



The Profits of Market Gardening.

On the above subject, we find many useful hints in a work briefly noticed in our last issue, and entitled, "Gardening for Profit." The first chapter describes the men fitted for the business of gardening. They must be such as can stand laborious out-door employment—active, working men; possessed of good sense, energy, and perseverance. Retired city merchants and men of business who get a place near town, hire a gardener, and expect to reap a large profit, reckon without their host, and usually find their gardens costly luxuries instead of paying investments. Many golden dreams of this kind are mercilessly dissipated every year. Personal attention, labour, superintendence, watchfulness, must be given, or such a business will be anything but profitable.

In regard to the amount of capital required to work a market garden effectively, the opinion is given that, for anything less than ten acres, \$300 per acre is required. This will startle many. Judging by the small amount of capital per acre necessary to farm, there are many who make sad mistakes about gardening. Gardening is concentrated farming. If the space tilled be smaller, the culture is higher, and the amount of labour bestowed on a given quantity of land far greater. Not only does the work referred to maintain that \$300 per acre is needed as capital, but it holds out the not very encouraging prospect that the first season will not more than pay current expenses, and cites many cases of failure arising out of the attempt to garden with insufficient means, and under the delusive idea that the first year's crop would be highly remunerative. The attempt to cultivate too much land with small means is a fruitful cause of disappointment and loss in gardening as in farming.

As to the working force per acre, a market garden of ten acres, within three miles of market, will, if planted in close crop, require on an average seven men. A less quantity of land will require more working force in proportion. For a small area, one man per acre will be needed. This labour estimate will take not a few by surprise. There are many persons who own about an acre of land, part shrubbery and part garden, who are dismayed to find, after a short trial, that it requires all the time of one man to take care of such a place. They complain that it does not pay; and certainly, if the money value of the products grown be all that is counted, it will not be easy to make it pay. A liberal allowance must be made for health, beauty, space for exercise, &c. These are worth much to a family, and cannot be obtained for nothing. A small garden that can be worked without hiring help, or a good-sized place on which the business of market gardening is carried on, and in the management and working of which the owner's own time and energy count,—these are profitable; while a piece of ground kept partly for the display of taste and the enjoyment of nice grounds, &c., will cost the proprietor more or less according to the pains taken with it.

Our author puts the average profits of well cultivated market gardens, in the vicinity of New York, at \$300 per acre for the past fifteen years. This is for the products of open gardens only, not of frames or forcing pits. Competition is very keen in the New York market, and for this reason it is thought market gardening might pay better in smaller towns, and even villages. But if the competition be keen in a city like New York, the demand is great; there is no difficulty in working off large quantities of produce; where-

as often, in smaller places, the market is so readily glutted, that any overplus of production is a dead loss. Moreover, in a city, people cannot have gardens, whereas in a town or village, on quite small plots of ground, families can grow enough for their own consumption of just such articles, perhaps, as yield the market gardener his best profits.

The moral of it all is, that market gardening is not a sure fortune, or an easily worked gold mine out of which wealth is certain to come, but a business requiring management, industry, and many qualities rarely possessed by those who enter on it. There is no royal road to success in this world, even among the pathways of a garden. Honest work, with mind or muscle, or both, is indispensable in every sphere, and he who expects to find anywhere a smooth, easy road to wealth, is under a great mistake.

Summer Meeting of the Upper Canada Fruit Growers' Association.

THE summer meeting of the Upper Canada Fruit Growers' Association was held on Thursday, the 27th June, in the Council Chamber of the Wentworth County Council, the chair being occupied by W. H. Mills, Esq., President.

After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and approved, the Secretary submitted a communication from the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, requesting the association to nominate three judges in the class of fruit. In accordance with this request, the meeting appointed the following gentlemen for that office; Messrs. Beadle, of St. Catharines, Arnold, of Paris, and Smith, of Grimsby. The Secretary called the attention of the members of the Fruit Committee to the fact of their appointment, which had been made at the last meeting, and reminded them that they were expected to examine fruits during the season, in their own locality, and prepare a report thereon.

A communication was read from Mr. P. Smitton, of Campbellville, County of Halton, respecting his "Insect Destroyer." This subject was taken up at a subsequent stage of the proceedings; but as he had given the association no means of knowing what was the nature of his "Destroyer," nor of ascertaining its value, no recommendation could be made.

The special subject appointed for the consideration of the meeting was then discussed, namely, strawberries, and the merits of several varieties fully canvassed. Dr. Cross said he had cultivated some forty kinds of this fruit, and had retained only two—Wilson's and Hovey. On motion of Mr. Arnold, seconded by Mr. Smith, it was resolved that Burr's New Pine be struck off from the list for general cultivation. The following varieties were then separately noticed:

Wilson.—This was unanimously pronounced a most desirable sort for the Canadian market, and is everywhere deservedly esteemed as a valuable, productive, and good flavoured fruit.

