

showing range from 25 to over 50 per cent., and in a few cases even higher. In Elgin county buds are not showing to the same advantage. Estimates of the percentage range as low as 5 to 15 per cent., although the hardy varieties are said to be budding freely.

The percentage of buds on trees in Welland county ranges from 10 to 15 per cent., and 15 to 90 per cent. in Lincoln, depending largely on the location of the orchards. The majority of the correspondents replied that there will at least be a moderate crop on thrifty trees. In Wentworth county the conditions are much the same, most replies indicating that sufficient buds are showing to insure a crop of most of the varieties.

#### NOT MANY NEW ORCHARDS.

In reply to the question, "To what extent are new orchards being planted?" the majority of replies indicate that few or no new trees are being set out, although isolated reports show local activity in this line. In the vicinity of Raleigh, Kent county, it is stated that the number of orchards being planted is the largest in years, while near St. George, in Brant county, large orchards are being set out, numbering in all about 5,000 trees. In Lincoln and Welland counties not so many trees are being planted as last year, although quite a few growers are said to be filling in gaps in their orchards. Reviewing the situation as a whole it seems that the area in bearing peach trees this year will be quite a little less than two years ago. In another month it will be possible to obtain a pretty accurate idea of the fruit prospects in all the counties.

#### Strawberry Crop Will Be Light

The 1904 strawberry crop in Ontario will not be a very heavy one, as plantations in many of the leading counties have been badly destroyed by the severe winter. The southern counties have suffered the most. In the section bordering Lake Erie and in the Niagara peninsula the yield will not likely be more than 10 to 50 per cent. of an average crop.

In the northern counties prospects are more encouraging. Where the snow fall was heavy and where the snow remained until late in the season, beds appear to have wintered fairly well, although some reports indicate that where strawberries were mulched heavily the heavy fall of snow had the effect of smothering them. Beds that were at all exposed, unless they were mulched heavily, have been almost completely ruined. Some growers have plowed under as many as 25 to 30 acres of their strawberries.

The most severe loss seems to have taken place in Welland and Lincoln counties. Estimates of the loss range from 50 to 90 per cent. of the average crop, although in a few cases beds have done nicely. A good crop may be expected in Bruce, Durham, Hastings, Grey and Lincoln counties and in the eastern sections of the province, and fair to good crops in Huron and Ontario counties, while in Brant, Lambton

and Northumberland counties the yield is problematical, as in some sections, beds have suffered severely, while in others they have come through in good condition. In Essex, Kent, Elgin, Wentworth, Halton, Lennox and Norfolk counties correspondents state the prospects are fair to bad. On the whole there seems no doubt but that the crop of strawberries this year will be quite a little lighter than usual.

#### Light Yield of Plums Probable

Plum growers this season are not likely to find it as difficult to dispose of their crop as last year, owing to the fact that trees have apparently come through the winter in rather poor condition. Reports received by The Horticulturist from the leading plum producing sections show that many trees have been quite badly injured. In some cases growers are pulling up their plum orchards, having become discouraged as a result of their inability to dispose of their last year's crop at satisfactory prices. Insect pests have also tended towards a decrease in the plum acreage.

In Huron and Bruce counties the crop is reported to be fair to good; conditions in Simcoe county are much the same, while in Lambton county prospects are said to be promising. Along Lake Erie trees in Norfolk and Lincoln counties are doing well, while in Essex and Kent counties only a fair crop is expected. In Wentworth, Halton, York, Ontario, Durham, Hastings, Frontenac and Grenville counties the yield will be light; in Victoria, Peterboro, Lennox, Leeds, Elgin and Oxford counties a poor crop is looked for.

#### Good Prospects for Pear Crop

Prospects for the pear crop this year are promising in all the chief producing sections. Out of several hundred growers heard from by The Horticulturist the replies indicate that large crops may be expected in Essex, Kent, Norfolk, Welland, Lincoln, Wentworth, York, Ontario and Brant counties, and fair to good crops in Lambton, Huron, Bruce, Simcoe and Halton.

In Northumberland, Durham and Elgin the prospects are not quite as bright, although a good crop is generally anticipated. Growers in Victoria, Peterboro, Lennox, Hastings and the more easterly counties anticipate a light yield. On the whole the pear trees appear to have wintered in good condition and to give good promise of a very satisfactory yield.

#### Cherry Crop Conditions

Both the sweet and the sour cherry trees give promise of a full fruit yield in most of the producing sections. In Essex, Kent, Welland and Wentworth sweet cherry trees are reported to be in excellent condition, while in Lincoln, Oxford, Lambton, Huron, Grey, Simcoe, Halton, Ontario and Durham a fair crop is looked forward to.