

be made by skim ploughing and allowing it to lie until the turf is killed. Where available, manure from the cow-sheds and stables should be carted out, and a liberal dressing applied to land that is to be planted out in early potatoes and main-crop cabbage and cauliflower. Plough it in, and commence that thorough preparation which is so necessary.

#### THE SMALL-FRUIT SECTION.

The pruning of the small-fruit section will now demand attention. Black currants should be pruned to induce an abundance of strong young wood in the bushes; this may be done by cutting back old wood to a bud near the base. Red and white currants require an almost opposite treatment. It is best not to top the main growth in these bushes after the first year or two; maintain an open centre and remove all suckers.

To allow gooseberries to become crowded is fatal to best results. Prune to keep the growth well spread out, and renew the laterals by shortening to base buds those that are old or weak. The carrying-out of these simple directions would bring about great improvement in many plantations of these useful berries.

Raspberry-canecan are usually cut out as soon as they have fruited; if this has not been carried out it should be done now, taking care to cut low down, removing also canes that are out of place, and cutting down those that are weak. Owing to the prevalence of cane-wilt and anthracnose, carefully carry out the old canes and burn them.

Much the same treatment is suitable for the loganberry, which is now so popular, with the further addition of training in the new running canes. These are usually divided into four bundles, two being wrapped round and left on a lower wire and secured, and the other two in a similar manner on the upper wire of the trellis.

—*W. C. Hyde, Horticulturist.*

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*New Rabbit Districts.*—The constituting of the following rabbit districts, for the purposes of Part III of the Rabbit Nuisance Act, has been gazetted: Mairoa, Arapae, and Oparure (all in Waitomo County), and Akitio (in the county of that name).

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*Honey-export Control.*—For the purpose of enabling the New Zealand Honey Control Board effectively to exercise a limited control over export, shipment of honey to Europe has been prohibited save by license from the Minister of Agriculture, subject to such conditions as may be approved by the Board.

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*Wheat and Oats Threshings.*—Returns of actual threshings up to 20th April received by the Government Statistician from threshing-mill owners showed that until then 2,810,292 bushels of wheat and 2,991,913 bushels of oats had been threshed out. The average yields per acre in cases where particulars of areas were furnished (covering 99 per cent. of total threshings) worked out at 34.05 bushels for wheat and 39.73 bushels for oats. The figures for the Canterbury, Otago, and Southland Land Districts respectively were as follows: Canterbury—Wheat, 2,283,580 bushels threshed, averaging 34.66 bushels per acre; oats, 1,636,211 bushels threshed, averaging 38.84 bushels per acre. Otago—Wheat, 427,192 bushels, averaging 31.89 bushels per acre; oats, 691,796 bushels, averaging 40.11 bushels per acre. Southland—Wheat, 42,602 bushels, averaging 32.89 bushels per acre; oats, 515,403 bushels, averaging 43.77 bushels per acre.