

Fruit Crop Conditions and Prices

APPLÉ indications in Canada are for only a medium crop, but on the whole, of good quality. From now on weather conditions will be the controlling factor. In Ontario, the crop will not be as large as was expected; reports from a few districts, where hail and dry weather have done damage, indicate a light crop. As a whole, only about 50% of a full crop may be expected. The quality promises to be extra good, scab and insect injury being less noticeable than for many years. Rain is needed badly; if it does not come soon, the fruit will be undersized. Among the fall apples, Colvert and Fameuse promise to yield the heaviest. In winter varieties Spy and Greening are the most promising, the Spies being particularly good and clean. Baldwin and Russet will come next, with King and B. Davis following.

Pears promise a good average crop of fine quality. The peach crop is declared to be a fair average, but slightly less than last year. Plums, a very light crop; prices will be high. The grape crop is excellent this year. Rot is prevalent in a few vineyards, especially in those that were not sprayed. Fruit of all kinds is suffering for want of rain.

A POINTER ON PRICES

There will be no difficulty about selling apples this year. We have a number of buyers in mind who will have the effect, even if they do not buy the whole crop, of materially stiffening prices. Two buyers from South Africa are now in Canada negotiating with Annapolis Valley and Ontario growers, and making preparations to ship Gravensteins and other apples to Cape Town. They will probably buy largely. One of them called on THE HORTICULTURIST recently, and said that he wanted apples that could be relied on, and is willing to pay an extra price for them. In addition to these a number of buyers have written from the Old Country, and expressed their intention of coming to Canada to buy. As regards sales already made, we know of some that indicate that prices will be good. One orchard of about 200 bbls., east of Toronto, was sold for \$300; one of 250 bbls., \$275; another at \$2.25 a bbl., tree run, owner to furnish bbls. and pick, grade and pack with assistance of buyer. It would be well for growers not to be in a hurry to sell winter apples, but be sure that they put up a good article, then ask a good price.

UNITED STATES REPORT

While not so large as the govt. report from Washington would indicate, the apple crop of the U.S. is known to be much larger than last year. The Apple Congress that met in St. Louis on Aug. 17 estimated the crop of the U.S. and Canada at 56,000,000 bbls., and the price to be \$1. In N.Y. State there will be a large crop of good quality; Baldwins predominate, with Kings next; Russets are short. That state will be a strong competitive factor, for Canada, in the export trade. Missouri will have a fine crop of excellent quality. The U.S. govt. reports Mo. to have 82% of a crop, but probably 60% or less is nearer correct, or about 200% of last year's crop. Ben Davis is the leading variety, and particularly good this year. The crop in Ohio is the best for years. Mich. will have about 55% of a crop. Illinois will be less than the average; Iowa, Kan., Ark., and Neb., good. Illinois will have less than was reported, probably average. Other states, except Va., also will have fair crops. The box apple states, Colo., Wash., Idaho, Ore., and Cal., are estimated to have double the crop of last year. That means that they will cut a big figure in the export trade.

THE NOVA SCOTIA CROP

Nova Scotia will have an average crop, about

the same as last year, say 325,000 for export. The quality is only fair. It is reported that a large part of the crop is not worth shipping. Fungus has been prevalent and insects. Tussock moth suddenly became troublesome, and is destroying not only the leaves but also gnawing the surface of the apples and making them valueless. Baldwin will lead in yield; quality, good. King, Ribston, Blenheim, Spy and Russet follow in order. Gravenstein and B. Davis, poor crop and poor quality. British Columbia will have a good average crop. In Quebec, the crop will be less than medium; Fameuse, fair. The Ontario crop correspondents of THE HORTICULTURIST point out the situation in the various counties of the province as follows:

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

West Lake.—The apple crop will be less than last year by thousands of bbls.—Stephen Lake.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

Rednersville.—The apple crop is only 60% of last year's crop. The quality runs from fair to good.—Harry Dempsey.

DURHAM COUNTY

Bethany.—Fall and winter apples will be a medium crop, only two-thirds of last year's crop. Pears and plums will be light. Fungus diseases are not prevalent.—F. E. Brereton.

PEEL COUNTY

Clarkson—Lawton berries are a full crop, and paying well. Winter apples are falling short of last year's crop; they are clean and free from scab or spot. Pears are a good crop.—W. G. Horne.

HALTON COUNTY

Burlington.—The quality of apples is better than average. Codling moth is working havoc among pears and apples. Very little black spot is to be seen, but considerable damage has been done in many orchards by hail. Greening, Spy and Cranberry are making the best show at present. King, Baldwin, Russet and other winter apples are a lighter crop. Fall apples are a light crop. There will be about the same quantity of export apples from Burlington this year as last year. Pears are a good average crop. Keiffer a little under average.—Wm. F. W. Fisher.

