

## ❖ Question Drawer. ❖

### Bearing Capabilities of Certain Apples.

**598.** SIR,—Compared with such regular bearers as the Greening, what are the bearing capabilities of the *Peewaukee*, *Walbridge*, *Sutton Beauty*, *Grimes' Golden*, *American Golden Russet*, *King* and *Ontario*, when grown under favorable conditions? I ask this because I see myself that the *Spitzenburg*, which does well here, only bears one-third the weight of apples which the *Winesap* does, and, though better in quality, brings no more in the market.

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The varieties named by our correspondent are none of them heavy bearers ; indeed, the *King* is proverbial for being a scant cropper. The *American Golden Russet* produces a fair crop, but when fully loaded does, not yield one half as many barrels as the *Greening*. However, the fact that an apple tree is a light bearer does not condemn it. The *King* apple brings twice the price in the British market that the *Greening* does and, therefore, is more profitable, even if it yields less than one-half the quantity of fruit ; and the same remarks will apply to the other varieties.

The following is the experience of other growers with these varieties :—

Prof. John Craig, of Ottawa, writes :—"I have found that on rather poor and gravelly soil *Peewaukee* does not bear heavily. Twenty trees of this variety, at Abbotsford, P. Q., now 18 years old, have not borne as much fruit as half that number of *Wealthy* growing alongside. *Walbridge*, except on sandy soil, in my experience, has proved a very light bearer, and the fruit quite too small to compete with such apples as *Peewaukee* and *Ontario*. *McIntosh Red* does not bear as heavily as the *Fameuse*, but usually with satisfactory regularity. *American Golden Russett* has not proved as reliable in Eastern Ontario and the Province of Quebec as the *English Golden Russett*, which, after it has attained some size, say : in eight or ten years after planting, bears moderate and regular crops annually.

The fact that the *Ontario* apple is given to bearing young and very heavily was brought out at the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, and on this account was likely to be a short-lived tree, unless cultivated highly.

I know of no instance where *King*, although a very desirable apple in many respects, can be called a profitable variety when grown on its own stock. While everywhere a favorite yet, it bears so lightly and is so uncertain, that returns are usually unsatisfactory."

Mr. Nicol, of Cataraqui, writes :—"I would state that the *Peewaukee* was introduced to this district only fifteen years ago. Hence, there are no large bearing trees of it hereabout, but from what I know of it, I am led to believe it is one of the most suitable kinds for this part of our country. The tree is hardy as the *Duchess*, bears early, fairly good crops of fruit, of good size, good quality, and which keep well ; valuable for shipping.