

## THE FRUIT GROWING BUSINESS.



HE uncertainty which attends the business of the fruit grower is sometimes very trying to his patience, the results are sometimes so disappointing that he is almost discouraged. If sometimes the returns for a fruit crop are higher than for ordinary crops, it is only a just compensation for the frequent failures to which the crop is subject. Sometimes we meet a summer frost, sometimes a winter of unusual severity; one year the apple crop fails completely, another year it is too small or too scabby for shipment; now the peach, now the pear is a total failure, and a whole year's income is gone.

And when to these misfortunes we add two years of depressed prices such as we have just experienced, it is no wonder that many have turned their attention to other lines, and have offered for sale fruit farms that formerly it was almost impossible to buy. All these considerations however make for the ultimate good of the fruit grower who has made the business his life work, and is not possessed by a fickle mind. The second-class will be weeded out, the poor orchards rooted out, and when the good times and higher prices come, the deserving and persevering will have the reward they so well deserve.

As an example of the disappointments which have fallen the lot of many of our fruit growers this spring, we give a letter just received from Mr. W. W. Hillborn, Leamington, an experimenter in peaches, he says:

"I find the damage done to our fruit trees by frost was much greater than we first thought. All nursery trees in this district were killed, about 100,000, and I think I am safe in saying that not less than 95% of all the peach trees planted in orchard are killed. It is hard to believe such to be true when we

look at the tops and see they are bursting out nicely in leaf, and most of them very full of blossom buds just beginning to open. When we examine the roots we find nearly all are killed. Many plums, some cherries, pears and apples are injured. I expect to have to clear off the whole farm and start over again. A week ago I thought there were many that would pull through, but at present I fear it will be a clean sweep. Mr. Carpenter, of Winona, has just been here, he says he thinks much damage has been done there also. Mr. W. H. Lee, of Virgil, writes me that his nursery trees (Peach) are all killed. Cannot send out any this season. It is only within the last few days that it was apparent what damage had been done."

This is indeed a deplorable story, and our friend Hillborn, and others in the same boat, have our sincere sympathy; at the same time we admire his pluck, for he writes that he intends replanting as soon as possible. Time will show that he is doing the wise thing.

The result will not be all loss, for the wreck is so wide spread, especially in the Western States, that large prices must result, and the persistent grower must eventually receive his reward.



FIG. 1599.—J. H. HALE.

J. H. Hale, the Connecticut peach grower, seems never discouraged with reverses, and his success is phenomenal. He is an enthusiast, and a quotation from a recent address of his before the