Hovey.—Succeeds best in clay soils; but some thought it needed to be planted with other sorts for a fertilizer.

Hooker.—Mr. Arnold thought this a very desirable sort for an amateur, being fine flavoured and of good size, but that it was too soft for market. After the expression of various opinions, several of which were adverse, it was finally recommended for amateur culture.

Trollope's Victoria.—Mr. Arnold and Mr. Martin had found this variety a poor bearer, and tender plant. Dr. Cross considered that it possessed the advantage of yielding a good large berry, but had also found the plant tender and not very prolific. Mr. Woolverton thought it endured the drought better than most sorts. On the whole, this, like the preceding, was recommended for amateur culture.

Triomphe de Gand.—The majority of the gentlemen present esteemed this kind very highly for size of berry and flavour, and coming in rather later than

others, when the season was passing away, it generally commanded a high price. Mr. Arnold, on the contrary, did not entertain a high opinion of it. By the verdict of the majority, however, it was retained on the list, and recommended for general cultivation.

La Constante.—This has the market advantage of being late, and was considered by Mr. Bruce, the only grower present who had any experience of the variety, to possess very fine flavour, but to be suitable only for the amateur.

Russel Prolific.—Mr. Arnold had been disappointed in this strawberry, which he had not found so prolific as he expected, and the fruit has the disadvantage of lying on the ground; the plant, moreover, he found rather tender. Dr. Cross condemned it on the additional score of ripening irregularly. Mr. Holton thought it should be further tested. Mr. Beadle said it required high culture, and to be planted with staminate sorts; but, after all, considered it no improvement on the Wilson.

Large Early Scarlet.—This was generally approved as an old productive berry, ripening very early, and good to plant with staminate sorts. Mr. Arnold had not found it to bear a good crop. The meeting decided that it be retained on the list as a fit kind for general cultivation.

Macavoy's Superior.—Mr. Holton thought this a very good flavoured kind, though the berries are apt to be imperfect; and, on the whole, he esteemed it much. Mr. Bruce, after some years' trial, considered it a very fair strawberry, and tolerably prolific. It was decided that it be retained for trial.

Welcome.—Mr. Graydon thought it very valuable, because early and large.

Jucunda.—A variety favourably reported by several of the gentlemen present, who considered that it promised well, appearing to be hardy, good-flavoured and prolific.

Agriculturist.—Was exhibited by Mr. Bruce, who, however, did not see that it was any advance on many others. Mr. Holton had seen it largely cultivated. Mr. Smith had not succeeded in getting well formed specimens, and feared it would need a fertilizer. Mr. Beadle had grown it last year, but did not esteem it any great acquisition. By a vote of the meeting, these last two varieties, as well as Metcalf early, were placed on the list for trial.

Duc de Malakoff.—Mr. Bruce thinks this kind worthy of cultivation by amateurs.

Austin.—The same gentleman considered this a large and rather insipid berry, and a shy bearer.

Smith's Seedling.—This was a new variety, shown by Mr. A. M. Smith, who has had it two years in bearing, and finds it a large berry, of good flavor, productive, hardy, and grows like the Wilson, but is softer.

Mead's Seedling.—Mr. Beadle had received this from Mr. Peter B. Mead, of the Horticulturalist. It is shaped like the Peabody, and has a fine flavor.

On the general subject of strawberry culture, Mr. Arnold observed that he felt discouraged in regard to the successful cultivation of this fruit. He had found it greatly infested by an insect very much resembling the curculio, only one quarter the size, and furnished with a very long proboscis. It cuts off the berries before they are half grown, by puncturing the stem near the fruit. It has been very abundant for the last two years, and done great damage, lessening the crop five-sevenths. Mr. Martin had not found the crop attacked by any enemy besides a species of snail that eats the fruit of those varieties that bear their berries near the ground. Dr. Cross considered that drought was the most serious obstacle to which the culture of this fruit was exposed. Mr. Smith had observed a small black beetle, but otherwise had not found his plants infested by insects.

Mr. Martin considered that the plants are improved by high culture and a slight winter protection, with summer mulching. Dr. Cross said, in reply to enquiries respecting the richness of soil, that he had not yet found any soil too rich for strawberries. Mr. Beadle had tried the Wilson by giving them very high culture and very rich manuring, and the result had been an enormous crop of large berries. Mr. Smith thought that two full crops was all that could be profitably taken from one bed. He would keep the runners off from the Triomphe de Gand, but let them grow on the Wilson; as in this way each will be most productive. Old plants are more liable to winter kill than the new. Mr. Arnold had not succeeded well with the hill system; but Mr. Holton