

the Sheldon cannot be ranked high, first, because of its russet appearance, which, however, yellows up finely when ready for the table, and, second, because the tree is not sufficiently productive.

A tree at Maplehurst, about thirty years old, bears some years a few straggling specimens, and other years possibly a bushel or so; certainly far below the average yield of many other varieties, as, for instance, the Buffum, Tyson, Bartlett and Howell. But, whether the crop of Sheldons be large or small, we always save it for home use; for none of its compeers, the Duchess, the Anjou, nor the Lawrence, though all are delicious, is as desirable. No member of the family would select one of the latter for eating when he can have the Sheldon.

The Committee on Pears, appointed by the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, give the Sheldon ten marks, the maximum number to indicate its value for dessert, and seven for market; but they have ranked the Anjou equally high, and, in our opinion, this might justly be amended to make the latter variety at least one point below the Sheldon.

The following description of this pear is given in Downing's "Fruits and Fruit Trees of America,"—Tree, vigorous, erect, hardy, and a good bearer. Skin, greenish-yellow, mostly covered with thin light russet, a little brownish-crimson in the sun, dotted with russet. Stalk short, stout. Cavity deep. Calyx open. Segments partly recurved. Basin broad, large. Flesh, whitish, very juicy, melting, sweet, vinous, rich aromatic. Very good. October.

Two or three reports concerning this pear have been sent in recently, which we here insert:

W. Boulter, of Picton, Prince Edward Co., writes, "My experience with this variety has been poor. I planted ten years ago, seventy-five of them, and lost every one of them, perhaps due to the winter's cold. I gave them the same cultivation as the Clapp's Favorite and the Flemish Beauty, some three hundred of which I had by the side of them, and lost none. I think it will not endure the climate of this county."

Thos. Beall, of Lindsay, says, "I have not grown this pear, but I had two trees planted, which died before the bearing age. I do not know of its being grown in this locality."

Warren Holton, of Hamilton says, "I have fruited the Sheldon for several years and think very highly of it. It is with me a moderate bearer when young, but improves with age. I consider it the best quality and it always commands the highest price and a ready sale in the local markets."

T. T. Lyon, of South Haven, Mich., writes, "The Sheldon pear is considerably grown for market in Michigan. It is a vigorous, healthy variety; a little variable in quality and somewhat uncertain in bearing. Aside from Bosc and Anjou, this and Howell may be said to range next to the Bartlett in the estimation of the mass of commercial planters of this fruit."