

The Management of a Farmer's Orchard

R. R. Sloan, Huron Co., Ont.

When the editor of Farm and Dairy first asked me to write on orchard management, I was rather shy of the subject. So much has been written about the fruit growing industry the past few years that one would naturally think that anyone with an orchard of any size would surely learn to see the advantages of good sound or-

chard work as practised by the up-to-date grower. But such is not the case. There are still many good orchards unmolested, and allowed to remain in somewhat dormant condition. And as long as this condition exists I feel that I have an excuse for writing on what should be, but is not, a time-worn subject.

Before we can intelligently manage the orchard to obtain the best results, we must learn the why and wherefore of the different problems that confront us in our endeavor to grow fine, clean, well shaped specimens of fruit. The best way to impart this information, I believe, is to tell just how we go about it in our own orchard.

We begin to prune our orchards about the first of March; that is, we do not expect to have time to do that particular work in the month of June. The latter month, we believe, is the better period of the year for such work, as we get a better set of fruit buds by pruning in the summer. The amateur grower has much to learn as to the habit of growth of the different varieties he may be growing. We find the Spy the heaviest wood grower; hence we must make an extra endeavor to keep Spy trees as open at the top as we desire to have other varieties. This openness of the top admits plenty of air and sunshine to properly develop and color the growing fruit. Also the fruit buds, which determine the crop for the coming year, which must have plenty of sunshine.

As to cultivation: We start the plow, or whatever implement we may use, according to the condition of our land, as early in the spring as possible so as to retain all the moisture that is

this they do not get if wood growth is allowed to continue.

Young orchards up to eight or 10 years of age may be successfully intercropped with hoed crops such as roots, beans, and potatoes. Clover may also be grown as a hay crop for one year and then plowed down the following year. We have practised both systems of cropping.

We follow the cultivation with a cover crop of some kind, preferably clover or vetches. These crops usually make a good growth before winter comes on. This vegetation protects the roots by holding the snow and the following spring we have a crop to plow down as a green manure. This practice helps wonderfully in keeping up the fertility of our soil.

(Concluded on page 33)

Success with Pears

John Beemer, Brant Co., Ont.

My one acre orchard of Kieffer pears is the most profitable acre on my farm. This orchard was set 14 years ago, and for the past eight or nine years has yielded an average income of \$200 for the area.

Pears are particularly subject to pear blight or canker on account of the soft spongy character of the bark. I have found that they are less subject to this disease when the pear orchard is kept in sod. Good pruning and spraying are, of course, as essential with pears as with apples. Kieffer, to give best results, must be pruned, cultivated, and fertilized. It will not do well in sod. Dempsey and Bartlett also must be cultivated and thoroughly sprayed.

A Living from an Acre

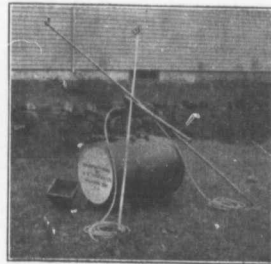
"Ten acres and a home" has long been the dream of many landless city men who long to own a home of their own on land of their own. F. W. Krouse, of Guelph, Ont., once a laboring man working on the college farm at Guelph, gave up his position, bought one acre of land and started in to make the home that so many other landless men desire. We will give his story in his own words as he told it at the last annual meeting of the Ontario Experimental Union at Guelph.

"The first year that we lived on our one acre farm we made \$425 enough to keep my wife and myself. Our ideas then enlarged and we bought one and one-half acres just at the back of the one acre we already had. Next year from that two and one-half acres we sold \$1,600 worth of produce, and the third year \$2,700 worth. Our ideas then suffered from further enlargement and we bought seven and one-half acres more of much better land, bringing our small estate up to 10 acres.

"We have not done as well proportionately on the 10 acres as we did on the two and one-half acres. We consider ourselves land poor, and are willing to sell some of the farm. We cannot work the 10 acres as thoroughly as we did the smaller area without much hired help.

"We put bees first in our list of money-makers. From 100 colonies this past season we extracted 11,000 lbs. of light honey and 2,000 lbs. of dark honey and had an increase of 80 colonies. We sell our honey on the Guelph market. The light alone brought us \$1,650, the dark honey \$78, and the increase in colonies we value at \$250. From a one-half acre bed of asparagus we had an income of \$200. We have 400 bags of potatoes still on hand, and from poultry we derived \$250. The total value of all this produce we would estimate at \$3,000 and nearly all of it came off the original two and one-half acres.

"We do most of the work ourselves. I work from daylight to dark in the busy season, but I thoroughly enjoy the work and it never gets



Suitable for the Small Grower

The outfit here illustrated, mounted on a truck, will meet the requirements of the farmer with a small orchard of one to four acres. Such an outfit is also handy in spraying potatoes and whitewashing stables and outbuildings.

laborious. When first we started, strawberries were our mainstay, but we have gone out of this fruit, as it involves too much labor. In the winter we take matters easy and enjoy life."

I have visited many hundreds of orchards, old and young, and do not recall ever having seen a dozen dead or dying trees that were in this condition as the result of old age. Accidents, neglect, mistakes in pruning and injuries of various sorts, in nearly all cases preventable, have been the cause. — A. McNeil, Chief, Fruit Division, Ottawa.