



The Fruit Growers' Senator

In Hon. E. D. Smith, of Winona, the well-known fruit grower and nurseryman, the fruit growing industry has a worthy representative.

ing to peaches, his friends were doubtful of his success. They had always considered the peach too tender a fruit to grow properly in that locality. Mr. Hartley reasoned, however, that if he could grow the small fruits to maturity as quickly as they could be grown in the Niagara district, that peaches should do equally well. His peach orchard now consists of ten acres, interplanted with apples and all in bearing. Mr. Hartley's first three crops were bumper ones, the fruit comparing favorably in quality with the best Niagara product. Last year his peaches were a failure, but this year again the trees are well loaded, and a good crop is promised.

Cherries, Mr. Hartley considers one of his best money-making crops. On the day of our visit thirty-five pickers under the direction of Mr. Hartley's daughters were at work in the cherry orchard, and the shipment for the day numbered well over two hundred eleven-quart baskets. Trees set eight years ago, this year averaged almost six baskets of fruit a tree. At this rate of bearing and allowing twenty cents a basket from present prices for picking, Mr. Hartley's returns from his cherries will run between three hundred and four hundred dollars an acre.

Although Mr. Hartley is devoting more and more of his attention to tree fruits, he still derives a good portion of his revenue from the smaller fruits that gave him his start. Of these, raspberries this year proved the most profitable. As a general rule the crop has been short in most sections, and Mr. Hartley has averaged over fifteen cents

a box wholesale, selling some as high as twenty cents and twenty-two cents a box. The crop all through his ten-acre plantation was good. Strawberries occupy fifty acres. They were a small crop this year, the bloom being injured by spring frosts and consequent growth interfered with by dry weather. But even with these unfavorable conditions to compete with, returns per acre had been greater from the strawberries than Mr. Hartley derives from the best of his land devoted to general farming.

Mr. Hartley gave us another glimpse into the profits that he is deriving from fruit as we drove through a small gooseberry and currant plantation of one and three-quarter acres. "Last year," said he, "I sold well over one thousand dollars' worth of fruit from that small plantation to the canning factories. This year the canning factories are filled up and I have had to look for a market elsewhere, but I believe the returns will be almost as great as last year." In other words, Mr. Hartley derives a greater income from this one and three-quarter acres than he derived from the whole farm in the days of his adversity.

"How do you market your fruit?" asked The Horticulturist representative.

"In wholesale quantities only," answered Mr. Hartley. "We ship some fruit to Galt, a lot to Guelph, but the most of it goes to commission merchants in Toronto. We aim always to give satisfaction and we find that when we treat dealers right that there is always a ready market awaiting our products. So far as over-production is concerned, I find that people are eating more fruit than ever before, and I expect to see consumption increase even faster than production. So far as getting a market is concerned I do not worry at all."

HARVESTING THE CROPS

"The picking of the fruit on such a plantation must represent some difficulties," we ventured.

"We have had as high as fifty pickers here at one time," remarked Mr. Hartley. "This year we will have thirty-five pickers steadily at work for two and one-half months. They are mostly country girls, with a sprinkling from the city. I have no preference. City girls are as quick as country girls once they get their hand in. We treat them well, board them in our own house, and usually have them back to us year after year, only filling the gap when some good fellow comes along and marries one of them."

And what of financial results? Twenty-eight years ago, in the words of one of their neighbors, "The Hartleys didn't entertain company, because they couldn't afford the extra tableware necessary to feed them off of." To-day, after meeting the great expense that is involved in

running such a large fruit plantation, Mr. Hartley has an annual net income that runs into thousands of dollars, and which would be sufficient to buy and equip an ordinary farm. Mr. Hartley, however, is not putting his surplus income in the bank, in mining stocks, or in western land. He is putting it back into his farm. He will soon have an estate that, did he sell out, would enable him and his children to live out their lives in ease and affluence.—F.E.E.

Budding Peaches and Plums

Prof. J. W. Crow, O.A.C., Guelph, Ont.

In budding the peach and plum, is grafting wax applied over the raffia binding? Which is the best month for budding in Elgin county, Ontario? About what percentage of loss do the nurseries incur in budding?—C.T.

Grafting wax is not applied over the raffia binding. July or August would be the most satisfactory period for budding in Elgin county. Apples, pears, plums, and cherries would be budded in July or early August, peaches in late August.

The percentage of loss in budding in nurseries varies under normal conditions between ten and forty per cent. approximately. It is very seldom that a nurseryman gets seventy-five per cent. of a stand in apples, and frequently they get not over fifty per cent.

Girdling to induce Fruitfulness

In the May issue of The Canadian Horticulturist there appeared an article by Dr. C. D. Jarvis on winter and summer pruning, in which it was stated that the girdling of fruit trees was practised to induce fruitfulness. The writer does not make plain whether the bark is cut with a knife or a band is tied tightly round the trunk, to be removed afterwards. One would expect that if much of the bark were removed the tree would die.—S.P.R., Montreal, Que.

In my article on pruning fruit trees, I did not explain fully the method of ringing or girdling trees to induce fruitfulness. This practice is common in the middle west, especially in the Ozark apple region. The practice consists in taking about a quarter inch ring of bark from the main stem of three or four year old apple trees. The work is usually done during the month of June when circulation is active.

The wound thus made interferes to some extent with the down flow of sap and tends to check the growth of the tree during the season. Any operation that tends to check the growth is likely to induce fruitfulness. If this operation should be done later in the summer it would probably kill the tree, but if done at the proper time the wound readily heals over. The practice is not generally recommended. In the east it is believed that better results will follow summer pruning.—C. D. Jarvis.