

## THE FRUIT CROP.

OFFICERS of the Orchards, Gardens, and Apiaries Division report as follows on the condition of the fruit crop at the end of February:—

WHANGAREL.—Apples, medium crop; lemons, medium; nectarines, light crop; peaches, medium crop of late varieties; pears, heavy crop; plums (English), light; tomatoes, average crop; oranges, medium crop.—*J. W. Collard.*

AUCKLAND NORTH.—Apples, good crop; lemons, crop looking well; peaches, fair crop; pears, good crop; plums (English), crop nearly over; tomatoes, nearly done.—*W. C. Thompson.*

AUCKLAND SOUTH.—Apples, good crop early varieties, light to good of late varieties; nectarines, good crop; peaches, light to good crop; pears, light crop; plums (English), good crop; plums (Japanese), crop finished; tomatoes, good crop.—*N. R. Pierce.*

HAMILTON.—Apples, fair average crop, ripening well; lemons, short crop; nectarines, good average crop; peaches, fair crop, ripening freely; pears, good crop; plums, rather scarce; plums (Japanese), light crop; tomatoes, fair crop; walnuts, very light crop.—*T. E. Rodda.*

POVERTY BAY.—Apples, crop below average; lemons, poor crop; peaches, good average crop; pears, heavy crop; tomatoes, good crop.—*W. R. L. Williams.*

MANAWATU AND WAIRARAPA.—Apples, very medium crop; nectarines, fairly good crop; peaches, good crop; pears, average crop; plums, heavy crop; tomatoes, medium crop.—*George Stratford.*

HASTINGS.—Apples, moderate; nectarines, heavy crop; peaches, heavy crop, late varieties suffering from dry weather and rust; pears, heavy crop, some varieties damaged by scab; plums (English), heavy crop, which is almost ended; plums (Japanese), heavy crop, almost ended; tomatoes, very fair crop; walnuts, good crop.—*J. A. Campbell.*

WELLINGTON.—Apples, average crop; nectarines, poor crop; peaches, poor crop; pears, average to heavy crop; plums (English), heavy crop; plums (Japanese), heavy crop; tomatoes, average crop.—*T. C. Webb.*

NELSON.—Apples, good crop; nectarines, good crop, which is just about finished; peaches, good crop; pears, heavy crop; plums, good crop, nearly over; raspberry crop good, but now quite finished; strawberries, second crop light, and fruit small owing to dry weather; tomatoes, good crop, still picking well. The weather during the month was hot and dry until the 20th, when heavy rain fell. All fruit has come along well, and I should say is quite a fortnight in advance of last season's.—*J. H. Thorp.*

CHRISTCHURCH.—Apples, good crop; nectarines, light crop; peaches, light crop; pears, fair to good crop; plums (English), crop nearly over; tomatoes, good crop; walnuts, poor crop.—*W. J. Courtier.*

TIMARU.—Apples, light crop; pears, fair average crop only; plums (English), harvest almost completed; plums (Japanese), crop almost done; tomatoes, good crop; walnuts, good crop. Owing to the heavy toll taken by the exceptionally severe winds experienced on the 13th and 14th instant, the apple crop is exceptionally light for the district.—*A. B. Mansfield.*

DUNEDIN.—Apples, good crop, looking very well; pears, good crop; plums (English and Japanese), harvest practically over; tomatoes, good crop. The heavy winds on the 1st and 13th did considerable damage among fruit-trees, breaking down trees and blowing off apples and pears. A beneficial rain fell in Central Otago on the 20th and 21st.—*W. T. Goodwin.*