

An Irrigated Orchard

M. Barwell, Grand Forks, B. C.

We grow largely apples, but some plums and pears. Flemish Beauty is our best pear commercially and the fruit is nearly always good size and free from any blemish. We also grow to a limited extent Bartletts, Anjou, Clairgeau, and Clapp.

In plums, we grow Burbank, peach plum, Bradshaw, Yellow Egg, and Pond's Seedling. Pond's Seedling seldom or never rots with us, and it and the peach plum are two of the most profitable.

In apples we grow McIntosh and Wealthy chiefly for fall, both of which do extremely well. For winter we have King, which turned out a fine crop of clean, highly colored and large fruit this year. Grimes Golden did well and was loaded heavily. Wagener also did well, and we have a block of six year olds, which this year averaged three or four cases to the tree of an excellent sample. In addition we grow Spy, Red Check Pippin, Jonathan, and a sprinkling of other varieties.

Amongst those varieties which are now most highly regarded in British Columbia I should place McIntosh Red, Wealthy, Gravenstein, and Cox's Orange for fall; and for winter, Jonathan, Spy, Wagener, Spitzenburg, Grimes Golden, Winesap, and Rome Beauty. It should be said, however, that the behaviour of varieties differs very much in the various districts, a mountainous country such as British Columbia lacking the uniformity of condition which obtains over large sections of other portions of the continent.

Our rainfall here is usually light, and we aim to cultivate very early in the spring and very frequently, and usually irrigate two or three times a season. This is done by the furrow system, the water being run down the furrows for twenty-four or thirty-six hours, and cultivation following as soon after as possible.

Heading Back Young Trees

R. R. Waddle, Ontario

Finding several growers with the opinion that young trees should not be headed back the first year, or not at all, which in the majority of cases, is a great mistake, I am giving you the results of an experiment which we carried out in Ontario County last season. Probably about two hundred trees were cut back at time of planting. Later in the season the unpruned portion suffered so greatly that we were compelled to prune some of them in order to save the trees, as so many died back further than they should have been cut.

This season, the foliage of the trees, which were cut back at the time of planting, is in the very best condition. The



The Orchard of J. D. Honsberger, Grand Forks, B. C., Irrigated.
Six carloads of prunes were shipped from this orchard in 1909.

trees stand erect and have made a wonderful root and body growth. The dying trees cut back late in the season are looking equal to those not cut back, which all show a sickly condition.

The remainder which were cut back this spring show the effect of having too heavy a top for the roots. They have been whipped back and forth by the wind,

have made no body growth and appear to be a year behind the portion headed back. During the winter the trees suffered very little from freezing back, all portions being equal in this respect. The loss in trees seemed to be sustained by the unpruned portion, which goes to prove trees are better cut back at time of planting.

Pick Over Trees Twice

W. H. Gibson, Newcastle, Ont.

We have always been able to get local help for picking. Thus we get an hour's start of the gang that is sent out by dealers, who have to drive out often from six to twelve miles from town. I make two pickings and with such apples as the Wealthy, go over the trees three times. Pick the top and south side first, when the strength of the tree is turned into what is left, and they color up. I am satisfied that the improved quality of the apples pays well for the extra expense in picking.

I have a rough shed in each orchard with light roof and boarded up on three sides, which is very convenient for storing barrels and machinery. The drops are all hauled into this shed, when in a few days any bruises will show; then when a wet day comes they are sorted over. The strip of grass under each row saves a great many apples that otherwise would be wasted. I use the ordinary cradle shaped basket for picking and light ladders, and pick entirely from the outside of the tree.

The early varieties are packed in the orchards, the winter varieties put in barrels just as they come from the tree,

pressed tightly and led to the storehouse in a spring wagon to prevent bruising. Our co-operative store house will hold nine thousand barrels. The apples are all inspected at the station they are shipped from. At Newcastle the inspector comes twice a week through the season. The Newcastle association has not had a bad mark against it in four years.

I prefer a small association to a large one as it is easier for the growers to get together, and there is no danger of friction. I am growing both cherries and pears extensively, and have found them both profitable. In cherries the Early Richmond and Montmorency give best results. In pears, fifty per cent. are Bartlett, the balance are Clairgeau, Anjou, Duchess and Wilmot. The Wilmot is a native seedling, medium sized, very profitable and hardy, but scarcely as fine in quality as the Bartlett. Dr. Farncomb had two trees of this variety, from which he sold five barrels at eight dollars per barrel. The pears from this district come in just after those of the Niagara peninsula, thus missing the usual glut, and realized last season from seven dollars to ten dollars a barrel.