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R. G. LONG & CO., Limited, Toronto, Canada

HORTICULTURE

Strawberry Growing in Prince
Edward County*

Howard Leavens, Prince Edward Co.,
Ont.

STRAWBERRY growing in Prince Edward County has assumed large proportions in the last five years, due to a large extent to the demand by the canning factories for the fruit at good prices. There are from 15 to 20 factories in the county, and although there are not enough berries grown to supply all the factories, enough factories run on them to take all that are grown. In fact the Dominion Canners not being able to get enough berries from outside growers have been growing a large acreage on their own farms.

The prices paid by the factories have been good, averaging about nine cents the last three years. Last year 10 cents per quart box was paid for the whole crop. Some growers ship their berries, but the high prices paid at home has not warranted very heavy shipping, as at least four cents per box more must be realized in order to pay the extra expense of boxes, crates and express. Also in shipping berries a great deal more care has to be taken in filling the boxes and sorting the fruit. Factories will accept fruit that will not ship, when they are getting the whole crop. At the end of the season as well as after a rain, there is a certain amount of fruit not good enough to ship, but will sell at the factory. Taking this all into consideration, a margin of at least four cents is needed to break even with the factory prices.

There is considerable land well adapted to growing berries around Picton and Bloomfield, as well as in the western part of the county. This land is mostly level and some black ground. Usually a heavy coat of manure is applied to the land the season previous to setting the plants, and hoe crop is grown to break the land of weeds. Very little fertilizer has been used in the county, most growers depending on manure. Potatoes have been a favorite crop to precede as well as follow the strawberry crop.

The Varieties Preferred.

The main varieties grown here been the Wilson, Senator, Dunlap and Parson's Beauty. Probably 75 per cent of the berries grown are the Dunlap. The main objection to the Dunlap is the white tip which affects the appearance of the fruit in the can. The Parson's Beauty is a deeper red all through, and shows up better after being canned although the Wilson is the best quality of the three varieties.

Season before last a blight affected a large number of patches and after two or three pickings the plants withered and died. This blight affected practically all varieties except a few plantings of Wilson berries, and they seemed immune, a full crop being harvested from them. Whether this was due to the variety or the land or conditions under which they were handled I cannot say.

Some growers in setting the plants, especially where a number of acres are set, are using the tomato planter for this work. This machine with three men, will set and water from 15,000 to 18,000 plants a day. Those that have used it claim that it is equal to hand setting, and saves a great deal of time. We have found it pays to set plants as early as possible in the season so as to give them a good root before too much dry weather sets in. We have not tried setting in the fall, but believe that early spring setting suits our conditions best.

Where the land is fairly clean of weeds, two crops are taken off before the patch is plowed up, although the

second crop is not expected to be as heavy as the first. Some plow two furrows through the centre of each old row and cultivate this down after the first crop is harvested, and if the season is favorable the new plants will run during the fall, which makes a patch for another year, practically as good as a new set patch. The weather conditions have a good deal to do with this practice, and also the conditions of the land. Sandy loam can be plowed at any time, but some of the other soils, especially if there is a clay mixture, have to be plowed after a rain, and this does not always come at the right time.

Winter Covering.

We find it necessary to cover the plants in the fall with a coating of straw for two reasons: In the spring if the plants are not covered, they are apt to heave out of the soil during the freezing and thawing weather; and also if there is not straw enough around the plants at picking time the fruit will be very gritty and dirty, especially after a shower, which spatters the soil on the berries and makes them unfit for use.

The yield of berries varies a good deal according to the care and attention given the plants and the season. One grower put 10,500 quarts into the factory from one acre and another 18,000 quarts from two acres. These parties make a specialty of berry growing where some other growers have strawberries more as a sideline, have not had as large yields as they, but possibly have not put on the same expense per acre. There is a good outlet for berries in shipping them by boat from Picton to Kingston, Gananoque, Brockville and some of the smaller places along the boat route, as well as direct daily trains to Ottawa and Toronto, although Toronto is not as good a market for us as the Niagara fruit generally fills that market.

