

OUR FRUIT MARKETS.

Canadian Fruit Markets.

The writer has had consignments of fruit wholesaled in Toronto, all through the months of June and July; the sales averaging higher than for some years past. Some of us were very much discouraged at the prospects when import duties on fruits were removed; but although early fruits from the South have come forward in great abundance, and the New York State growers have come into direct competition with Western Ontario growers, we are holding our own beyond our best expectations. No doubt the extreme drouth in many portions has cut off the usual supply in many parts, which may in part serve to explain the exceptionally good market thus far for small fruits.

Looking up our shipping book we find that in 1885 Canadian *Strawberries* opened in Toronto on the 16th of June at 20c. and declined gradually to 5c. on the 2nd of July; in 1886, they opened on the 8th of June at 17c. and declined to 5c. on the 22nd of the same month; in 1887, they began at 10c. on the 16th of June and declined to 5c. by the 24th of June. This year we had them wholesaled on the 19th at 17c., the prices remaining very firm, and only for a few days were any sold as low as 7c. In Montreal, Ottawa and Kingston the prices ruled lower than in Toronto, which is unusual.

Cherries have been a short crop in the Heart and Biggareau varieties, which have consequently sold well; in Toronto the 12qt. basketful has wholesaled at from \$1.00 to \$1.50; in Montreal at from \$1.50 to \$2.00; and the Duke and Morello class has sold nearly as well, although more abundant. Indeed it appears that fruit growers might profitably engage more largely in the production of such pie cherries as the early Richmond, Late Kentish and Montmorency.

Currents have also done well this season, especially the Red Cherry which always takes the lead for price. This variety has averaged \$1.00 per 12qt basket wholesale. The small varieties as Red Dutch, White Grape, Victoria, Versailles, etc., are much lower in price, averaging about 75c.; still they are more abundant bearers.

Small Gooseberries, as Houghton and Downing are a slow sale at from 50 to 60c. per basket, but the large varieties are wanted and are the only ones worthy of our attention in growing for profit. Such varieties as Whitesmith, Industry, well grown Smith's Improved, etc., being from \$1.00 to \$1.25. If we can succeed in destroying the mildew with "*Eau Celeste*" we yet may compare favorably with English gardeners in raising big gooseberries.

After so many seasons of low prices it is quite encouraging to have a year that opens up so favorably, as so far this fruit season of 1888 has done. —EDITOR.

Prospects for Apple Exportation.

SIR,—I came in due possession of your favor of the 28th of May, but I don't think there is

much to interest our Canadian friends in the movements of our soft fruit here, but when the apple season commences give us a reminder and you shall have a proper report as to our markets here, and a cable as well when necessary. I am glad to hear you remark that the prospects of apples with you are so good, because our own are an *utter failure*. There seems therefore every probability of a large business with you in the coming season. You may make a very good thing out of "Kings" if sent when wanted. If we continue in correspondence regularly I shall keep you well posted. I am, Dear Sir, yours very truly, J. B. THOMAS.

CONVENT GARDEN, LONDON, ENG.,

3rd July, 1888.

Montreal.

New Apples.—Several cars of new apples have arrived from the South-western States, and have been disposed of in jobbing lots at \$5 to \$5.50 per bbl. A large trade is expected in American apples this year, and as the receipts increase lower prices may of course be looked for, until the early Canadian fruit arrives, when it will be seen whether the American product will be able to compete with the home growth. We notice that Canadian apples are likely to meet with competition from Australia during the coming season, 14,000 boxes of which were received in London, England, about two weeks ago on the P. & O. steamer *Oceana*. It was found however that a considerable portion of them was frozen whilst *en route* in the refrigerators, but this will of course be remedied in future. Former shipments it appears gave great satisfaction. Australian products are bound to become important factors in the English market, and in time will no doubt be formidable competitors with Canadian and American goods.—*Trade Bulletin*.

July 2nd.

Shipping Canadian Fruit.

"WELL," said Mr. A. McD. Allan, president of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, "what I said the other day has had a good effect anyhow. The steamship companies had tried to make one point in saying that in New York shipments they had to make transshipments. There were no more transshipments via New York than here. The goods went direct to the dock at New York. Notwithstanding what the railway and shipping people have said the facts are dead against them, as they had the actual experience of a number of different shippers who had put the thing to the test practically. On one occasion he had given notice of one particular shipment that it was to be a test case, but found that it made little or no difference. It was unsatisfactory compared with New York."

"There was some misunderstanding regarding what was called cold blast. As he understood it, it was atmospheric blast, and the