

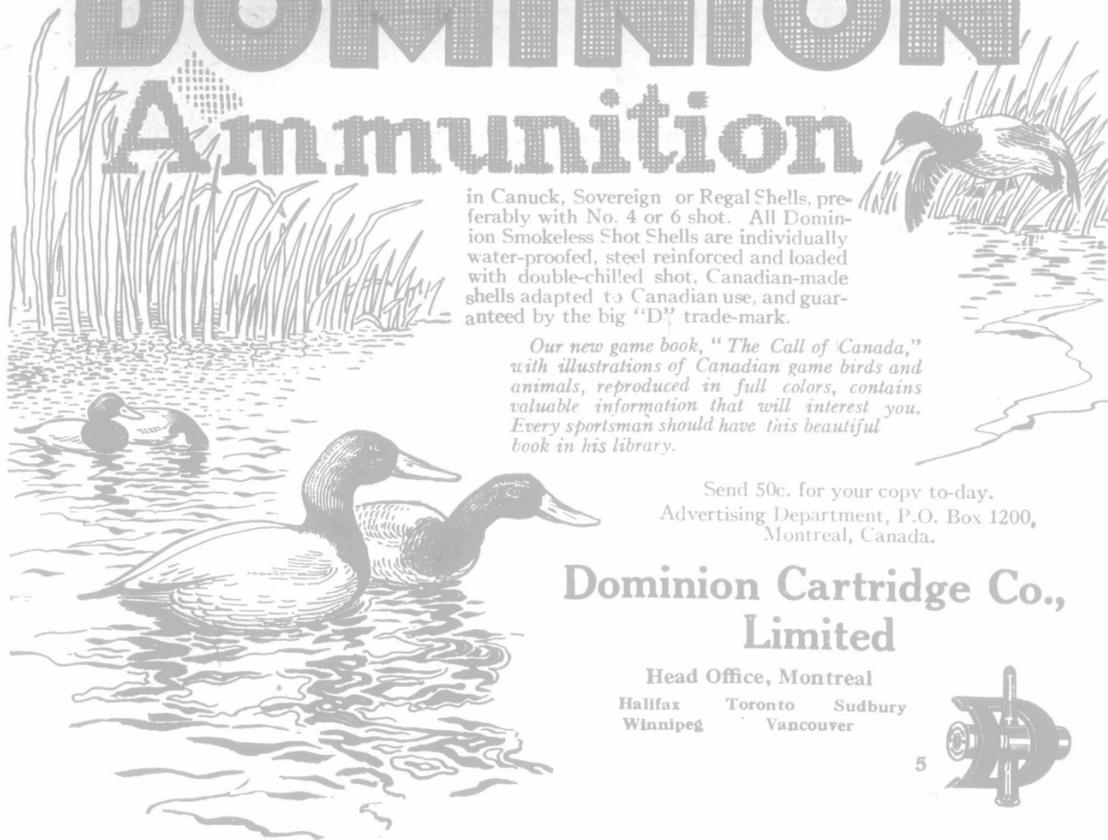
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### Apple and Pear Blight.

(Experimental Farms Note.)

Blight of apple and pear is a specific and contagious disease. Some varieties of pears are more susceptible to this disease than are others. There are three places on the tree where blight commonly occurs, the blossoms, twigs and larger limbs or trunk. The names blossom-blight, twig-blight and body-blight or canker are commonly used but it should be remembered that these are different manifestations of the same disease. The bacteria which cause blight grow as parasites in the inner bark tissue and kill it. The individual bacteria are too small to be seen by the unaided eye. Nevertheless they are present by millions. They live over the winter at the edge of the cankers on the limbs and trunk. When warm weather comes in the spring they multiply to the extent that they ooze out in small drops near the edge of the canker. It is at this point that the new season's destruction begins.

Bees and other insects are attracted by the ooze and after their bodies have become smeared with it they carry the bacteria from place to place. In this way bees deposit bacteria in the blossoms that they visit and a few days later the blossoms wilt and turn black. In a similar manner other insects in their roaming, inoculate a few bacteria into the bark here and there and twig blight results. All this could be avoided by the grower of apples and pears if the cankers from which the ooze comes were eradicated during the winter. The cankers are irregular and slightly sunken areas of bark usually separated from healthy bark by a definite crack. By cutting into the canker it will be found that the bark is dry and brown. To remove the canker make a spindle-shaped cut with a sharp pointed knife, always keeping the outline of the cut at least a half inch outside the edge of the canker. The ends of the cut are brought to a sharp point to facilitate healing. After this outline cut has been made just deep enough to cut through to the wood, the bark is peeled off. Adhering shreds of bark should be removed and the wood scraped. It is advisable to wash the wound with corrosive sublimate solution (one tablet to a pint of water) which should be carried in a glass bottle and applied with a sponge. Although canker eradication is very important there are other sources of infection in the spring which need attention. Badly infected trees should be cut down and burned. Wild crab apple trees and hawthorns are often blighted and they should be removed from the vicinity of the orchard. Care should be taken also that any twigs which were blighted the past season are removed. They are evident during the winter by the fact that the dead leaves cling to them. All suckers or water sprouts should be removed several times during the season. The operations outlined above must be carried out thoroughly if benefit is to be gained from them. They all serve to reduce the chances of infection the next spring if they are finished before any warm weather occurs. During the spring and early summer the grower should make careful inspections two or three times a week walking down each row. All blighted blossoms should be removed by breaking off the spur. Blighted twigs should be broken or cut off several inches below the evident blackening. If cut with a tool the end of the twig should be swabbed with corrosive sublimate. All these control measures demand care and time, but they result in reducing the blight to a minimum.—W. H. Rankin, Plant Pathologist.

We have read somewhere of an old Scotchman whose wit was edged with pessimism. One morning he met at her gate a neighbor whose husband was seriously ill.

"And hoo's yer husband this morning, Mrs. Tamson?" he asked, solicitously.

"O, he's awfu' bad! The doctor said his temperature has gone to one hundred and fifty."

"Nae, nae, you've made a mistake! Sandy's temperature could never be as muckle as one hundred and fifty—at least, no' in this world," he added, as an after-thought.—Exchange.