

The Monitor's Agricultural Department For the Use and Benefit of Farmers.

Correspondence, Suggestions and Inquiries welcomed to these columns.

Annapolis and Kings Counties Exhibitions.

(Mr. Wilson's Article Which Won First Prize in the "Outlook" Competition.)

The trees from which these apples were picked, were planted in 1887. The first ten years after setting a hood crop was raised yearly. Since that time some kind of a clover crop has been sown, allowing it to decay and hold the leaves as they fall from the tree until plowed. This orchard has been plowed both spring and fall, every year since planted, back furrowing in the fall and turning over from the trees in the spring. Just as soon as the land is fit to work, in April if possible, commence harrowing at once, and continue to do so every week until the first of July, then sow to either clover or buckwheat.

Stable manure is the only fertilizer used in this orchard, at the rate of about fifteen loads to the acre.

The drainage is natural, there being enough descent to carry away the surface water.

I commenced to prune the trees when set, and have watched them carefully, taking of when small any limbs that were liable to an injury. If necessary to remove a large limb, I used a sharp saw and painted over the wound. This is done in March or the first of April. I sprayed these trees last Spring for the first time, using a Spramator pump. The first spraying was about the fifth of May with the Bordeaux mixture. The mixture consisted of four lbs. of blue stone, four lbs. of lime and one lb. of Paris Green to forty gallons of water; this was for the bud moth.

Second spraying about two weeks later or just before the blossoms buds open, using the Bordeaux mixture with one-third of a pound of Paris Green to a cask of water.

Third spraying from two to three weeks later or about a week after the blossoms fall, using the same mixture as for the second spraying. This is for the Goddard Moth and Black Spot. Spraying can be continued, but it is not necessary this year. The result has been very satisfactory, the fruit being the finest that I have ever raised.

My method of gathering is to take barrels, baskets, table and ladders in front of orchard, pick and empty carefully on table, place paper on head end, select not the largest, but apples of uniform size, smooth and well colored, cut the covering the lead in this way I lay a second tier in the same manner, and after the apples are carefully turned into the barrel, giving it a slight shake and place them face down. After shake two or three times while filling. When full a cushion head and screw press is used. After nailing and stenciling they are ready for any market.

Wood Ashes on the Farm.

An average sample of unleached wood ashes contains about 7 per cent. of potash and 2 per cent. of phosphoric acid, which at current retail prices of these plant foods makes average wood ashes worth about 45 cents per hundred pounds, or \$9.00 a ton. Besides the actual fertilizing value by reason of the potash and phosphoric acid contained in the ashes, there is some value to ashes simply from the power which potash has to make the nitrogen of the soil available for plants of its chemical action on the organic matter and humus of the soil. The potash in ashes exists in a readily soluble form, and is thus immediately available for plant food. Ashes also contain a little magnesium and considerable amount of carbonate of lime, which is of some importance because of its effect in improving the texture of heavy soils. The farmer can better afford to pay \$8 or \$10 a ton for good wood ashes than the usual rates for allowing a good commission, but not allowing prices to be cut in order to get a sale. In addition to this they enclose handsome embossed cards in each case of goods, upon which is plainly marked the retail price in English money. The goods themselves have attractive labels, making a nice window ornament, and the embossed card with reasonable price in plain figures attracts customers, and sales are made where Canadian goods of equal quality, but not having such an attractive label, and having no fixed price, are "sidetracked."

It has been found that large quantities of timmed and bottled peas, beans and spinach, have been grieved by a treatment with salts of copper. The public have been warned against the consumption of these goods, by leading medical and food journals, and it only remains for Canadian packers to show that they put up goods of as reliable quality as the British merchant has been getting from other countries (but which are entirely free from adulteration) in order to create a large demand for Canadian brands.

CANNED AND BOTTLED PEAS.

The British consumer prefers a smaller sized pea than is usually packed in Canada.

The following grades are wanted:

Extra fine (size of mesh for grading) 7 millimeters.

Fine (size of mesh for grading) 7 1/2 millimeters.

Moyens (size of mesh for grading) 9 millimeters.

French peas are generally colored by using six-tenths grain copper per pound of peas.

A preference is shown for the French style of tin for peas, the French tin being taller and narrower in diameter than the tin generally used in Canada.

A slight addition of sugar will improve some varieties of peas.

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Health's Decline.

Rise early, retire early, and fill your day with work.

Water and bread maintain life; pure air and sunshine are indispensable to health.

Frugality and sobriety form the best elixir of longevity.

Cleanliness prevents rust; the best cure for machines is the longest.

Enough sleep repairs waste and strengthens; too much sleep softens and enfeebles.

To be sensibly dressed is to give freedom to one's movements and enough warmth to be protected from sudden changes of temperature.

A clean and cheerful house makes a happy home.

The mind is refreshed and invigorated by distractions and amusement, but abuse of them leads to dissipation and dissipation to vice.

Cheerfulness makes love of life, and love of life is half of health. On the contrary, sadness and discouragement hasten old age.

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"Here's Health"

There is health and strength in every draught of

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