

Lawrence, Canada Baldwin, and Mann, the latter variety being a good late keeper.

W. M. Robson, Lindsay, said the Keswick Codlin died with him, the Wagener was going the same road, and the Ben Davis was not hardy. He regarded over-pruning as another cause of failure. Dr. Herriman, Lindsay, who took a great interest in fruit growing, had been observing the surrounding orchards for many years, and found that wind-breaks were the principal cause of success. He observed that the following varieties were the most successfully grown: Wagener, Alexander, Snow, Talman Sweet, Golden Russet, Northern Spy, and Keswick Codlin. Mr. Demsey regarded sand as being better than heavy clay for apples. He believed in cultivating early in the season, and draining five feet deep. He regarded mulching as producing the same effects as tillage.

W. M. Robson gave his experience with plums. He was troubled with the curculio, but not with black knot. He thought plums could be profitably grown in the Lindsay section, but only two varieties succeeded, viz:—Pond's Seedling, and Lombard. He tried 20 or 30 varieties. Mr. Beall did not think that plums could be grown for profit in the Lindsay section. The climate was all right, but there was something wrong with the soil somehow. The Lombard variety succeeded best with him. He had no difficulty in destroying the curculio; he applied Parisgreen, one application just when the blossoms were beginning to fall, and another about a week after.

In the discussion on grape culture, Mr. Beall laid down the rule that any variety would flourish in the Lindsay district that did not ripen later than the Concord. Mr. Beadle thought the rule rather indefinite, for a difference of 10 days in the time of ripening could be made by growing an over or under crop. But cutting off half the fruit, the balance of the crop would ripen much earlier, and the aspect with reference to light and heat also made a great difference in the time of ripening. Mr. Demsey said that splendid samples and great weight could be obtained by cutting out all the bunches but one or two, and then taking out several berries from these bunches. It paid to thin out the Delawares and probably the Concorde too. He regarded bone dust and ashes as the best fertilizers for grapes; he scarcely ever applied farm-yard manure.

Mr. Pettit, Winona, one of the most extensive grape growers in Canada, was called upon to relate his experience in the management of the vineyard. With regard to pruning, he said much depended upon the age and strength of the vine. He could not explain properly without being in the vineyard and showing practically how the vines should be pruned. He would not let the wood grow too great a length of time; the less old wood the better. He did very little summer pruning. The leaves should not be clipped when the fruit began to ripen. He used ashes, salt, compost, and farm-yard manure as fertilizers. His soil was a heavy clay wash from the Niagara Escarpment. If all the varieties which ripened before the Concord flourished in that district, they had a very large list. Mr. Demsey said that American varieties should not be pruned like the European. He avoided old wood as much as possible. He trained the vines on two wires, the first about

a foot and a half from the ground and the second five feet. Their own weight bent the tops of the vines down, which was as good as pruning.

At the Bobcaygeon session apples were again discussed, and it was stated that the borer was a leading cause of failure. As a remedy it was suggested that an application of soft soap and lye be made once a year about the latter part of June or the first of July. Mr. Morris thought the same varieties would flourish there as in the Lindsay section.

Hedges were the chief subject discussed. Mr. Beall used to favor the native black spruce, but now he was a friend of the Norway spruce. He would transplant in spring, just when the buds began to shoot. The trees should be planted as soon as possible after being taken out of the ground. The proper distance apart for hedges was two feet. He pruned once a year, early in August.

Mr. Morris said the black spruce only lasted a few years. He considered the white spruce better than the Norway. He pruned about the middle of June, as at that time more buds would be formed, and a denser growth secured. No buds were formed in August. He planted 2½ to 3 feet apart. Mr. Hilborn praised the Scotch pine, it being a rapid grower, and made an excellent wind-break. Mr. Croil said native cedar made the best fence. A. M. Smith used cedar and Norway spruce. Mr. Beadle did not believe in much pruning; he would merely break off an occasional straggling branch. Nature did not demand pruning. Mr. Morris answered that hedges must be regularly pruned.

