

NOTES FROM THE PROVINCES

British Columbia

At the convention of the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association held at Victoria in February, Mr. W. E. Scott, deputy minister of agriculture, gave an account of his experiences in England, where he went in charge of the British Columbia fruit destined to be exhibited there. He stated that there is a market for A. No. 1 fruit only, but none other pays to ship. The highest price he obtained on selling boxes of apples that had been on exhibition there was for Spitzenberg, from 10s. to 12s. 6d., a box. Freight costs \$1 a box and as ordinary No. 1 pack would bring but 8s., there are better markets nearer home.

The cry is for a big red apple and Jonathan, McIntosh, Spitzenberg, and King are recommended as the best varieties for this market. He gave a warning against planting too many trees of Cox's Orange as they were not the most satisfactory.

Exhibitions were made at 24 different places, each exhibition lasting from two days to a week, and much good has been effected. The fruit obtained 22 medals, as follows: Nine gold, three silver gilt, nine

silver and one award of merit. All this was in addition to a Royal Horticultural Society's gold medal.

"Two important questions," remarked Mr. Scott, "have to be solved before we can cater to the better class settler; the first being land clearing on a financial basis, and the second, the question of labor and domestic service." The acute want now is to obtain suitable girls for domestics and he suggested that the Government establish a home for these and some financial assistance until places could be bound for them. —W.J.L.H.

Vancouver Island, B. C.

F. Palmer

With the exception of a few days' cold or wet weather now and again, fruit growers were able to work in their orchards throughout the winter. Shortly after the fall spraying of lime-sulphur solution was over, pruning was commenced and was carried on briskly during all fine weather.

For spring spraying a few growers intend to use the lime-sulphur solution, but the

majority are in favor of an extra strong Bordeaux solution, aiming to kill the aphids and red spider eggs that were missed in the fall spraying of lime-sulphur.

Mr. R. M. Winslow, provincial horticulturist, gave a series of spraying demonstrations and lectures in the different fruit growing sections of the island. At the meeting, which were all well attended, the afternoons were given over to spraying demonstrations proper, and the evenings to lectures on various spraying mixtures, pumps, nozzles, etc. This is the first work of its kind that has been attempted on Vancouver Island and it will result in the fruit growers having a more intelligent idea of spraying.

Prices on Vancouver Island

W. J. L. Hamilton

Since I have contributed to THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, I have had many enquiries from subscribers as to prices of fruits, etc., in this locality; so, perhaps a few words on these lines may prove of interest. I must premise, however, that this district tributary to Victoria is an ideal country for the fruit industry, so the prices I quote are only those of which I have personal experience, and might prove misleading in other parts of the province.

Apples of good varieties, from 10 to 12 year-old trees, should bring in about \$200 an acre net. Pears are less profitable, also plums, whilst cherries and prunes bring rather more.

Strawberries rule at from 8 to 10 cents for main crop, with fancy prices for a limited number early in the season. The net profit per acre is in the neighborhood of \$400., whilst red raspberries, loganberries and blackberries bring some \$300 an acre, ranging from six cents for canning up to 10 cents in crates.

Currants are not in much demand. Gooseberries are, but, as their price fluctuates, they are not so staple a crop.

Asparagus is worth 8 to 10 cents a pound and rhubarb averages about three cents.

Transportation facilities are improving and great changes are projected; so, the land values will soon jump. In fact, the value is steadily rising all the time, and will continue to do so, as once the land rises to a price prohibitive to profitable horticulture, the wealthy man steps in and pays a long figure for it for a home, for the climate is ideal and the surroundings of great beauty.

This is partly the secret of the town of Victoria proving such a good market, as it is just the place for a man with a love of beauty who has "made his pile" to end his days in and enjoy the years still left him.

Manitoba

David Alexander, Oakville

I have about 45 crab apple, three standard apple and six plum trees all doing well. Most of the crab trees have been bearing for seven or eight years. These are the only ones in the district that I know of that are doing well.

Mistakes are made by not having the ground properly prepared by summer fallow, in not digging a large enough hole for planting and in putting the subsoil back around the roots instead of good surface soil. When planting, the top requires to be severely cut back, then give good cultivation for at least the first three or four years which gives the trees strength and allows them to mature for the winter.

My trees have very little protection, although I think it would be advisable. I allow the trees to grow to a full top, except

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