

Why, the farm was perhaps cropped for years before the orchard was planted, and the fertility of the soil well-nigh exhausted; trees have been drawing on the soil for years, and now are blamed for unproductiveness. Is this reasonable, I ask?

But, says one, "I cannot spare the manure from my other crops." Very well; you must put it where it will pay best, but I claim that place is the orchard.

I find that farmers generally in Canada quite under-estimate one of the most valuable of orchard fertilizers, and either let it waste, or sell it for a mere song. I refer to our wood ashes, which are so undervalued in Canada, that Canada ashes have become an article of export, to enrich the fruit farms of our Yankee neighbors, who purchase them by the car-load.

The following is an advertisement clipped from an American paper:—

"Canada hardwood unleached ashes, by rail, in car-load lots, furnished on short notice. Ashes guaranteed to be of best quality, and are especially adapted for all grass and fruits. Pamphlets and prices sent on application. M., J. & S., Oswego, N.Y."

This is only one of many. Such quantities have been imported from Canada into the United States, that a special Bulletin has been published by the Connecticut State Experiment Station, showing the analysis of the various brands. The market value is 25 cents a bushel, although their real value is much higher.

The following table shows the value of wood ashes compared with stable manure, and with a commercial fertilizer which we may call a complete manure:

#### Comparative Value of Wood Ashes.

In 1000 lbs. of wood ashes there are, say,—

60 lbs. of potash, at 7 cts. per lb. ....	\$4 20
20 " phosphoric acid, at 5 cts. per lb. ....	1 00
700 " carbonate of lime. ....	
Amounting to .....	\$5 20

About  $\frac{1}{2}$  ct. per lb. The remainder consists of magnesia, insoluble matter and moisture. One bushel weighs about 60 lbs., and is therefore worth about 30 cts.

In 1000 lbs. of a complete fertilizer there are,—

70 lbs. of nitrogen, at 20 cts. per lb. ....	\$14 00
30 " potash, at 7 cts. per lb. ....	2 10
60 " phosphoric acid, at 5 cts. per lb. ....	3 00
Amounting to .....	\$19 10

Or nearly 2 cts. per lb.