

Worthing Gazette 26<sup>th</sup> August 1914 page 6

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## FRUIT-GROWING INDUSTRY.

### How It is Affected.

#### A Smaller Demand and Lower Prices

There is probably no industry in the country that has not been affected to a greater or less extent by the outbreak of the War, and the seriousness of the situation is particularly pronounced in the case of the fruit and flower-growing industry, of which Worthing is one of the chief centres.

Thanks to the efforts of the local Railway Officials, the growers have experienced very little difficulty, if any, in getting their produce at all events into the London Markets, but there has been

#### A Considerable Slump

not only in the prices obtained but also in the public demand for the articles they are able to send.

This is especially the case with grapes and flowers, the demand for which is practically nil, while tomatoes and cucumbers have sold at prices that leave very little profit, if any, for the grower.

A slight improvement has been noticeable during the past week, but there is no disguising the fact that grapes and flowers are regarded as luxuries rather than necessities; and with the present tendency on the part of the public to effect economies, the growers who lay themselves out to supply these products are among the first to suffer.

#### Position of the Employees.

Every effort is being made by the local growers to keep their men employed, and so far we have not heard of any of them discharging any of their hands; but unless things improve this is a contingency that may have to be faced; and we can gather a little idea of what this would mean when it is remembered that in the case of some of the larger growers as many as thirty or forty families are dependent upon this industry for their weekly income.