

## HORTICULTURE

### Ontario Fruit Wins

The Ontario Department of Agriculture has received word from England announcing that Ontario won the highest award (gold medal) for a general display of fruit at the Royal Horticultural Show in London. All the British colonies entered the competition.

Last year the highest honors went to British Columbia, and Ontario came in for considerable ridicule. The result of the competition this year shows that Ontario is justified in claiming to produce fruit equal to the best. The province has redeemed itself.

### Nova Scotia Fruit News -

R. J. Messenger, Annapolis Co., N. S.

In looking over the catalogue of returns from the steamer "Raun," which loaded Kings, Blenheim, Ribston and Baldwins at Annapolis about October 1st, I was pleased to find that the above varieties sold for some two or three shillings higher than they were bringing on the London market. These apples went to Hull direct, and this fact raises the fact that more of our trade could be done with such cities as Hull, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol and so forth. Shippers here think that everything must go to London. Apples are looking up. As high as \$2.50 a bbl. has been paid for Baldwins, which variety seems to be regaining popularity after being in disfavor for some five years. One buyer told me that he would pay more for Baldwins this year than Nonpareils. This last named variety has generally been conceded one of the highest selling varieties. For such a general purchase of all varieties is noted this year as last, but buyers are buying only as each variety becomes seasonable for shipping. They are more cautious than usual.

The bud moth scare seems to have given place to the fear that our orchards may be devastated by canker worms next year. During the past summer several orchards in Kings and Annapolis counties were more or less defoliated by the canker worm, and it has become quite fashionable among orchardists, good, bad and indifferent, to paint a strip of bark around the trunks of their trees with a mixture of resin and castor oil to catch the female as she ascends the trunk to lay her eggs. This treatment, with a thorough spraying next summer with poisons, will eradicate this pest.

Several of the orchardists of the province, under the supervision of the local government, have again sent apples to the horticultural show in London. The exhibit of apples went in boxes.

### Tomatoes for Canning

Some observations on the tomato industry in Ontario were mentioned by Mr. A. G. Turney, of Guelph, at the convention of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association in November. He pointed out that most tomatoes in the province were grown for canning purposes. The acreage for this purpose has increased from 800 in 1891, to 8,000 this year. There are 20 factories, the majority of which have been erected in the past five years. Most tomato seed comes from the United States. One ounce will supply plants for one acre. There is much seed selection practice. It takes about 175 days from planting to ripening of the fruit.

The average yield in Ontario is 175

bushels an acre. Four hundred bushels an acre would give a profit of from \$50 to \$60. For fertilizing the soil about 20 tons of manure are used per acre. Mr. W. C. McCalla, of St. Catharines, calculated that a crop of 450 bushels of tomatoes an acre would cost from \$65 to \$75. The cost of growing, however, depends upon local conditions.

### Commercial Spraying

The subject of "Commercial Spraying of Apple Orchards," provoked a lively discussion, and was ably dealt with by a number of experienced orchardists at the convention of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association in November. "As an apple buyer," said Mr. Mack Smith, of Burlington, "I always order the best fruit. I spray orchards. Most farmers are lax in the matter of spraying. This is due largely to the fact that they sell their prospective output to buyers early in the season. One acre of apples properly looked after will produce as much as 10 acres uncared for. The worst pest of our apple orchards is the codling moth. To control it in my own orchard, I spray and use bandages."

"In an orchard that I have had for about four years, I conducted experiments in spraying, and recorded the results. In 1906, the fruit graded 44 per cent. No. 1; 35 per cent. No. 2, and 19 per cent. culls. In 1907, the result was 20 per cent. No. 1; 34 per cent. No. 2; 17 per cent. No. 3, and 10 per cent. culls. During these two years, the spraying was left to the hired help and the results were not satisfactory. I decided, therefore, to do the spraying this year in person and the results were as follows: 80 per cent. No. 1; 20 per cent. No. 2, and practically no culls. The main variety in the orchard is Ribston. For an insecticide in the Bordeaux mixture, I use arsenate of lead instead of Paris Green, believing it to be more effective."

Mr. D. Johnson of Forest said that thoroughness in spraying is essential to success. Slipshod methods are of no use. He used Bordeaux mixture and Paris Green. For the codling moth, the chief spraying is performed just after the blossoms fall. Mr. Johnson sprays four times during the season and always sprays with the wind. He stops his outfit three times at each side of the tree so as to apply the material effectively at all angles. Mr. Johnson stated that he has not much faith in the much-lauded "mist-spray." He uses the nozzle that will deliver plenty of material. "Our co-operative fruit growers' association has purchased a gasoline power sprayer, which is used in all our orchards. It is equipped with two hoses, one to be operated by a man on a ladder and the other by a man on the ground. Ten years ago, my orchard of 25 acres yielded only about 400 barrels of fruit. Since receiving careful spraying and attention the yield has gradually increased until last year 2,800 barrels were harvested."

"We must study the pests that we are to combat and how to control them," said Jas. E. Johnson of Simcoe, "if we desire to be successful. We must spray thoroughly and at the right time. The latter point is being the more important of the two."

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day's delay may ruin the whole crop of fruit. Large orchards should have more than one spraying outfit. A hand sprayer will handle from 10 to 12 acres, while a power sprayer is good for only three or four acres more. Spray four times: First, early in spring for fungi; second, when buds are opening for the bud moth; third, when the blossoms fall, for the codling moth; and, fourth, three or four weeks later for tussock moth." Mr. Johnson's method of spraying, and the solution that he uses, were described in the April 8th issue of The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World.

Mr. J. C. Harris of Ingersoll, said that he does not spray until the blossoms are about half open. To cover his orchard, it takes about 10 days. He then repeats the operation. He uses Bordeaux mixture and Paris Green. Mr. G. C. Caston, Craigburg, referred to great damage that is being done in some sections by the oyster shell scale. Mr. J. E. Johnson said that the use of an excess of lime in the Bordeaux mixture will kill it.

"After the oyster-shell scale hatches it can be treated easily by any mixture," said Mr. A. N. Brown, of Wyoming, Del., who was present. "The limit-sprayer was mentioned during the dormant season also will kill them. For a general insecticide, arsenate of lead is much better than Paris Green. Commercial orcharding depends upon commercial spraying."

### Irrigation for Vegetables

A paper on "Irrigation and its Effects on the Growth of Vegetables and Small Fruits," was presented by Mr. W. T. Macoun, at the recent convention of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association. The various methods of irrigating were mentioned as follows: 1. By means of the furrow system. This is of much benefit to potatoes. The garden hose may be used. Movable sprinklers are used in Nova Scotia or lettuce. 2. By the use of engine power. Experiments in irrigating vegetables have been conducted by the New Jersey Experiment Station, and the results were beneficial. The benefits are more marked in certain years. Mr. Rowsome of Burlington irrigated celery this year with excellent results. Irrigation is of advantage, also, to small fruits. Generally speaking, however, very little work in the irri-

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gation of small fruits and vegetables has been attempted in Canada and the eastern states. Mr. Weaver, Chatham, stated that he had experimented successfully with irrigating potatoes and sugar beets, the potatoes being most benefited.

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