

## ONTARIO FRUIT CROP.

*As reported by Ontario Fruit Growers.*

*Simcoe County:* For a few weeks the weather has been very wet, and strawberries in low lands have been completely drowned out; they mostly came well through the winter, and spring frosts have hurt them but little; in high lands they will be a full crop. Red and white currants and gooseberries promise a full crop, and to mature a week or ten days earlier than usual. Black currants "fair to middling." Plums none, except of the Japan and native varieties. Cherries not much grown, and birds will get most of them. Pears not much grown. Apples of all kinds promise well, and with proper spraying and thinning a profitable crop is assured. But few currant worms have yet shown up, and they cannot now do any damage to this year's crop; but late broods, if not destroyed, may affect next year's crop.

C. L. STEPHENS, *Orillia.*

The last bulletin from the Bureau of Industries, Toronto, gives the following report of fruit:

*Colchester, Essex:* Peach trees have been killed by hundreds and thousands. One neighbor who has twenty-five acres told me yesterday that he will have to pull up the whole field; and many smaller lots have suffered as badly.

*Gosfield South, Essex:* All peach trees are dead by frost, and many other kinds.

*Mersea, Essex:* At least 50 per cent. of peach trees killed and some plums.

*Stamford Welland:* Vegetation will probably rush along now, as during the past two or three days we have had summer heat. I never knew the buds to come out so fast. The leaves came out on some trees within a few hours; they seem to almost grow while looking at them.

*Nottawasaga, Simcoe:* Nearly a car load of young fruit trees were shipped into Creemore

the other day. Farmers around here are taking considerable interest in planting out orchards. In a few years to come this neighborhood is going to play an important part in fruit production.

*Grantham, Lincoln:* In some orchards part of the peach trees are killed by the excessively cold weather, freezing and injuring the trees under the bark. The buds of all fruit trees were very backward during the winter, and even well into March there was scarcely sunshine enough to cause them to swell noticeably, so they were not in this section killed, as many who stay all winter in the house reported. Some varieties of strawberries, especially the Clyde, not covered by litter during the winter, are killed, and tender varieties of raspberries are more or less killed in canes which should bear fruit this year. Grapes are about as usual. Spraying fruit is becoming a necessity for successful growing, as each fruit has its insect enemies and fungus diseases.

*Trafalgar, Halton:* Caterpillars are already making their appearance on apple trees in large numbers. It is to be hoped that farmers will make more efforts to destroy these than many did a year ago. Many orchards, especially in the north end of the township, were entirely stripped of foliage.

Mr. A. E. Sherrington, Walkerton, writes:

The raspberry crop will be lighter than last year, as so many varieties suffered by the winter snow and frost. Some of them will not fruit at all. Hilborn is about the only black cap that came through all right; it will give a full crop. The Hale and Wickson plums were nearly killed out-right, and a few trees of other varieties. The Abundance and Burbank plums are loaded with fruit.

**TREATMENT OF BULBS.**—It is a well-known fact that bulbs, forced in our country, are comparatively useless for flowers the season following. This is really owing to the fact that the leaves have not been permitted to mature properly. A bulb is composed of the bases of leaves which have become thickened and succulent. To make good, strong bulbs, therefore, it is necessary that they should have had good, strong leaves for their parents. Our

bulb growers commence to dry them off almost at once after flowering, instead of allowing them to grow as long as possible. Even then, they will not flower as freely as newly imported bulbs, because they are only allowed to flower until the bulb has reached a size desired by the grower. Bulbs generally have the flowers plucked out, until they have reached the size desired.—*Mechanics' Monthly.*