

plants, and an application of phosphates, or bone meal, wood ashes and salt, having due regard to the quality and condition of the soil, would be found to produce heavier crops and better berries, with a less show of leaves.

*Currants*, red and white, when protected the previous year from the injurious attacks of the saw fly, have produced full crops as usual. It must be remembered, however, that a heavy yield is exhaustive to the plant, and good cultivators will return to the soil stimulating manures to insure good results in 1882. For this purpose a compost of night soil with dry earth is probably the best thing to use, and should be applied before winter sets in as a top dressing.

These remarks apply also to the *Gooseberry*, of which probably Smith's Improved takes the lead over the Houghton and Downing; where the European varieties cannot be grown.

*Raspberries*.—The cultivated reds and whites, which received careful protection during the winter of 1880–81, were very productive and gave fine fruit. The saw fly, from which they had hitherto suffered considerably, was not so injurious during the past season.

*Black Caps* did fairly well, but it is questionable if they will ever be made to produce as remunerative a crop as the reds or the strawberry; nevertheless, they were in good demand, and are gradually coming into favour. As a canning fruit they have few equals, as any good housewife can testify who has given them an impartial trial, and they make a thicker preserve than the reds or strawberry.

The *Saunders Raspberry* does well either preserved or canned; being of a sub-acid flavour, its individuality is not lost in the dead sweet of the sugar. Some seedlings are being raised from this variety which promise good results.

*Apples* are scarce; even the crabs are not up to their usual crop, and the trees of the latter have blighted badly. The twig blight has attacked, for the first time to any extent, almost all the varieties of apples in this neighbourhood. The partial crop of the fruit in the western part of Ontario will, it is feared, produce an apple famine in this locality.

*Plums*.—The wild sorts have been quite abundant, but, owing to the western crop of cultivated varieties being light, these have sold better than usual; anything like a good sample have brought forty cents per pail. The Greenfield—the largest red plum raised here—was sold at twenty cents per gallon. The Glass seedling sent out by the Fruit Growers' Association is fruiting in many localities, and those produced are unusually fine. The Yellow Orleans Gage, though too tender for a crop, is producing some fine and high-flavoured fruit, and the Horse plum is making a fair show. On the whole, plums in this section are doing better than they have ever done before.

*Grapes* are making a fine show, and ripening earlier than usual. Champions were well coloured by the 1st September, and were closely followed by Hartford, Miller's Burgundy, Aylmer Sweet-water, Chasselas of Fontainebleau, Creveling, Delaware, Burnet, Dempsey's 60, Lindley, Agairand, Concord, Dempsey's 25, Iona and Arnold, Othello, Autuchon, Brant, and Canada. Salem proved an entire failure, owing to mildew and rot. The grape crop of 1881 in this section has never been exceeded either in weight, earliness, or the area planted, which is gradually increasing. A few more such bright seasons as we have had this year will go far to establish this enterprise on a solid and lasting basis. Ottawa and its vicinity has shown itself fully equal, if not superior, to the far-famed regions of Western Ontario for the production of this fruit. One great lesson has been learned, and that is—to have fine and early fruit, the vines must not be allowed to overbear. Two bunches on each bearing cane are found sufficient even after the vine has attained mature age, and is in full bearing condition. The greatest curse the vineyardist has to contend with is the thrip. A good specific for this insect pest, for out-door vines, would be a most desirable acquisition to the grower of this sub-tropical fruit.

In conclusion, I have much pleasure in reporting that the cultivation of fruit is fast spreading about here, and for the production of small fruits and grapes I see no better locality in any part of Canada. Respectfully submitted.

P. E. BUCKE.

Ottawa, 1st September, 1881.