

## FRUIT GROWING IN NORTHEAST WISCONSIN.

By Geo. M. Tong of Sturgeon Bay.

Fruit growing in Northeast Wisconsin should properly take in the counties of Door, Kewaunee, Brown and Oconto. I can say but little about the last three, but as Door County is my home I may be able to give you some idea of what has been done there and some of the advantages and also some of the disadvantages of growing fruit in our part of the State.

I will begin with the fruit as generally raised by the farmer for home use, with perhaps a few bushels left for market. Thousands of dollars have been spent in buying fruit trees and plants, and we have on nearly every farm, unless among some of the new settlers, an orchard, large enough to supply the family needs, of apples, cherries and plums. Currants and gooseberries have been so troubled with worms that you hardly find them in gardens now.

Raspberries and blackberries are found growing in the woods in many places in the county, so that farmers have not tried them to any extent.

Strawberries, during the last year or two have taken a great boom and, near the city especially, most of the farmers are raising enough for home use at least.

The apples raised are mostly summer and fall varieties, but winter apples are being planted now. The cherries raised are mostly Early Richmond and the small Black pie Morello, which grows nearly wild; also many of the farmers have some sweet cherries planted that have done well so far. A few years ago wild plums taken from the woods were in most gardens, but the European varieties have been found to do very well, so you will find Lombard and Green Gage and an assortment of varieties scattered over the county. Grapes do well in some favored localities but are not generally planted. A few pear trees are found in bearing but there are a great many drawbacks to their general cultivation.

I have said enough about the fruit grown by the far-

mer and for home use and will now say something about commercial fruit growing, what has been done, and, if the industry is to be developed, what should be done.

In the first place we have in Sevastopol one of the largest orchards of apples in Wisconsin and a great many dollars' worth of apples have been sold from this orchard. A few mistakes have been made in planting, but taking it on the whole it shows what can be done.

This year the crop of all kinds of fruit was large, especially summer and fall apples, and prices very low, but in June just before the early apples began to come in, one of the large wholesale houses in Menominee, Mich., sold a barrel of apples for seven dollars, so that apples are not always cheap. Winter apples have always brought a fair price, and often large prices, in our own city and this is also true of our neighboring cities.

I will say a word about our location in regard to the market. Our city is located on Sturgeon Bay, an arm of Green Bay, with the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal leading to Lake Michigan. We have three different lines of boats plying between our city and the many ports of Green Bay and Lake Michigan. We have two daily lines of steamers to Chicago and Milwaukee. Four boats a day to Menominee and Marinette, a daily boat to Green Bay besides two trains a day, and we shall have next summer two daily boats to Escanaba. I think anybody will say that our shipping facilities are good enough, and freight rates are low enough. Now a word as to our markets. We have markets north of us that will take thousands of barrels of apples, which are supplied from places farther away than we are. Our fruit nearly all ripens later than in most places and it has been proven that even our summer apples have a better chance in the markets on that account. Now we do not claim that we can raise better fruit than some of our great fruit centers, but we do say that when our apples are grown properly we will not take a back seat for any of them, in quality, size, firmness and long-keeping qualities. Then we have the great northwest with mammoth markets to

which we are nearer than the places where most of their apples are obtained. Then again, turning south, our apples have already obtained a name in the Chicago and Milwaukee markets, if we only raise them properly and in quantities large enough to make Door County a fruit center. It is so with our other fruits that have been put on the market. Our strawberries especially have had such praise in the markets to which we have shipped, that if it continues it may make us vain. But praise is not all we have received for our berries. Last year we competed with Michigan berries in the Menominee market and received fully 25 per cent better prices than did the growers across the lake. I have found also that certain varieties of cherries ripen with us at such a season that they have the market almost to themselves. I think I have said enough about our markets for any one to see that in that way we are all right.

Now a little about growing the fruit. Mr. Joseph Zettel, our veteran orchardist, has growing in his orchard nearly one hundred kinds and he has proven without a doubt that all the varieties which can be raised in any part of the State can be raised here, and other kinds are found growing here that in other parts of the State they would not think of planting. I have been told that cherry and plum trees are short lived, but I know of Early Richmond cherry trees that are twenty years old and still healthy and bearing large crops, and I know of one that is twenty-eight years old and still bearing, as it has always done, large crops.

On our place are Green Gage plum trees that are twenty-four years old and are still bearing. Parties who know claim that the Red Astrachan Apple is a shy bearer, but here they are good annual bearers.

Now about small fruit. We do not claim that Door County is the Garden of Eden but we do claim that we have as good a place to grow small fruit as any in Wisconsin.

We can raise strawberries and as good ones as can be raised anywhere, and of better quality and firmer than in many places. Blackberries and raspberries have not been raised to any great extent but what have been raised here

were of the best quality and very firm. I have seen blackberries growing in the woods that were wonderful to look at. There are many of our farmers, especially near the city, that are turning their attention to fruit growing, and some of our less enthusiastic neighbors are shrugging their shoulders and saying that it is all nonsense, but still planting goes on. I think there will be at least one hundred acres of strawberries planted this spring, besides numbers of acres of other small fruits; and apples, cherries and plums are being planted in large quantities.

There are some drawbacks of course, for while we have a great advantage in climate by being between two bodies of water, we are not entirely free from late spring frosts and early fall frosts, long cold winters, droughts and the like. I think we are as well off as many of our neighbors and better off than some parts of the country.

We have an advantage also that some other places have not, and that is plenty of good fruit land at reasonable prices. I will close now with this remark that we hope some day to see Door County rank as a fruit center.

#### NOTES ON SOME OF THE LESS KNOWN PLANTS.

By Prof. E. S. Goff, University of Wisconsin.

The Forsythia is one of the finest of the very early flowering shrubs, but the flower-buds are not hardy at Madison without protection. The past winter all flower-buds above the snow line were killed, but a few branches that chanced to be covered by snow opened their beautiful yellow flowers in profusion in the latter days of April. The wood above the snow line is apparently uninjured. We shall try giving this shrub protection.

The Japan quince, *Cydonia Japonica*, also opened its flowers freely on branches below the snow line, but all above this were killed. Unfortunately this beautiful shrub grows so tall that it is not easily protected in winter.

The flower-buds of the American Judas tree, *Cersis Canadensis*, were not wholly destroyed, though I suspect