

now find that in many localities instead of being the most productive, it is the least so; orchardists in the western states, on the other hand, have planted the Ben Davis in their commercial orchards, and in fruitfulness at least it has not disappointed them.

In southern Ontario many of the best orchards of Baldwin have been almost barren for the last half decade of years, and it is for this reason we bring under the notice of the owners an apple which is not a failure in this respect at least. The late P. O. Dempsey, who was our director for Prince Edward county, had great confidence in the Ben Davis, and in our report for 1893, page 7, he says; "I can make more money out of one tree of the Ben Davis than I can off fifty Kings. We have a lot of trees of the latter variety twelve years planted, and have never realized twelve barrels off them, but we have taken that many off a single tree of the Ben Davis. For market value, we find that in England the Ben Davis has sold as high as 32s. a barrel.

At our meeting in Peterborough last December, Mr. Alex. McNeill championed the Ben Davis. He said, "The Ben Davis is like a piece of cork in the fall or winter, but in the months of January, February and March, a well-grown Ben Davis is just as nice an apple as I want to eat, and I am very particular in my choice of an apple, too. As for profit, I believe there is no apple grown that will give you as much." Mr. Stenson, of Peterborough, said, "I planted seventeen trees of the Ben Davis sixteen years ago. They began bearing in six years, and have been bearing ever since. This last year I took eighty-six bushels off those trees—eighty of them good salable apples. I would sooner grow the Ben Davis at 50 cents a bushel than any other apple at \$1." Mr. Stenson's method of handling them is to store them until the 20th of May, when he ships them to England, and gets the top price in the market.

On the other hand, it is urged by some apple growers, whose experience is equally reliable, that when planting an orchard we should choose varieties of better quality than the Ben Davis, because the time will come when quality must rule in the markets. At our meeting in Windsor, Mr. Elliot spoke as follows concerning this apple: "No doubt the Ben Davis sells well, but I think a man who charges his neighbor \$2 for a barrel of Ben Davis robs him of \$1.75. It may do very well for hotel-keepers, for one barrel of them will last a first-class hotel as a dessert apple about three months, whereas a really good apple will not last a week. If you send a boy into the cellar for an eating apple, he never brings a Ben Davis, and if your wife wants to please you with an apple dumpling, she does not choose the Ben Davis."

Mr. A. McD. Allan said at the same meeting, "Although good prices are now paid in England for the Ben Davis, it is bound to come down in value before very long. The fact is they are looking into the quality of apples in those markets more closely than the consumers in our own markets."

The estimation in which this apple was held by our fruit committee is shown by the rating they gave it, viz., dessert, 0, cooking, 1, home market, 8, foreign market, 9;—only 18 points out of a maximum of 40.

At Chicago the Ben Davis was one of the finest looking apples shown by Idaho, Oregon and British Columbia. As grown in those quarters, the apple is twice the size of those grown in Ontario, and more highly colored; while the Spy, one of our best quality apples, is a miserable failure. No wonder the Ben Davis is the great apple of the west.

We cannot better describe this variety than by quoting from A. J. Downing's great work. He says, "The origin of this apple is unknown. J. S. Downer, of Kentucky, writes that old trees are there found from which suckers are taken in way of propagating. The tree is very hardy, a free grower, with very dark reddish brown, slightly grayish young wood, forming an erect, round head, bearing early and abundantly. In quality it is not first rate, but from its early productiveness, habit of blooming late in spring after late frosts, good size, fair, even fruit, keeping and carrying well, it is very popular in all the southwest and west.

Fruit, medium to large. Form, roundish, truncated conical, often sides unequal. Color, yellowish, almost overspread, splashed and striped with two shades of red, and