WENTWORTH COUNTY

Hamilton.—Early peaches are receiving attention now, mostly Clingstone. Prices have kept up fairly well. Yellow St. Johns are next to arrive, and will be ready about Aug. 30. Crawford are not expected to be a heavy crop this year. While plums have been pronounced a complete failure, a number of baskets have appeared on the market, Bradshaw, Queen, Saunders, and Imperial Gage. Prices, 40-75c. a 11 qt. bskt. Pears are an abundant crop. Bartletts will be ready about Aug. 27. Clapp's Favorite are ready now, and are worth 30c. a bskt. wholesale, and 40c. retail. Grapes will be a heavy crop. Muskmelons are a good crop and bringing good prices, in 11 qt. bskts, 25-40c; in crates, \$1-\$1.25. Watermelons have just come in and are worth \$1-\$1.25 a doz. Harvest apples are plentiful. Winter apples good only in some varieties. Baldwins are scarce.—Jas. A. Stevens.

Winona.—Early Clingstone peaches are an abundant crop, quality not up to the usual, owing to the extreme dry weather, with prices ruling rather low, but demand good. Lawton berries, a full crop and fairly good sample, are nearly over now; prices and demand good. The general outlook for late peaches is fair; if we have rains shortly it will greatly assist the quality and quantity, otherwise I do not think they will come up to the standard sizes of the last few years. Plums are a very light crop, but those that are bearing (where sprayed)

are quite free from rot and fungous diseases; the bulk of the crop will be of the following kinds: Bradshaw, Yellow Egg, Gueii, Monarch, Reine Claude, Lombard and some kinds of Gages. Grapes, where sprayed, are looking up to last year's quality and quantity; where not, more or less rot and petrified berries appear in the bunches or have fallen out and left scraggy bunches. I sprayed all kinds of grapes before blossoming, with the exception of one row of Niagaras; where sprayed, about perfect; the one row not sprayed before blossoming, very poor. Although sprayed twice since, the spray has had no effect in checking the rot, which is gradually getting worse until at present the bad berries in bunches will run from 30% to 90%.—Egbert M. Smith.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Grimsby.—The general outlook for fruit is good. Rot in grapes has not developed much in last 3 or 4 weeks; Rogers 15 is affected most. Peaches are a fair crop; Elbertas, good; Crawford, rather shy. Pears are good and exceptionally clean, especially Bartletts; blight has been prevalent, and this year affected orchards planted on clay more than those planted in light soils. Plums are very light. Tomatoes, while not badly damaged, show signs of suffering from lack of rain. The apple prospect would appear to be as good as last year, but all the trees have suffered more or less from twig blight, especially the Greenings.—H. L. Roberts.

Jordan Station.—The fruit crop is in a trying condition owing to the need of rain, although in this immediate locality it is not suffering to the same extent that it is to the east and west of us. Neglected peach trees are carrying 3 or 4 times the number of peaches they should carry; it is impossible for them to bring to perfection their load. Trees that have been well pruned, cultivated, fed and thinned, are carrying a good crop of fine fruit. Grapes, where spraying was neglected, are rotting badly; in some cases almost ruining the crop; on the whole, no more than half a crop. Apples, even where not sprayed, promise a crop much larger than last season and of better quality. Pears have suffered from blight; the crop will be light, though of good quality. Plums are more plentiful than was expected, and are of good quality.—C. M. Honsberger.

St. Catharines.—The extreme drought that has prevailed throughout the greater part of the Niagara district has wrought considerable damage to the fruit crop and, unless broken in the near future, will be quite serious. The early tomato crop has proved a very good one, but serious damage from rot is reported in nearly all the late fields, which, of course, are depended upon for the main crop. Cannons are becoming apprehensive that the pack will be very much lessened. Pears are a moderate crop, generally speaking; many varieties, however, have blighted to a considerable extent. Early peaches have been plentiful. The yellow varieties will be a fairly good crop, but need rain badly to swell them to normal size. Grapes have been affected slightly by rot and mildew; the crop will be moderate to fair. All fruits are ripening prematurely on account of the dry, hot weather.—W. H. Bunting.

KENT COUNTY

Chatham.—Fruit prospects are good. Apples are quite free from scab and worms, and are holding on pretty well. This is for orchards that have been sprayed. In unsprayed orchards the crop is light. Greenings promise most, Spy next, Baldwins light; Ben Davis, light; only few Kings.—W. D. A. Ross.

LAMBTON COUNTY

Forest.—The peach and plum crop is practically a failure. Pears will be fair and crab