

THE FRUIT CROP.

THE Officers of the Orchards, Gardens, and Apiaries Division report as follows on the condition of the fruit crop at the end of March :—

WHANGAREI.—Apples, medium crop. Lemons looking well. Pears heavy; main crop finished. Tomatoes nearly finished; no sign of blight. Oranges, promise of an average crop.—*J. W. Collard.*

AUCKLAND NORTH.—Apples, good crop. Lemons, crop looking well. Peaches nearly over. Pears, good crop. Plums practically finished. Tomatoes, crop finished.—*W. C. Thompson.*

AUCKLAND SOUTH.—Apples, only late varieties left; fair crop. Pears almost done. Nectarines, crop finished. Peaches, crop finished. Tomatoes, still good picking; free from blight.—*N. R. Pierce.*

HAMILTON.—Apples still in fair supply; prices for good grades higher than usual. Lemons very scarce; young fruit developing well. Nectarines all harvested. Peaches getting scarce. Pears, late crops still to harvest; prices are very firm. Plums (English), practically all harvested. Plums (Japanese), all harvested; have realized higher prices than usual. Tomatoes, fair crop; these are of extra-good quality and free from disease. Walnuts, light crop.—*T. E. Rodda.*

POVERTY BAY.—Apples, crop below average; dry summer is bringing late varieties to maturity long before their usual season, and large quantities rendered unmarketable owing to the ravages of codlin-moth where spraying neglected. Lemons, poor crop. Peaches, late crops good, now almost over. Pears, good crop; same remarks as to apples. Tomatoes, good crop. Walnuts, good average crop; an extra heavy crop would have been harvested but for the severe attack of bacteriosis.—*W. R. Williams.*

MAWATU AND WAIRARAPA.—Apples, medium crop; late varieties better than anticipated. Pears, fairly good crop; fetching good prices in market; some varieties attacked with black-spot. Tomatoes, average crop; very cheap lately; glut in market; very little disease.—*George Stratford.*

HASTINGS.—Apples, moderately good crop. Lemons, very little grown in district. Nectarines, season over. Peaches, season almost over; crops very heavy, size small; average prices satisfactory; rust troublesome. Pears, heavy crops, good quality; damaged by scab in early season. Plums, season over. Tomatoes, good average crop. Walnuts, good crop.—*J. A. Campbell.*

WELLINGTON.—Apples, average crop. Pears, average to heavy crop. Plums, crop finished. Tomatoes, average crop.—*T. C. Webb.*

NELSON.—Apples, good crop; crops picking as well as anticipated. Peaches, crop almost finished with the exception of a few going into canning-works and market. Pears, fair crop being picked. Plums, crop nearly finished; a few cases of late red being sent away. Strawberries, second crop very poor. Tomatoes, mostly factory fruit now being gathered.—*J. H. Thorp.*

BLENHEIM.—Apples, medium crop; looking very well, especially Jonathan, which are very highly coloured. Apricots, very light crop; late frost in November cut nearly all fruit off. Cherries, fair to medium; harvest completed. Lemons, good crop. Nectarines, light. Peaches, very light, owing to late frost; all picked except a few late varieties. Pears, fair average crop; some varieties badly damaged by scab. Plums (English), heavy crop, which is almost over. Plums (Japanese), medium crop. Tomatoes, good crop, ripening and growing well. Walnuts, heavy crop; just commencing to gather a few.—*B. G. Goodwin.*

CHRISTCHURCH.—Apples, good crop; a few varieties slightly affected with black-spot. Peaches, practically over. Pears, good crop; some damaged with pear-scab. Plums, crop almost over. Tomatoes, good crop, still picking freely. Walnuts, light crop.—*W. J. Courtier.*