

THE FRUIT CROP.

OFFICERS of the Orchards, Gardens, and Apiaries Division report as follows regarding orchard conditions for the month of June:—

WHANGAREI.—The fruit now being all off, orchardists are giving their attention to pruning, and some are well advanced with their peaches.—*J. W. Collard.*

AUCKLAND NORTH.—June was a cold, wet month, with very few fine days. Apples are still fairly plentiful, and dessert varieties are selling well. Pears are nearly finished. There is a noticeable improvement in packing of apples now coming forward—*W. C. Thompson.*

AUCKLAND SOUTH.—Throughout this month it has been wet and boisterous. Apples and pears in my district are all finished, and prices have increased a good deal since last report. Growers are getting ready for winter spraying, of which there will be a good deal done, as they are beginning to realize the benefits derived from same.—*N. R. Pierce.*

HAMILTON.—Wet and stormy weather with a few fine days at intervals has been the order for the month. Growers are preparing for their winter spraying, and in most districts pruning is well in hand.—*T. E. Rodda.*

POVERTY BAY.—June was generally a wet, windy, and cold month, with a few frosts and a few fine days thrown in. The market principally consists of apples, pears, and lemons beside the usual imported lines. Pruning of peaches and plums has commenced.—*W. R. L. Williams.*

WANGANUI.—Pruning is now in progress in the orchards throughout the district. In many cases peaches are badly affected with leaf-curl and die-back also. Apples affected with woolly aphid have received extra treatment by an autumn application of spray. Apple and pear wood are well set with flower-buds. Peach wood is generally soft and immature.—*W. C. Hyde.*

MANAWATU AND WAIRARAPA.—Fruit stored by growers is fetching a good price. Absence of bitter pit is noticeable. Growers have started pruning in earnest. Red oil is being almost wholly used for winter spraying. The ground is being got into good condition for early spring planting.—*George Stratford.*

HASTINGS.—Winter work in orchards is progressing satisfactorily. Pruning and spraying are well on. Many new orchards are being planted.—*J. A. Campbell.*

NELSON.—Heavy rains have fallen during the month, and low-lying orchards are very wet in consequence. Apples are still fairly plentiful, pears almost finished. In addition to large plantings of fruit, present indications are for extensive planting of hops in parts of the district.—*J. H. Thorp.*

CHRISTCHURCH.—Apples are still plentiful, prices moderate. Pears are slackening off. Pruning is in full swing; planting retarded owing to soil being too moist.—*W. J. Courtier.*

DUNEDIN.—Nothing special doing. Large number of trees are coming to hand for planting. Growers are busy with pruning and winter ploughing.—*W. T. Goodwin.*

A few weeks ago a consignment of 11 tons of good-quality honey was exported to England by the South Taranaki Beekeepers' Association. It is of interest to those engaged in the industry and to the general public to note that even in a poor season honey can be sent out of the country.

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