

➤ 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.

J. L. WEBSTER, *Vernon, B.C.*

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. *Wallbridge*, 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.