

Fruit Growing in Norfolk County

By "Weary Worm," Winona

THIS is generally supposed to be a light apple year, but there are beautiful crops in many of the apple orchards of Norfolk County, that are affiliated with the Norfolk Fruit Growers' Association. I have just returned from a visit to these famous orchards, and some account of what I saw should be of interest to readers of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

The orchard of Mr. Joseph Gilbertson, situated about three miles west of Simcoe, has a nice crop of about 800 barrels of beautiful apples. The trees have been carefully pruned, sprayed, cultivated and trimmed, and the crop will run from 85 to 90 per cent. No. 1. This is the pioneer orchard of the Association. It formerly belonged to Mr. Jas. E. Johnson, the manager of the Norfolk Fruit Growers' Association. The Greenings were nearly finished, but the Spys, Kings, Baldwins, Talman Sweets, etc., were there in all their glory. Picking, sorting and barrelling was in full swing, and a number of men were at work.

PACKING THE FRUIT

The apples are picked into baskets and emptied on to the sorting tables, where they are separated into ones and twos for barrelling and the culls thrown out in a pile. The packer places two

papers at the bottom of each barrel—to be the face—and then lays the apples in rows beginning at the outside, and working towards the centre. Those for the face are all stemmed first, then the rest of the apples are carefully emptied from the baskets, and after each basket is put in, the barrel is well shaken. The apples at the top of the barrel are then placed evenly by hand, almost as carefully as those at the bottom. The false head is placed on the barrel, which is well rocked, and pressed gently down with a screw press.

The two hoops are then nailed on, also the head lines, and the barrel is reversed and stencilled with the name of the Association, the variety, the number of the orchard, and the name of the packer.

GROWERS ARE NUMBERED

Each member of the Association has a number. The apples are liable to inspection in the orchard at any time, as the Association has a number of inspectors on the road all the time, travelling from orchard to orchard, examining the quality of the pack, and exhorting the men to put nothing in the barrels but the "right stuff." The Association spares no pains to ensure a good pack by its members, and the sorters and packers are warned not to work too fast, that

they may be sure of doing a good job. By this means the Norfolk County Fruit Growers' Association is building up an excellent reputation.

The Association this year sold 30,000 barrels to Mr. J. G. Anderson, of Lucknow, at \$2.75 per barrel f.o.b. for ones and twos. 5,000 or 6,000 barrels are also going to Rockford, Illinois. The total crop will run well on to 40,000 barrels.

The peelers have been sold to the canning factory at sixty cents per hundred or about thirty cents per bushel, and the ciders at thirty cents per hundred, so that every apple counts for something.

A CELEBRATED ORCHARD

The celebrated Olds orchard, situated about two miles east of Simcoe, has a somewhat light crop this year, not much more than 400 barrels from almost six acres. This orchard has a record as follows: 1906, \$150 per acre; 1907, \$450 per acre; 1908, \$100 per acre; 1909, \$300 per acre; 1910, \$130 (estimated) per acre—thus in five years giving an average of \$226 per acre.

Some other orchards are doing very well, such as the Blaney Bros.' orchard of five acres, containing one hundred and ninety-five trees, running over five barrels to the tree, and yielding almost one thousand barrels. In this orchard, out of two hundred and forty-five barrels of greenings picked from the trees, there



A Ten-Acre Peach Orchard in the Niagara District, Owned by J. W. Smith & Sons of Winona, Ont.

This orchard contains 225 trees to the acre. It produced about five baskets to the tree which early in the season Mr. Smith estimated would net him about fifty cents a basket. This is considered only a fair crop. A heavy crop is expected next year. The trees are mostly early Crawfords.