Horticulture.

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THE ORCHARD.

Buying Trees.

The practice of dealing with every packman and agent that crosses our path, is one that is very certain sooner or later to end in discomfiture. Such has been the dearly purchased experience of thousands in the past, and so will, notwithstanding all warnings to the contrary, will be the experience of thousands in the future. In trifling matters, the loss resulting from having anything to do with such questionable characters is proportionably small, but when such dealings involve the loss and worse than loss of thousands of dollars, the question assumes a much more serious aspect.

In no other branch of the agency business perhaps, is the public so systematically and unsparingly fleeced as in the purchase of fruit trees, and what renders the wrong all the more aggravated, is the fact that the discovery is not made for perhaps three or four years, the duped one all the time flattering himself with anticipations which it is of course quite impossible he can realize.

The best and surest way to purchase trees is to go directly to the nursery, or treat only with the properly accredited agents of first-class dealers. In the latter case see to it that the trees ordered come from the nursery which the agent is supposed to represent, as some parties are in the habit of using the order books of one firm while they fill the orders from perhaps half a dozen other nurseries. The advantages of dealing with the nurseryman direct are numerous, one of the most important being that a better and not unfrequently a cheaper selection of trees are obtained than can be expected through agents. Frequently also the purchaser is at a loss to know exactly the sorts he requires, in which case the advice of a practical man is particularly valuable.

Fungus on Fruit.

(*To the Editor of the* CANADA FARMER.)

SIR,—In the last number of the FARMER, I noticed an article headed "Fungus on Fruit," copied from the *Rural Home*, describing the injuries produced by a defect called *fungus* in certain apples; particularly Fameuse or Snow apple. Will you let me tell my experience with this *fungus*?

In 1829, (that's a long time ago), when I was an apprentice in a printing office in Kingston, I read in an American exchange, what the writer maintained was a positive protection against the ravages of the *tent caterpilar*, and also the *borer*. As the years rolled around, and I became possessed of a small orchard, (as many other printer's boys longed for), I did not forget the remedy. About twelve years ago the apples of a few of my trees were badly affected with the disease;—a pippin had never produced a sound apple; a Rhode Island greening had become worthless; two snows were sick even unto death; a Siberian crab ditto; and a healthy looking old seedling which had braved the storms of sixty winters was on the point of being sacrificed to the "woodman's axe." Recollecting what I had read, when a boy, and knowing no remedy, I thought I would try the virtues of the old recipe—*sulphur*. I took a three-quarter inch augur, and bored half through the trunk of each of the trees, about two feet from the ground, diagonally towards the earth. This hole I filled with sulphur, and covered the orifice with grafting wax. I did this in the latter part of February, just before the sap began to rise from the roots. To my surprise, each of these trees produced a fair crop of apples, *without a spec*, the first season afterwards; and they have never been troubled with the same disease since. Six years ago, finding that several other trees were getting tainted in the same manner, I adopted a similar course, with the exception that I inserted wooden plugs, instead of using wax, and the results were the same. The wounds have all healed, and there has been no apparent injury to the trees. I found, however, that the sulphur did not interfere with the appetite of the *caterpillar*, nor did it loosen or dull the teeth of the *borer*: I however, easily conquer the caterpillars with a swab on the end of a long pole, which I dip into an old kettle of *pretty strong lye*—(I'm not afraid of strong lye; I wash my young trees with it every spring time), and wipe them off with very little trouble. Let me say, that after twenty years trial, I believe this is the easiest, least injurious, and most effectual remedy for this destructive insect. With regard to the *borer*, (another great enemy to fruit trees), the only way of destroying him, after washing the trees with lye or strong soap suds, is to be eternally vigilant in digging him out with a knife.

The *codlin moth* so far has baffled me; but, as one of my neighbors has preserved all his apples this year by placing a bandage of wrapping paper around his trees, I shall try the same next spring. Now, whether or not the sulphur purified the sap in the trees, and thus prevented the formation of *fungus*, I leave to scientists to determine; all I know is, that after using it, the disease ceased.—Yours, &c.,

Prescott, Nov. 24, 1874. ST. LAWRENCE.

The Gravenstein Apple.

The Gravenstein is one of the best apples in the world, as all pomologists agree. The other day we met the man who set the first grafts of this variety of apple in America. Mr. Gorham Parsons, of the Fatherland Farm, Byfield, received from Europe a package of the grafts from the seedling tree. They were left at his counting-room in Boston, and he sent them to his country-place in Brighton, but his overseer, having no spare stock for them, sent them to Byfield. Our informant, Mr. H. D. Rogers, was grafting over the old trees at Byfield when the grafts arrived; but the foreman of the place, seeing that they were a little shrivelled, owing to their long voyage, and that they were rather small specimens of grafts at best, refused to have them set, declaring that he wouldn't pay for the work. Mr. Rogers, nothing daunted, carried the poor grafts to his father, a somewhat celebrated fruit raiser, and proposed to set them in his trees. But Rogers Senior didn't believe in new-fangled apples in general, nor in these withered grafts in particular, and he would have none of them. As a last resort, Rogers carried the cions to James Peabody, who favored everything new and fancy, and who gave him permission to set them, with the understanding that they would go halves on the profits.