So far there has been sufficient help for picking the crop. This help comes from the villages and towns in the county, and the berries are moving in about that time, preparing for the factory season, although each season help is getting scarcer and the cost of the handling of the crop is greater.

A City Garden

ABOUT a year ago I was visiting a friend in the city of Ottawa. He had just had his six acre garden plot worked up and was ready to plant his seed. As it was many long years since he had planted potatoes—for that was to be the principal crop of the garden—he asked me to plant a few hills for him before it was time for my train, so he would know how to proceed. I did so, and the next time I spoke to him was about a year from that date, when he was ready to plant his garden this year. I asked him how his potatoes had turned out last year. His answer was: "Oh, well, the ones that you planted were alright, but there were more potatoes in those few hills than in all the rest of the patch. I want you to plant them all for me this year." This I was unable to do. Possibly it is just as well, as I might not have maintained my good reputation. I do not know what particular virtue there was in the potatoes that I planted, which caused them to yield more than there in just one hill, but it is a fact that the potatoes could not help responding to me.

The incident, however, goes to show that growing crops merely putting in the seed and being assured of a hundred fold increase. There is many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip, and often a day or so difference in the planting of some slight difference in the condition of the soil, depth of planting of other seemingly insignificant cases may mean the difference between a good crop and a failure. Oh, yes, there's a risk even in growing a city garden. "Mac."

Sunday Labor in Con

ON Friday, May 30th, operating a condenser factory at Aymer issued to farmers supplying it with quelling delivery of the night and Sunday morning Sunday.

In support of this request pay stated that, up to the date of the Saturday night, had been delivered at the late as eleven p.m., and necessitates keeping factory who handle scales, tanks, etc. until 10 p.m. Sunday. This system, it was said, was not a new one, but was necessitated other factory engaged in coal and coal remaining until four to six Sunday morning. It was stated that the delivery of milk and Monday morning's Monday morning, added to the fact that the factory was practically the handling of the supply on Monday. This, it made the factory an unplace for employment and it is difficult to see how to compete with factories in eastern and the United States, a cow milk seven days a week. While the request for delivery of milk on Sunday is urged as time necessary," a correspondent tends that, if the custom is followed during the war, it is to remain after the war is over. The correspondent's assertion founded. All the arguments "war-time necessity" will be strong after the war as they are. Moreover, delivery of milk day at the factory will not Sunday labor now demanded factory employees, but will attract Sunday labor will be attracted any other day in the week if factory operation is concerned. The question raised here is a question of justice involved present circumstances. The present of Sunday labor is in use under present conditions necessarily should be most new for every operation period on that day.—Toronto Globe.

To Limit Profits of Producers

THE Canada Food Board has issued an order which is definitely to prevent speculations in the produce business, and limit profits to a reasonable level. The order provides that after July 1 no person shall deal in wholesale in meats, lard, cheese, milk, oleomargarine or eggs, in a retail dealer, or others not in the business, shall charge on a transition more than the cost of his cost price delivered to the house. When salaries men are employed in buying, or when a commission is charged, the charge for such commission shall be recognized for buying or the cost of commission paid.

In selling to another wholesaler the charge on each transaction must not exceed the cost price more than 4 per centum.

When selling prices of butter have been moulded or cut by him, the wholesaler dealer may be permitted to charge an additional 1 per cent over the cost of such moulding or cutting, but this additional 1 per cent must not be more than 3 per cent of cost.

In selling or storing eggs that have been candied by himself, the wholesaler dealer may add up to two cents a dozen to cover cost of candling, fillers, and loss from breakage. If he candies eggs for sale out of cold-storage he may add more than 3 per centum to cost of labor and loss from defects.

When the produce dealer has been held for more than thirty days of cost of holding or carrying of

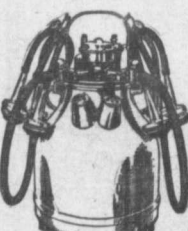
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BROCKVILLE, ONT.

* A paper read before the recent Fruit Growers' Convention.