

St. John gives regular communication with foreign markets. The question of over-production was a receding one; discriminating buyers were to be found everywhere, buyers who wanted the best and were willing to pay for it, and such conditions were most encouraging. One of their most pressing needs was a more practical knowledge of grading and packing fruit by the most modern and expeditious methods. Practical lessons given by capable men at exhibitions and association meetings would do much towards educating the fruit grower in that most important part of his work. He suggested that the Minister of Agri. should be requested to include fruit amongst the crops of which statistics were required. In conclusion he asked them as producers to do their part and do it well, when he was sure that they would find fruit growing not the least profitable part of their farm work.

Mr. McNeill, of the Fruit Division, Ottawa, said that he was glad to find that fruit growing, particularly apples, was on the increase in the province. There was ample room for other fruit, however, especially small fruit; but to his mind apple growing would produce the largest returns of any. Fruit growers themselves might do a great deal to induce other farmers to embark in the industry, and by increasing the production they would be able to enlarge their markets. The individual who had not been reared "in the shade of the old apple tree" had missed the best part of his bringing up. The chief point to be considered was, could a market be found for the crop? His answer to that was, most undoubtedly there could, and if properly managed all the produce could not be sold, and sold to advantage. In some parts of Ont. people complained that they were sick of the business; they could not sell their produce, so had to feed it to the hogs. This was the substance

of several reports received by his Dept. These people, however, were chiefly the small growers who had but limited opportunities of disposing of their produce, and so waited for buyers. Large growers did not find this the case, as they found a ready market. When a dealer knew where he could rely on finding a good supply of saleable fruit, he never failed to go there. The more apples produced, the better the market and the better the price. The English market was always open and could never be overstocked; in fact, if the Canadian growers laid themselves out to do so, they could capture that market. There were too many varieties grown in Eng. and dealers could never depend on obtaining a further supply of any particular variety, whilst in Canada they were devoting their attention chiefly to certain specified varieties. As to making apple growing pay, there could be no manner of doubt on that point. In an acre of land, valued on the average at \$60, an outlay of \$10 would find the trees, and with \$3 more for the cost of planting, there was a total expenditure of \$73. The care of the trees for the next 4 years would cost \$10 a year, but this might be offset by the value of the by-crops grown between the rows. But, anyway, the outlay for the 4 yrs. would not exceed \$40, and with \$10 more for fertilizer would total up to \$123; but to be on the safe side, say \$150. At the age of 4 yrs. the trees would begin to bear a little, and from that time on the orchard would pay for itself. If this was continued till the tenth year, the trees would then be in full profit.

The average return an acre, Mr. McNeill claimed, according to the published reports received by his division, was about 80 bbls., and that at the moderate price of \$1 a bbl. showed rather more than a reasonable profit on an outlay of \$150. At 10 yrs. of age, a tree should be worth \$10, and therefore the 50 trees which

a 1 acre orchard should contain, would be worth \$500, and this should be a pretty strong argument in favor of the orchard. No one starting apple growing as a commercial pursuit should plant less than 5 acres, as the labor involved was not justified if only growing apples on a small scale. With reference to the crop grown between the trees, some sorts were liable to damage the trees, and care should be exercised in this respect. Dairying was, perhaps, the best supplementary branch of farming to take up with fruit culture.

If anyone was contemplating going into orcharding with the idea of shirking the spraying part of the business, then his advice was most emphatic, "Don't." Spraying was, if possible, of even more importance than cultivating; spraying was the one thing that might not be neglected. By following a simple routine of spraying, a grower could not fail to have successful results. Use poisoned Bordeaux mixture 3 or 4 times a year. Spray once before the blossoms open, but be careful not to spray when the orchard is in bloom. Spray again just after the blossoms fall, and then once more when the little apples were about the size of green peas. By these means, 9-10 of the insects which are detrimental to the orchard will be destroyed. The apple scab and the codling moth were 2 of the worst enemies, but if these were destroyed then about 90% of the other pests would go with them.

The speaker urged on his hearers the importance of careful grading and packing of the fruit, which often has much to do with the satisfactory sale of the fruit. In conclusion he said that there was no necessity for any one to be discouraged; any intelligent man could become a successful orchardist, as by buying a good book on the subject and carefully and thoroughly mastering the advice given, he would find his knowledge growing faster than

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