

He will visit the various agricultural colleges and experimental farms throughout Canada and will look into fruit conditions in British Columbia. From there he will visit the western states and will return across the continent to New York. From New York he will go to Nova Scotia. There he will make a study of the growing of cranberries. Mr. Heikel informed us that in Finland there are considerable areas that the government believes might be utilized advantageously for the growing of cranberries.

Mr. Heikel expects to spend six months in America. He informed us that he subscribed for THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST when he could not read a word of English. He studied the paper for a year and stated that it helped him to master the English language. He thinks so much of the paper that he gives his copies around to friends in Finland who are interested in horticulture and who can read English. A representative of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST visited a number of the leading horticultural establishments around Toronto in company with Mr. Heikel.

Iced Cars for Fruit

Editor, THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.—I am authorized to announce that arrangements have again been made with the railway companies to supply iced cars for the carriage of fruit in carloads, intended for export via Montreal or Quebec.

Cars will be supplied on request of shippers to railway agents, and the Department of Agriculture will pay icing charges to the extent of \$5 a car. This arrangement will be effective from August 3rd to October 3rd. —J. A. Ruddick, Commissioner of Dairying and Cold Storage, Ottawa.

Niagara Exhibition

The Niagara District Horticultural Exhibition will be held on Thursday and Friday, Sept. 17th and 18th, at the Armouries, St. Catharines. The prize list which has been prepared shows that there is no decrease in the enterprise and courage of those who manage this important event. The awards offered total about \$1400, an advance over last year. There is every reason to believe that the coming exhibition will surpass in extent and quality the exhibitions of 1906 and 1907, both of which were eminently successful from the broad horticultural standpoint.

Readers of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST who are interested in learning how a live horticultural society can do things—how a society from small beginnings has grown to be one of the largest in the province, carrying on a business which last year equalled nearly one-sixth of the total expenditure of all the horticultural societies of the province—and would do well to visit this district exhibition, and at the same time see the best exhibition of fresh fruits grow in this famous "Garden of Canada" and the best products of the amateur as well as professional flower growers of St. Catharines. It is hoped to secure reduced railway rates from Toronto and intermediate stations.

Seeing is Believing.—During this season many prominent fruit growers, and others interested in fruit and ornamental trees and shrubs, have visited the Brown's Nurseries and have expressed great admiration and surprise upon seeing the hundreds and thousands of ornamental deciduous trees and shrubs, and evergreens, as well as the hundreds of acres of fruit stock. This nursery stands in the front rank, if not the largest, of the Canadian firms.

NOTES FROM THE PROVINCES

Similkameen Valley, B.C.

J. D. Harkness

A series of demonstrations in fruit growing, including one at Keremeos on Aug. 12, under the auspices of the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association was cancelled, owing to a death in the family of one of the speakers.

Only one thing can be said of the fruit crop here, gathered and yet to ripen—that it goes 100 per cent. in quantity and quality.

A fruit growers' institute and picnic held at the house and grounds of Mr. R. Elm-hirst, Keremeos, on July 16, was largely attended by the orchardists of this district. It was one of a series of "fruit demonstrations" arranged by the provincial government, others in the series being held at various points in the Similkameen and Okanagan. The usual procedure is to hold an outdoor meeting in the daytime and an indoor meeting in the evening, but in this case the latter was dispensed with.

The speakers were Professor Thornber of the Washington Agricultural College and Mr. N. H. Dobie of Victoria, the former dealing with such subjects as selection of fruit trees, planting, pruning, spraying, irrigating, pests, packing, etc.; while the latter presented in a most convincing manner the extreme importance of fertilization.

After the meeting the party visited the famous orchard and gardens of Mr. Frank Richter at Keremeos, which must have been a revelation, even to such experienced men, of what can be accomplished in horticulture in the Similkameen. Mr. Richter's place is rather like an agricultural college farm than a private ranch, both in extent and in the variety and excellence of its products, and as such is one of the valuable assets of the Valley. As one of the few places where fruit growing has been carried on on a considerable scale for decades, it is especially useful in showing to newcomers the Valley's capabilities. The thousands of acres of pasture land and irrigated alfalfa land, supporting a multitude of cattle and horses, afford an equally striking example of the Similkameen's resources as a pastoral country.

Manitoba

James Murray, Supt. Expt'l Farm, Brandon

The season throughout has been most favorable one, and there are bright prospects for a good crop of all small fruits and the larger wild fruits.

In our orchards we have a splendid show of bloom and a great deal of fruit set. Since blossoming time, our apple and crab trees have been severely attacked with blight, and to all appearances many trees will succumb. On the plums, there is an unusually large amount of plum pocket which will greatly reduce the crop.

This year we have nearly all our best varieties of apples producing fruit, such as Hiberna, Wealthy, Repka Kislaga, Transcendent, Hyslop and a number of good cross-breeds. All of these are grafted on *Pyrus baccata*, and came through the winter with very little winter killing, although as usual a number have been killed back at the tips.

The development of suitable apple trees for this climate is proceeding slowly but surely. For several years after this farm

was established, not a single apple tree survived the winter, and now we have several hundred hardy trees and a considerable quantity of good fruit each year. The progress made is largely due to the use of the *Pyrus baccata* as a stock. Many disappointments in planting fruit trees is attributable to growing trees on tender stocks, and the importation of trees that are not acclimatized. With the development of our own nurseries, and as people appreciate that special precautions are necessary, our progress in fruit growing will doubtless be more rapid.

Montreal

E. H. Wartman, Dominion Fruit Inspector

Large quantities of California fruits are being sold by auction three times a week. On July 28, the first arrival of California Early Crawford peaches appeared and were sold by auction at \$1.90 per 2 layer crate. On the same day, Astrachan apples from California sold for \$1.70 per 10-11-20 inch crate, beating the California delicious Bartlett pears by 20 cents on a box—rather remarkable, but apples were scarcer than pears.

Large quantities of melons have been arriving from Ontario in crates and are selling very well; but, after all, Montreal leads the world in its own Island-grown melons, some tipping the scales at 42 pounds. Pricing a nice one on Bonsecoun market a few days ago, I learned that \$1.25 was the cash price. These melons are sold with a guarantee attached from the grower that they are ripe.

Duchess apples in vicinity of Montreal are selling from 75 cents to \$1 a barrel, tree run. Crab apples are a good crop in all directions. I look for low prices in early apples as there are such large quantities of other fruits coming in. Bartlett pears of superior quality have arrived from New York state. The owner said that the duty killed the trade.

Quebec

August Dupuis

The apple crop is a failure from Quebec to Rimouski. The Duchess of Oldenburg, Wealthy, Yellow Transparent and Tetsfky are the only varieties bearing a medium crop. Thousands of bushels of fall apples will be needed and winter apples No. 1 and No. 2, will have to be brought from Huntingdon county and from Ontario to satisfy the demand of the prosperous people all along the Intercolonial Railway. It has been the custom of orchardists and traders to bring down here carloads of fall apples in bulk, and winter apples both in bulk and bags, which sell quickly.

The plum crop also has failed. The fruit which seemed to have set well, dropped after a few days of very hot weather. The curculio has caused some damage. The only varieties bearing medium crops are the Green Gage, Coe's Golden, Moore's Arctic, Gueii and Washington.

The small fruit crop is abundant, especially the raspberries. Insects have not caused much damage.

Apple trees in most localities have dead branches, even large trees which seemed perfectly healthy last year. In young orchards, the rows of trees far from fences