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Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm,

## APPLE CULTURE.

By H. L. Hutt, Professor of Horticulture.

One of our leading nurserymen has observed that the demand for nursery stock of any particular kind of fruit depends largely upon the crop and the prices realized for that fruit the preceding season. If, for instance, apples are a good crop and bring good prices, the next year there will be a great demand for apple trees, but if the crop happens to be a failure or prices are unsatisfactory, many are then ready to tear out their newly planted apple trees and plant whatever fruit seems to be paying best at the time. The folly of such a shortsighted policy need hardly be commented upon. The planting of an apple orchard is an investment which lasts for more than a life time. It is wise, therefore, at the beginning to take a broad outlook and determine upon some definite line of work, and then adhere to it steadily. We can point to numerous apple growers throughout the Province who have made money out of their orchards, but these men did not lose faith, nor neglect their trees, when the crop was a failure or the prices low.

No doubt many growers have been discouraged by the low prices obtained for the fruit in some seasons, yet in most cases it might have been found that this was due largely to the unbusiness-like methods employed in handling and marketing the crop. The outlook for the apple grower never was brighter than at the present. With the reliable information we now have regarding varieties; more rational methods of caring for the trees; improved methods of handling the crop; and local and national co-operation in marketing it, there is no doubt that the apple crop will prove to be one of the paying crops of the future. There is a constant demand for first-class fruit in the best markets of Europe. Then if we realize for a moment the rapidity with which the great North-west is being settled, and consider that in all likelihood the apple will never be successfully grown in that latitude, we may safely count upon the North-west as one of the promising, and ever-increasing markets. In view of these facts, we believe that the Ontario farmer and fruit-grower, who is favorably located for the production of apples, can make no mistake in planting apple trees,—to what extent being determined mainly by the amount of care and attention he is certain of being able to give them.

Apart from the commercial side of apple culture, there is still need for the planting of small orchards on farms throughout the country for home use. It is surprising to find even in good fruit growing districts, such as we have in the greater part of Ontario, that there are yet thous-

NOTE. In the preparation of this bulletin Professor Hutt was assisted by Mr. H. S. Peart, B.B.A., Demonstrator in Horticulture. The section on "Insects Injurious to the Apple" was prepared by Professor W. Lochhead, Professor of Biology.