THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST

PEACHES FOR MARKET.

THINNING, PICKING, SORTING AND SELLING.



S to the experiment with the borer wash, Mr. Hale found that 90 per cent. of the trees washed were free from the pest, while 90 per cent. of the unwashed trees suffered from their attacks. Speaking of this subject, he says :

After the first three years and our orchard had grown larger we quit using soft-soap and substituted caustic potash, as the only object of the soap was to smooth the bark that there might be less chances for rough places for

the mother beetle to deposit the eggs which hatch out and make the borer. Potash answers the purpose just as well. We also add white arsenic, as it makes good feed for mice and rabbits that try to live on peach bark. Some clay or fresh cowdung is also put into the mixture as it helps to adhere to the tree better than when lime alone is used.

"Experience has taught me," said Mr. Hale to the *Tribune* reporter, "that raspberries or other plants take from the peach trees substance which should be theirs and induce the yellows and decay. So we give up the land entirely to the trees and after the second year we spread fertilizers broadcast all over the ground early in the spring and keep the ground free with harrow and single-horse cultivator. Every year, whether we have any fruit or not, the orchards have had from 1,000 to 1,200 pounds of fine ground raw bone, and 300 to 500 pounds of 80 per cent. muriate of potash per acre."

There is a vast difference in varieties as to hardiness. The Crawfords, early and late, gave us one light and one full crop in ten years, while Alexander, Smock and Hill's Chili produce good crops every year. Mountain Rose, Oldmixon, Stump, Keyport, Ward's Late and Stevens gave three full crops and two partial ones in ten years. More than 80 per cent. of our trees are about equally divided between Stump, Mountain Rose and Oldmixon. Therefore, although we had over 6,000 trees planted previous to 1881, it was not till 1887 that we had any considerable crop of fruit. Those that blossomed full were very closely pruned by the shortening-in and thinning-out process, cutting away fully one-half of the fruit that had started. Then early in July when the fruit was three-quarters of an inch or so in diameter we began thinning by hand-picking, leaving the best specimens not nearer than four inches apart. To accomplish this on some 600 of the trees we had to take out about four out of every five peaches.

This thinning was a slow and somewhat costly undertaking and some of the help on the farm as well as some of the neighbors thought we were a "little off" t_0 " wait six years for a crop of peaches and then destroy it when half-grown."