

be necessary to keep any male birds with the outside stock, but care should be taken to procure a cock or cockerel of a first-class laying strain to head the selected breeding pen. Many utility-poultry breeders now make a point of raising cockerels of this kind, and it should not be difficult to secure one. It is advisable that both cock and hens in the breeding pen should be pure breeds.—[Farmers' Gazette.]

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Selling Fruit on Commission.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—An article on the sale of Canadian fruit in the British market makes no reference to the gross injustice and fraud often perpetrated by some of the commission men when dealing with fruit-growers in the home market.

A man takes a store to rent and sets up business, often without money or security to back him. He will dispose of your fruit at a certain commission, generally ten per cent., and at first often makes prompt payment, in order to bring more trade. After a while this is likely to relax, and he uses the money made from the sale of your fruit in order to further his business, or for any purpose of his own. You are fortunate if at the end of six or eight months you can collect from him even a part of your money, after going to the city and spending valuable time to attain this. There seems to be no law to reach the man who accepts carloads of goods that have been the summer earnings of the grower, and then, after speculating with the money they bring, he can fail or compromise. If he went into a store and stole a loaf of bread for his family who might be hungry, he would be promptly put into jail in the name of the law; but if he appropriates the proceeds of fifty boxes of oranges, a hundred barrels of apples and a few crates of Southern lettuce, by buying and selling, and then failing, he can get off Scot free.

It is high time there was some legislation in the matter, for if our Government is of any use to detect and suppress fraud and injustice, the Department of Agriculture should have power to search into and investigate the methods of sale and security, as well as protecting the center of the apple barrel. Closely watched by the Fruit Marks Act, that is useful in many instances, but puts the stamp of suspicion upon growers of fruit, it is a travesty of justice that, after they have passed muster as honest, the apples or other fruit are passed over to middlemen who may be without any adequate security.

Fruit-growers should not only combine, but demand legislation on this important subject, and require that laws be made and enforced, not only regulating the size of the apples in a barrel, but the size of the integrity and honesty of the men who handle the fruit. And as the dishonesty of some packers has brought discredit on the business and caused legislation, so the dishonesty of some middlemen brings disgrace on the honest dealers, and demands that they be obliged to pass muster according to a law that should be instituted for this purpose. ANNA L. JACK.

Fruit Prospects in Annapolis County, N.S.

Theoretically, the present season has been one of the worst in our history for the successful setting and growth of fruit, and it is a matter of wondering remark that we have any fruit growing. During the whole blooming period the weather clerk gave us an almost unbroken succession of cold north-easterly rains and severe frosts. The night of June 6th saw the minimum temperature 28 F. Early potatoes and beans were killed to the surface of the ground, and the next day the petals of apple blossoms were beautifully rusted. However, there are many orchards with good promise, and most localities have a fair show. In our own orchard, Ribstons seem to be the only variety affected, while in other places Gravensteins suffered. Probably the varieties which happened to be in the most susceptible stage of bloom on the night of frost in each locality were the ones that suffered most. As a general thing, we may say that the early apples were struck the hardest. It is becoming a noteworthy factor in planting or buying orchards, in view of our late frosts in the spring, that the land adjacent should be on a lower level than that upon which the orchard is planted. Kings, Golden Russets, Greenings, Nonpareils (where sprayed), Spys and Stark are among the standard varieties which promise best. As to quantity, we feel that the grand total of the Province must fall considerably below that of last year. The quality, owing to much the same causes as loss in quantity, must be inferior. The past two weeks have been most perfect in giving us weather favorable to the development of black spot and other fungous diseases. The observing farmer remarked that he had not seen an apple this year that was free of spot. However, it is not so bad as that in orchards that have been sprayed,

though, as the same man remarked, "We have scarcely had a day this year fit to spray."

The plum crop is considered, locally, to promise very light. Plums are not raised commercially, and are a minor consideration. In the range of our knowledge they are setting very well.

Strawberries are also showing the effects of the cold, wet weather during pollination.

The handling of the fruit crop is becoming more each year a matter of dissatisfaction with the farmers, and here and there at different times the feeling that the middlemen are getting all the profits leads to disjointed efforts to organize into associations for the marketing of this commodity. The two chief causes of failure to accomplish this are the financially strong opposition of the operators or middlemen, who do not wish, naturally, to be deprived of the fleece they have been gathering from the dull-witted farmer; and, second, the deadness, want of confidence in each other, lack of business capacity, or whatever it is which keeps them from co-operating in such matters. An attempt is being made in this county to organize into a fruit-shipping association, but, in our opinion, nothing but the omnipotence of the Almighty can make it a success.

So far this has been a most remarkable season—dry all through April and up to May 20th, and simply a cold, rainy season since. All crops have been affected by it more or less, and with all very slow growth is being remarked. Last year at this time nothing grew because of the exceedingly dry weather; this year the unprecedented cold weather is retarding growth. Up to within the last week or two everyone predicted a heavy hay crop because of the frequent rains, but we have forgotten that warmth was also necessary. The ground is full of cold water, and though the grass lands have been green ever since the first of May, very little growth has been made, and our hay crop now promises to be very little better than last year. Especially is this true of the flat lands and marshes in this locality. The writer was surprised, in passing over a large dyked marsh, to find scores of acres with a promise of not more than one-quarter of a ton per acre. It is just possible, however, that the grass this year in these backward places may grow on later than usual. In our next letter we may be able to better this outlook. R. J. MESSENGER.

Look Out for Brown Rot.

