

grades, for my apples. A net *profit* of \$50.00 an acre is 200 per cent. on the cost of good potato land at the present low prices of Vermont farms. And yet "farming don't pay."

Newport, Vt.

T. H. HOSKINS.

P.S.—Reading this over I fear you may get the impression that I made \$50.00 per acre on potatoes last season. I got less than half an average crop, and came out just even at fifty cents per bushel. No profit.

T. H. H.

SMALL ORCHARDS.

ONE of the mistakes of the times is the popular belief that everything in a business way must be big. This idea has grown out of our haste to grow wealthy and from superficial calculation, such as, if one acre pays \$100, 100 acres would pay \$10,000, and 1,000 acres would pay \$100,000. Men seldom make such money out of very large orchards, and, while a source of envy to small holders, they are often, in fact, just holding on or running ahead on borrowed capital. The men who make money and get rich out of horticultural pursuits are generally those who do not attempt more than they can look after personally. From ten to eighty acres are the sized tracts which pay the highest per cent. of profit, if they are properly conducted. The idea that a living cannot be made out of a small place has retarded many from going into a business in which they might now be making an independent living. There is a vast amount of waste from one cause or another; the taxes are up, the cost of cultivation is great, and the amount of money invested in machinery, stock, etc., is a considerable item. The fighting of insects and partial or entire failure of a crop upon a very large place means, in many cases, ruin, because the expenditures have been so great and the per cent. of profit so small in proportion that it is difficult to recover from such a blow.

The small holder has correspondingly small expenses, has little trouble on account of incompetent help, and the lost motion is a small consideration. He can superintend the work himself and save the waste. His expenses being much less and the profits much greater in proportion, and the time at his disposal greater, calamities do not fall upon him so heavily. The trouble with many of our fruit growers, who complain of poor prices and hard times, is that they are trying to do entirely too much and are too high-toned to raise in connection with their fruit that which they use daily upon their tables. Many of them have neither a cow, pig-sty, pasture-land, chicken-yard, vegetable garden or berry patch; in fact, they look upon all economical measures as beneath their notice. Everything used in the family or stable must be purchased out of the profits from the fruit, and if there are no profits there is nothing with which to purchase, and the money must be borrowed.

—Anderson (Cal.) *Enterprise*.