

looked nicer, being absolutely free from fungous disease.

#### TOMATOES ARE DOING WELL

The tomato crop, which may be included under the head of fruit, does not

promise at all well. In fact, tomatoes never made a much poorer show than they are doing in Kent County this year. If what is seen in Kent is a fair indication of what is found elsewhere, tomatoes for canning will be a scarce article this season.

## CHANGES IN VARIETY OF APPLES GROWN IN NOVA SCOTIA

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**I**N these days of the almost endless multiplication of new varieties of fruits, when every year sees the launching of new sorts which it would seem (from the introducers' descriptions) must displace altogether the old favorites, it is interesting to observe the changes taking place in the varieties of apples which are set in commercial orchards.

I have before me a report of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association of 1883 in which is given a descriptive list of the "nine principal kinds of apples grown in Nova Scotia," and it is stated that this list was prepared in 1880, so that over twenty years have elapsed since it was compiled. The list, which is the work of Mr. R. W. Starr, is as follows: Gravenstein, Ribston Pippin, Blenheim Pippin, King of Tompkins, Baldwin, Nonpareil, Northern Spy, Yellow Belleflower and Golden Russet. At a recent meeting of our Horticultural Club, on the same authority, the following list was selected as the "ten best commercial varieties" from Nova Scotia to-day—Gravenstein, Ribston Pippin, Blenheim Pippin, King of Tompkins, Golden Russet, Baldwin, Northern Spy, Stark, Fallawater and Nonpareil. In other words, after twenty-two years' experience Mr. Starr drops the Yel-

low Belleflower from the list and adds the Stark and the Fallawater. Truly this is not a great change for so long a time!

But when one comes to examine critically his revised list, which undoubtedly comes very close to being the ten most popular among Nova Scotia growers to-day, it is surprising how many of them have one or more serious defects viewed from the standpoint of the grower. Some of the most obvious are these:—The Gravenstein, though all that could be desired for quality and growth, comes so early that prices are low and the demand limited. The Ribston has a serious tendency to dry rot and is almost wholly a dessert apple, so that the market is limited. The Blenheim dry rots and the King is often a shy bearer and apt to be affected with "collar-rot." The Golden Russet is a very irregular bearer, with a few growers giving good and regular crops, but more often being a light, shy bearer. The Baldwin is, we believe, about as popular as any variety grown, though its tendency to overbear every other year and "under-bear" in between is against it. The Spy is all right except that it is too slow in coming into bearing, and the Stark is very popular just now but has not been grown very extensively, is not of high quality and