At this season a word of warning regarding preventive measures for the brown rot of peaches and plums may not be amiss. Early spraying for this may be done with Bordeaux mixture, but later applications should consist of ammoniacal copper carbonate, which has the advantage that it can be used freely upon maturing fruit without leaving any conspicuous stain. In effectiveness, it ranks close to Bordeaux mixture, and being cheap and easy to apply, should be promptly resorted to upon appearance of the first symptoms of rot. It should be borne in mind that rot is a fungous disease, hence must be combated by preventive measures. It is impossible to cure an affected fruit; the only hope lies in preventing the fungus which causes the rot from gaining entrance to the tissues of the fruit; therefore, the need of promptness to prevent the spread of infection.

The formula of ammoniacal copper carbonate is: Copper carbonate, 5 ounces; ammonia, 2 quarts; water, 50 gallons.

The copper carbonate may be dissolved in large bottles, and kept indefinitely; it should be diluted with water as required. Beginning with the first indications of rot, apply at intervals of 3 to 7 days. Promptness, thoroughness, and perseverance, are the secrets of success.

Preparing Fruits for Exhibition.

The number of county and district fairs advertised for the coming fall suggests that fruit and vegetable growers should be getting the plans for horticultural exhibits under way.

The exhibitor should study carefully the premium lists, and note every class in which he can make entries, and then get his entries ready. Every fruit and vegetable that is to go on the exhibit tables should have the best possible opportunity for development. This will usually require thinning, and sometimes a little pruning, in order to give the fruits a chance to color. Every exhibitor must consider his exhibit from the judge's standpoint. While there are at present no authoritative standards, most expert judges have an outline they follow more or less closely. A general plan for all fruits, established by the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, is used in its present or a slightly modified form by many judges. It is as follows: Quality, 20 points; form, 15 points; color, 15 points; size 10 points; uniformity in size, 20 points; freedom from imperfections, 20 points; total for perfection, 100 points.

Nearly all points are considered from a commercial standpoint. The oversized fruit is not wanted by the markets, and overgrown specimens are likely to be cut by the expert judge. Quality

is a hard point to handle, especially with fruit not yet ripe, and in such cases is often disregarded or estimated by the form and general appearance of specimens. In competitions of storage fruits, however, it is of special importance. Uniformity of specimens is a most important matter. Fair-sized fruits, or even form and color, of the proper type, make good plates. They show to much better advantage than uneven specimens. Freedom from blemishes should be insisted upon. A fruit injured by insect, disease or accident is not marketable and deserves a hard cut. Some older judges disqualify such fruit from the competition.

Fairs should be educational in character. Those who attend should see only good specimens, such as the world markets want, if they are to be benefited by their attendance. The grower should know what is wanted, and if he does not, the fair may be a valuable school for him. Kansas Agr. College. ALBERT DICKENS.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

Canadian.

A fine new station is to be erected at Winnipeg by the C. N. R.

Surveying parties on the Mettagami River report excellent land in that vicinity.

Owing to fear of its waters being depleted of fish, Whitefish Bay, near the Sault, has been closed to the Dominion Fishing Co., and left wholly to smaller fisheries.

British and Foreign.

Major-Gen. Count Shuvaloff, Prefect of Police at Moscow, has been assassinated.

An explosion of fire-damp in one of the Welsh coal mines has caused the loss of 126 lives.

Several deaths occurred in New York as the result of the heat wave that passed over the city recently.

The piercing of the second bore of the Simplon Tunnel, between Switzerland and Italy, has been completed.

All of the men imprisoned in the French submarine Farfadet, which sank off the shore from Tunis, have died of suffocation.

Vice-Admiral Birilleff has been appointed head of the Russian Admiralty, in succession to Admiral Avellan, who resigned in June.

The news of the Black Sea mutiny was conveyed to the Russian Army in Manchuria in shells fired over into Russian territory.

An offer of the Norwegian throne has been made to King Edward's son-in-law, Prince Charles of Denmark, whose mother was a daughter of the King of Sweden.

The teachers of Pittsburg, Penn., have sent a committee of one to ask Mr. Carnegie for a grant, to be set apart for superannuated and worn-out schoolmistresses.

M. Muravieff has resigned his position as chief peace plenipotentiary, and will probably be replaced by M. Witte, who is generally regarded as the most skilful statesmen in Russia.

It is reported that a German-Swedish alliance is afoot. Several conferences between Emperor William and King Oscar have taken place on the Emperor's yacht, Hohenzollern.

By the overflowing of the Government reservoirs along the Upper Mississippi, hundreds of farmers in Northern Minnesota have lost their homes and property. Many people are reported drowned.

Two engagements have taken place on the Island of Sakhalin. In both the Japanese were victorious, and they now hold possession of the whole southern portion of the island. Latest despatches state that the Japanese are now investing Vladivostok.

On July 10th Premier Rouvier submitted to the French Chamber of Deputies the notes exchanged between him and Prince Von Radolin, re the Moroccan affair. He explained that the agreement reached interferes in no way with the arrangements France had previously concluded with England and Spain, and that it chiefly concerns the sovereignty of the Sultan, the independence of Morocco, and the open door without inequality, to all of which France has given assent. On the part of Germany, France's interest in Morocco, due to the proximity of Algiers, and her right to police the frontier with troops, are recognized. In consideration of this agreement, France now is willing to join in the conference, whose programme has been left to the Sultan. Further than this the whole question has been taken out of his hands. The Premier's announcement was received with much satisfaction with both sides of