

MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

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NOVA SCOTIA FRUIT GROWERS' of the Kings County Board of Trade to ASSOCIATION.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE N. S. F. G. A.:-The year 1903 will be remembered by N. S. fruit growers as the most disappointing and unprofitable one in our past histoty of apple culture. An unusually mild winter succeeded by a wet, cold May and June produced abundant blossoms, which in most cases set well, but during the first two weeks of July both trees and fruit were blighted causing destruction of fruit and leaves, and reducing the crops of apples for export to 70,000 bbls. of inferior fruit against an average export of 300,000 bbls. yearly. While this blight was general in Kings and Annapolis, some orchards and some trees in the blighted orchards (noticeably the Blenbeim) produced good crops of fair quality. The cause and cure for this mysterious apple tree blight and its effects on next year's crop will give the students of horti-culture an ample field for investigation.

Owing to the ravages of black knot and other pests the plum crop-was a partial failure to the careless fruit grower, while those who destroyed the pests and culti-vated, and marketed intelligently, had an abundant crop and realized good prices --one grower receiving over \$500 net for 1000 ten pound baskets ; and another reports sale of 8000 ten pound baskets at fair prices. The crop is estimated at 40,000 baskets.

Pears and peaches were a good crop and excellent quality. Strawberries and other small fruits were an average crop and sold at remunerative prices. The cranberry crop is reported a failure in Kings county, owing to frosts.

The question of paying for an adequate supply of fertilizers and the most advant-ageous use of them for the many thousands of young trees being planted is one of great importance to fruit growers, and may be estimated from the fact that this year one firm has collected over \$60,000 for commercial fertilizers sold in Nova Scotia.

APPLE CROP OF 1902.

The U.S. report gives this year's crop there at forty six millions barrels against twenty-one millions last year, and the U. Apple Shippers' Association reports neatly five million barrels on hand and in cold storage on Dec. 1st, so low prices may be expected during the season. The crop in N. S is the smallest in ten years .- the average crop for export being 250,000 barmaking 2,600,000 barrels exported rels. which, at \$2 per barrel, gives N. S. a net income from apples in ten years of \$5 200,and more than double the income from all other agricultural products exported.

INSPECTION LAW

Although the "Fruit Markets Aci" has caused an improvement in packing generally in Canads, much yet remains to be done to make it efficient, and as a whole the inspection of fruit exported has not met the requirements of the trade ; as d in almost every fruit catalogue we see Canadian apples sold without the marks required by the Act.

FRUIT INSECT PESTS

Owing to the continuous wet weather in How to Make Them Bright, Good Natured in May and June it was impossible to spray effectually and many orchards suffered se-verely from canker worm, bud moth and other injurious pests. As the St. Jose Scale was proving in jurious in Ontario and the U. S it was deemed advisable to again employ an inspector to carefully survey nursery stock and young orchards and on recommendation of Pror. Craig we appointed Prof Ruggles, of Cornell, who, after carefully inspecting for six weeks, reported that he did not find one St Jose Scale in Nova Scotia, but strongly adviced every frait grower to watch carefully for i'. He also reported the government fumigation at St. John as reliable, and with ordinary care we may hope to keep this worst of all pests ont of N. S. We are under great obligation to the N.S. Go errment, who paid all Prof. Ruggles' expenses. TRANSPORTATION.

Notwithstanding the praiseworthy efforts

cure a twelve-kuot service. better ventilation and other improvements in the London service, their efforts have failed bad as it has been in the and last twenty years it has been more disastrous and inefficient this year than ever before, and in two instances apples have been over a month in transit. All our experence proves that fruit growers must find some more desirable route for shipment and encourage a fast line from Halifax to Liverpool, or ship our hard fruit direct from Bay ports at half the er pense and time we are enduring. With the many thousands of young trees coming into bearing, our next good crop will reach the one million barrel mark, and some better means of transportation must be employed to market them profitably. SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE.

As a detailed report will be presented by the Chairman, J. E. Smith, I need only say that under the efficient management of Prof. Sears its usefulness is increasing and it has this year 65 students, many of are practical fruit growers; and while it is to be regretted that its advantages are not more fully appreciated by the young men on the farms, yet it has become an important factor in the fruit in-dustry of Nova Scotia.

During the past four years a College of Agriculture has been in the air, which, if established would absorb this school. As there is now no good reason for supposing that this college will material ze in the near future, we must make this school more efficient to meet its increasing requiremen's by building and equipping additional class-rooms, laboratory and other indispensible improvements, which will require an outlay of at lears \$3,000. As governments usually help those who first help themselves, I feel assured that if the friends of horticulture in N. S., who so nobly subscribed nine years ago to found this school, will now subscribe \$1,000 the government can be approached to complete the amount. As this work must be completed before the next school term, a subscription list has been started by our worthy chairman J. Elliott Smith, with \$.00, which amount I cheerfully add. also, and the full sum is practically assnred

Prof Sears is employed during summer months (in addition to directing this school) in lecturing, planting experiment orchards, and genarally promoting fruit culture in every county in the province, under the able management and with he assistance of our worthy Secretary of Agriculture, B. W. Chipman, the value of which work cannot be overestimated.

We are entering the 40th "nitwersary of our as oclation with the assurance that the same energy. ""Illy and co-operation of all the officers and unembers will as in the past, suble us to overcome all diffi-cuities and increase the usefulness of this worthy institution. xours most sincerely.

J. W. BIGELOW.

CROSS BABITS.

and Well

and Well A crying baby is an unwell baby. The littleschap is not cross for the fun of it. He cries becaue that is the culy way he has of expressing the fact that he is either in pain or discomfort. Most of his little troubles are due to some disorder of the stomach or bowels, and if Baby's Own Tablets are given both the trouble and re-sulting crossness will disappear. Y-u can take a mother's word for it, and Mrs John T. Sutherland, of Bitsfield, N. B., says : "I think Raby's Own Tablets the best medicine in the world for little ones. My baby was very cross and used to keep me medicine in the world for little ones. My baby was very cross and used to keep me awake half the night before I got the Tab-lets. Now she sleeps soundly, is good natured and is growing splendilly." You can give these Tab ets with pe fect asfety to sont in no opiate or poleon us cleepy etaff, and are a sure cure for all the miner allments from which little ones suffer. Sold by medicine desirer or sent post paid at 25 cents a bea by writing (direct to the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont. Dr. Ont.



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