

disabused of this impression, however, after eating the Royal Sovereign, which, undoubtedly, is one of the most delicious berries in existence. We should like to have had some Wm. Belt or Marshall for comparison.

On looking into the matter and visiting the plantations where the fruit was grown, it was found, as in Canada, that the varieties of poor or medium quality are often the most productive, and to the average grower the most profitable, hence one has to test Royal Sovereign or some other good variety to get a right idea of what can be produced. The best berries are also very large, no doubt principally due to the fact that the plants are grown on the hill system, the plants being from 22 to 24 inches apart each way. From three to five crops are usually taken from a plantation. The price of strawberries was, on the whole, lower than in Canada, varying from 2d. to 6d. per box.

Everybody eats gooseberries out of hand when the season is on, and it does not take long for a Canadian to get to like this refreshing pastime. A morning visit to the garden in gooseberry time is a very popular kind of entertainment. It is a fine sight to see these immense gooseberries grown on large areas after being accustomed to a plantation of Downing in Canada. Raspberries and currants were also abundant.

Two visits were made to the principal fruit districts of Ireland, in Armagh county. Apple orchards of 20 acres are not uncommon here, and many young trees are being set yearly. The fruit growers of this district are confident that it will not be long before Canadian or American apples will not be needed in Ireland, and certainly if the quality and appearance of the fruit were as good as our own, and the crop as certain, we should have this fear, because of the large number of trees which are being set. It is certain, however, that Canadian fruit, of the best quality only, will in the near

future command a good price, as the people prefer their home-grown fruit for culinary purposes, owing to its greater acidity, and it is naturally in better condition when bought. We were told that last year when apples were so plentiful in Ireland they were shipped to Glasgow and the returns were very fair. The Bramley Seedling is the most popular variety in the north of Ireland, as it succeeds well.

A visit was also paid to Kent, one of the best fruit districts of England, where large areas are devoted to both large and small fruits. The impression obtained on seeing the apple orchards both in England and Ireland is that the trees in general are planted too close; that fine fruit is produced while the trees are young and the soil kept cultivated, or while other crops, demanding cultivation, can be grown between the trees; but that as soon as the trees become older and it becomes unprofitable to grow other crops on account of the shade from the apple trees, the fruit does not get sufficient sunshine and, we should think, would not produce good fruit. In Canada trees of the same age would be producing the most profitable crops, although, unfortunately, trees are often too close with us. The bad effects of too close planting could be avoided by timely thinning out the trees, but this, if done at all, is usually left too long.

Many trees in the old country are, however, grown on Paradise stock and become profitable early. There are many orchards which are judiciously planted or thinned where the large trees have plenty of room and clean cultivation is adopted, and where good fruit is produced.

The Schools of Horticulture at Swanley, Kent, and at Reading were visited for the purpose of seeing the character of the work done and the methods employed. Both of these colleges are in a very flourishing condition. A visit was also paid to the estab-