Papers for Amateur Fruit Growers.

XI.

[By L. Woolverton, Grimsby, Ont.]

BLACKBERRIES.

August is the month of blackberries. With us at Grimsby the Kittatinny begins ripening about the twelfth of this month, when the Cuthbert raspberry is yielding its last fruit for the season, and continues in bearing until about the middle of September. Of course, like other fruits, it will be earlier this year than usual, and begin ripening very early in August.

There are at least thirty varieties of cultivated blackberries, but among them all the Kittatinny stands pre-eminent. It gets its name from the Kittatinny Mountains of New Jersey, near which it was discovered by a Mr. Woolverton. The magnificent size of the fruit never fails to win exclamations of surprise among the pickers; and it ripens so perfectly that it is a most delicious table berry. One at a time, however, is enough for your mouth, unless you find an unusually small berry, or have an unusually large mouth.

My young Kittatinny shoots were cut back about the 1st of July, and have fine stocky trunks and numerous spreading branches, while the bearing canes present the heaviest load of fruit they have done for years. The fruit grower will harvest a heavy crop of small fruits with much gratitude in a season like this, when peaches and apples are so great a failure.

My *Snyders* are an astonishing sight. Such tremendous loads of berries I never saw. But herein is the fault, that though they bear so much more heavily than the Kittatinny, the berries are not nearly as large, and consequently do not sell as well in the market. The

Taylor is claimed to bear about as well as the *Snyder*, and to be larger; I have not tried it, but I have the *Stone's Hardy* and *Early Harvest* in bearing, and both these are keeping up their reputation for fruitfulness. These kinds are all hardier than the *Wilson* and *Kittatinny*, and need to be chosen where the soil and climate are too unsuited to these latter named varieties.

The cultivation of the blackberry ought to be kept up until fruiting season, especially in a dry summer, to keep the ground moist and increase the size of the fruit; but it should not be kept up much longer, because a late growth of wood on the young canes will be too tender to endure a severe winter.

The uses of the blackberry are various. Nothing is more luscious, eaten fresh, than a fully ripened Kittatinny berry. One would make a very wry face eating an uncooked Lawton, it is so deceitful with its black outside and hard green core concealed within, but not so with the *Wilson* or with our favorite above mentioned. For pies there is nothing more delicious, and for this purpose alone they should be canned in abundance; while for preserving in the old fashioned manner, their rich, tart flavor makes them agreeable to the taste of most people.

The old canes of the blackberry and raspberry bushes should be cut out, as soon as the fruit bearing season is over. This will give a better chance for the development of the new canes, besides giving the plantation a much more tidy appearance. A top dressing of manure or ashes should then be scattered along the rows in order to keep up the fertility of the plants.

THE FRUIT BUSINESS

this season is by no means encouraging. Papers and pamphlets issued by nurserymen interested in the sale of fruit trees and plants, have been full of extravagant statements concerning the enormous profits of fruit culture, until men of every profession and trade have coveted the business that would yield such bonanzas of wealth. Many have even been tempted to leave their customary vocation and to invest their all in a business concerning which they were almost totally ignorant, and, like the boy who tried to find the pot of gold at the foot of the rainbow, they have found their golden dreams to terminate in bitter disappointment.

There are so many difficulties to face, so many disappointments to meet, and competition is now so keen, that the fruit business has little, if any, advantages over other pursuits for the proper investment of time and capital. At Grimsby, for instance, peaches have now failed more or less completely for four seasons, cherries for three seasons previous to the present, and apples have been a poor crop for three years, and this fourth now promises to be even more disappointing.

The competition in small fruits, too, is becoming so keen that prices generally rule very low, leaving the grower very little after paying for baskets, pickers, express charges, etc. Indeed, in the vicinity of New York and Boston strawberries have been so cheap that they would not pay for picking; while even in Canada we have instances of persons so disgusted with apple culture that they have grubbed up their orchards. Nurserymen tell us that there is no demand at present for apple trees for orchard planting, and that almost all that are