

## NOTES FROM THE PROVINCES

### Annapolis Valley West, N.S.

R. J. Messenger

The lime-sulphur idea in spraying has struck the people very forcibly. Some are using the home boiled, some the commercially prepared, and some both. We are all after the best thing and we expect to find it generally in the new thing.

To some last season's prices for apples are fairly satisfactory, while others are grumbling. The middle man and the English broker has each, in many cases, had his underhand quiet steal from the producer. It's the same old question of a few cents here and a few cents there—a "London clause" or a "forwarding charge," or a few barrels in each lot "slack and wasty." It would be a pleasant change if the guilty brokers would exhibit brains enough to invent some new terms to cover their petty thieving. The co-operative associations are having matters easier and we hope their object lessons may bring more.

### Annapolis Valley East, N. S.

Ennice Watts, A.H.H.S.

Up to the time of writing, the month of June has been a cold one of continuous rains and in some sections disastrous frosts. On June 5 a severe frost cut down the potatoes, cucumbers, asparagus, corn, nasturtiums, Virginia creepers and the like; even young turnip leaves were frosted. The greatest loss has occurred in low lying orchards and cranberry bogs, while the mountains and elevated lands have escaped. Had it not been for this frost it would have been a banner year for strawberries. Plantations are in splendid condition however, the rains have kept the beds moist. The second blossoms have opened, which still promise a good crop.

A still earlier frost damaged the soft fruits, killing not only the flower buds, but the young green leaves which surrounded them. These are now brown and falling off. In some orchards where the trees escaped the first frost, the latter one completed the damage. It is early yet to say what are the prospects of the apple crop as many of the best orchards have escaped injury. A few years ago, when the June frost nipped the apples, the prices were high and results satisfactory.

Seeds have germinated quickly and show-ers are making them grow rapidly. Blackberry, raspberry, blueberry and other small fruits promise a good harvest.

Forest tent caterpillars have appeared, but owing to sprays keeping them out of the orchards they have turned their attention to ornamentals, especially oak trees.

Cut worms are numerous; where cabbages are grown in a small garden, paper collars put round the stems of the plants prove effective; in fields poisoned bran is used. Potato beetles and flea beetles are attacking tomato plants. Owing to tomatoes being more tender than potatoes, care must be taken not to burn the foliage by spraying. Often the beetles can be kept under by hand picking, as they are usually not as numerous as in potato fields.

The planting of spruce hedges seems to be very popular this year, and home grounds are improving every month.

### Norfolk County, Ont.

The middle of June cherries generally were very light, real early cherries not more than half a crop, strawberries a good crop; apples in general are fairly good; Greenings good in some orchards, in others none; Spys not very good; Baldwins, Kings, Russets and fall varieties a good crop. Peaches well loaded, the curl leaf being completely combated by lime and sulphur.

The Norfolk Fruit Growers' Association has 300 members this year, and great quantities of spraying material have been used. The spraying has been well done and the association expects a better quality of apples than ever this coming season.

Good success has attended the use of lime and sulphur, both the home boiled and the home-made concentrated.—W. W.

### Niagara District, Ont.

In the Winona and Grimsby sections early strawberries have been scarce and in great demand. Buyers have been paying \$2.75 to \$3.50 a crate. On Hamilton market they have been bringing 17 to 20 cents a box. Up to June 21 they ripened slowly, but the bright, warm weather now is bringing them on fast, and they will come in with a rush. Williams—the main shipping berry grown here—is looking magnificent. There will be a great crop of these of extra fine quality. Raspberries, red and black currants and gooseberries are heavily laden, and unless scorching hot, dry weather intervenes, will be a great crop.

Blackberries are blossoming freely and promise well. Cherries are not more than half a crop. Early white are pretty good, but blacks are light, and sour cherries, such as early Richmond and Montmorency, are light in many orchards.

Plums are not fulfilling their early promise of a heavy crop. Japanese are light and Europeans not much over half a crop.

Pears are good, all varieties but Duchess being well loaded.

Peaches will not be much over half a crop. Where not sprayed early and thoroughly with lime and sulphur they suffered desperately from curl leaf.

Apples look well. Early varieties, such as Astrachan and Duchess, have set a heavy crop. Greenings are good, generally speaking. Other winter varieties are about an average except Baldwins and Spys, which are inclined to be light.

Mr. Joseph Tweedle of Stoney Creek reports prospects of a crop of almost 2,000 barrels from his celebrated orchard at Woodburn, which bore such a splendid crop last year.

Grapes are looking exceedingly well and are now in full bloom. They are making a very vigorous growth. Most of the growers, however, do not expect a very heavy crop this year. Mr. E. D. Smith and the Randal Grape Juice Company both report a good sale for their unfermented grape juice.

Tomatoes suffered badly from the cold, wet weather, and cold nights, and a good many early planted ones had to be re-set. The bright warm weather of the past week, however, has brought them on wonderfully.

Spraying generally has been well attended to in this part of the Niagara district. Apple orchards in particular have been more carefully sprayed than usual. The curculio and codling moth were somewhat later than usual in making their appearance, the cold, wet weather being unfavorable to their development.

Mr. Tweedle of Stoney Creek reports excellent success in the use of lime and sulphur upon Flemish Beauty pears this season. They were first sprayed at winter strength, namely at a dilution of 1 to 10, then twice at a summer strength of 1 to 40. They are completely free from scab, whilst those untreated are very scabby.—W.W.

### St. Catharines Section

Strawberries are a heavy crop around St. Catharines. Raspberries and other small fruits are very good; cherries not much over half a crop, both sweet and sour; peaches good on well sprayed orchards, on others almost a total failure; pears, generally well loaded; plums, Japanese light, European moderately good; apples, most varieties promise a good crop.

Tomatoes, melons, etc., were much injured by cold, damp weather. At one time many fields of late tomatoes were looking very badly, but the warm bright weather of the past week has helped them wonderfully. On the whole, the outlook is bright.

Canning and jam factories have been contracting at 4 to 4½ cents a box for raspberries.

Buyers have been offering \$1.25 an 11-quart basket for black currants.

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