports on the onion crop are the same all over the Province—poor—while exceptional cases exist where the crop is an average. The celery in South-western Ontario is only fair, and the cabbage and cauliflower crops have come on well, and will still improve if the weather is favorable. Reports from Essex complain of a very dry summer and poor crops.

Small Fruits in Connection with Vegetable-growing.

Prof. J. W. Crow, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, gave an extremely interesting, though quite informal, talk on the growing of small fruits by market gardeners, at the Ontario Vegetable-growers' Convention in London, lately. The speaker did not know to what extent small-fruit growing was engaged in by those who grew vegetables for market. On a show of hands being called for, it was found that more than half of those present grew strawberries or other small fruits, as well as vegetables.

In respect to the amount of manure applied, small-fruit growing differs materially from vegetable gardening, decidedly less being used, said the speaker. He could not say but that more might be profitably applied. But the whole question of manuring for fruit is still an unsettled one. One of the most successful fruit-growers of Ontario uses no fertilizer of any kind. All he does in that direction is to plow down a crop of clover every

third year. Prof. Crow thought that he must be taking it out of his land, but the fact remained that this man was unsurpassed by any of his competitors in fruit-growing, and yet was using no fertilizer whatever. "There is no more puzzling point," said the speaker, "in small-fruit growing than the question of using commercial fertilizers."

STRAWBERRIES.

Strawberries can be grown on a wide range of soils, and for them the ground can scarcely be made too rich. He wished to know what yields were being obtained by those present, and was answered, "7,000 boxes from less than half an acre," by a London grower; "13,841½ boxes from 1½ acres, cash received \$1,602.78," said Mr. Kerr, of Ottawa, giving the experience of a fellow gardener there; "9,000 boxes from an acre," said another, several others reporting similar yields.

Five thousand boxes per acre will not pay, said Prof. Crow. To be really profitable, there ought to be yields of 10,000 to 12,000 boxes.

A question as to mulching being interjected here, he said that rows alone should be mulched with strawy manure in early winter, and in the spring mulch should be raked between the rows, and more straw added. The best growers use the matted-row system. Planting should be done as early in spring as possible. Soil should be in first-class condition, and, in heavy clay, at least, spring-plowed. Plants may be set 3 or 3½ feet apart each way, and cultivated both ways until July, after which the runners will root, and cultivation lengthwise should be continued. Spacing runners will pay. About 4 or 5 inches between plants is the right distance, and heers, when going

through, should cut out superfluous plants. Rows should be 15 to 18 inches wide.

The Williams is still the most largely grown strawberry. Though only of fair quality and a moderate bearer, it is unsurpassed as a berry for shipping. For a special city trade, other varieties, such as Glen Mary and Senator Dunlop, are superior. Among other varieties of merit are the Sample, Splendid, Tennessee Prolific, and Parson's Beauty. The last is the best cropper at Guelph of any tried, and is hardy, of good quality, good size, and has perfect blossoms.

GOOSEBERRIES.

Prof. Crow predicted a great increase in the area devoted to gooseberries in the next four or five years. Canners are now giving \$1.25 per basket for English gooseberries, and \$1.00 for other varieties. At \$1.50 per basket, which was the price in Toronto this season, there is no more profitable fruit crop grown. Gooseberries and black currants thrive in similar conditions. Both require a situation that is cool, airy, moist, and with partial shade. An ideal location is in the rows or between the rows of trees in a plum orchard. Mulching heavily would be good practice.

In answer to a question by Mr. Reeves, as to how to prune black currant bushes, it was said that they bear the best fruit on three- or four-year-old wood. Keep a supply of such branches, and cut out at the base all branches five years old. Enough young shoots should be left to fill up the gaps thus made. Gooseberries bear best on three-year wood. Cuttings of young shoots of gooseberries should be planted now, and most will root.

Mildew will not bother if situation be right, but where it gives trouble, it can be controlled by spraying with lime-sulphur.

Early-potato Growing.

"Early-potato Growing" was taken up in a very practical and interesting way by F. F. Reeves, Humber Bay, at the Ontario Vegetable-growers' Convention in London. The best soil was a good sandy loam, facing south or south-east. Manuring in spring with fresh manure caused scab. On the other hand, there was no need to turn and rot the manure, as some advocate. It should be applied green and plowed under in the fall. There was only one best early potato, and that is the Ohio Junior. It has the merit of being the earliest variety, and tubers being large and of even size, are marketable when dug. The Eureka is a heavier cropper, but is later. Potatoes grown from whole seed will always crop earlier and heavier than when seed is cut. His practice is to plant the whole potatoes about the size of eggs, and cut the larger specimens.

For extra early, he always starts a portion of his potato seed before planting, so as to have some potatoes extra early. On boards under the greenhouse benches an inch of earth is spread. On this earth the seed is placed, cut side downwards, and earth scattered over them until just covered. This is done in time to have the potato tops three or four inches high when it is safe to plant them outside. "What do you do if there comes a frost after they are set out?" "I use the scuffer," said Mr. Reeves, and cover them over. "Do you afterwards uncover them?" "No, they find



Gathering Peaches.