The third year the trees came into bearing, and Mr. Peabody carried a plate of the apples to the cattle show, where they attracted much attention, though the committee could not name them. They were cut up into minute pieces and distributed among the connoisseurs, all of whom pronounced it the champion apple. The next year Mr. Peabody carried a plate to the fair of the Massachusetts Society, where he met Marshall P. Wilder, the President, who had just arrived from Europe with a basket of apples, a bunch of the grafts, and the name, which has always been spelled wrong, Graff Stein—Count Stone—being the name of the proprietor of the estate on which the apple originated. All the grafts in this country came from Mr. Peabody's tree, which took pity on the poor, imported cions, after they had been refused everywhere else.—*Newburyport Herald.*

How to Make a Croquet Lawn.

At the present day when a good croquet lawn is as necessary an appendage to a house in the country as a bowling-green was in the last century, the question is often asked, Which is the best way to turf it? The easiest and commonest one is to pare off the grass from a wayside waste or a common, or a sheep walk on the hills, and lay it down. Another is to clean the ground and sow it with grass seeds. A third is to use the turf that is found growing on the spot, where a piece of the park or a paddock is enclosed, or to take some from an adjoining pasture field. Now, where I have seen the first plan adopted—that of laying down turf from a common—there has been for the first following summer a very fair lawn; but, in the course of time, the seeds of plantains, dandelions, thistles, and other weeds have sprung up and stifled the grass. The second plan—that of laying down turf from a common—there has been for the first following summer a very fair lawn; but where the proprietor cannot wait for two or three years, but is desirous to play on it in a few months, this is not advisable. On the whole I am inclined, upon I allow a very limited experience, to prefer the third plan, that of using the turf we find on the ground or in the immediate neighborhood. If this is pared off thin, the coarse, long-rooted plants, such as docks, cow-parsnips, thistles and dandelions will be cut off, and can be easily picked out and burnt, and their remains forked out in digging the ground and levelling it; while the real grasses and clovers will remain uninjured, and with rolling, mowing, and a liberal dressing of ashes, form an excellent croquet lawn by the next summer. I have known people go to a great expense to cart down turf from the top of a hill, and the money thrown away. The delicate aira and festuca, as soon as they were transplanted to the richer mould below, have dwindled and disappeared; and plantains that were small and unnoticed before, have usurped their place, and covered the ground like a scab.

As croquet is becoming more and more a man's game, and is played with heavier mallets, a much larger lawn is now required for it than when it was regarded as merely a pastime for young ladies and children.—*Cor. Farmer (Eng).*

THE GOVERNMENT of Victoria has forbidden the importation of vines. Wine-growing in that colony has become a valuable interest, and the Government will not incur the risk of introducing the phylloxera into the vineyards.

AMERICAN apples of the past season's growth are now selling at moderate rates in provincial towns, both in England and Ireland. The highly colored and well-flavored Baldwin is the commonest kind as yet. As usual, they come in barrels without any kind of packing material and come, as a rule, in excellent condition. That apples should be sent several thousand miles, and then be sold as cheaply as home-grown fruit, is a noteworthy fact. At this rate of progress, fruitless and cold regions will soon be supplied with the finest fruits at a cost that places them within the reach of all classes.

THINNING FRUIT BLOSSOMS.—Some of the older writers on fruit culture suggested that in the case of fruit trees that did not set their fruit well, it was of service to thin out the blossoms or to pick off the early petals of the flowers to ensure the remainder setting well. Mr. Du Breuil has been experimenting in this matter. In 1872, says *The Garden*, he operated upon twenty espalier pear trees of the Doyenne d'Hiver pear, taking out the central blossom from each bunch of flowers on every alternate tree in the row. When the fruit was gathered he found that there was no perceptible defference either in the quantity, the quality, or size of the fruit. In 1873 he repeated the experiment upon twelve trees, operating upon an alternate six. In this case the trees operated upon produced sixty five fruits, and the six not operated upon produced sixty-eight fruits. He therefore concludes that, whilst the theory appears rational enough, practice does not sanction its correctness; and that the operation has no influence upon the abundance of the product.

HOW TO GATHER CIDER APPLES.—This is the way the *Ohio Farmer* tells how: Get twenty-four yards of the best drilling, as it is the cheapest in the long run. Cut into eight equal pieces; these will each be nine feet long. Cut each piece obliquely from end to end, starting in four inches from one corner and coming out the same distance from the opposite corner on the other end. You will now have sixteen pieces, each thirty-two inches wide at one end and four inches wide at the other. Put the wide ends together, sew the strips together, hem the edges around the small hole in the centre, bind the outer edge well and fasten small stout cords at each of the sixteen corners. It is now ready for use. With these small cords tie it to the lower branches of an apple tree, wherever it is convenient. The tension you give in tying will determine the sag in the centre, so that you can accomodote it to the height of the lower branches from the ground. Drive the waggon under it, and shake all the branches immediately over the canvas. As the apples roll into the waggon, a boy can easily pick out stems and leaves. When one side of the tree is finished, the canvas is moved to another. In this way the apples are all in the waggon when the shaking is done, except a few that drop outside the canvas. If preferred, the apples can be delivered in a basket and then emptied into the waggon. Such a device saves half the labor of gathering apples, and if well made, of good material, will last for years.