

APPLES IN NORTH WESTERN ONTARIO.



FIG. 1629.—A MANITOBA DUCHESS APPLE TREE.

IT would appear that our visit to Sault Ste. Marie did not reach the extreme northern limit of the apple. At a meeting of the Western Horticultural Society in Winnipeg, in February last, a photograph was passed around showing a Duchess of Oldenburg apple tree, growing in the garden of Mr. W. L. Lyall, of Portage la Prairie, which had on it forty-five fine apples, and we are glad to be able to show our readers an engraving of the photograph. Mr. A. P. Stevenson, of Nelson, Manitoba, read a paper before the Society on "What the past year has

taught us," from which we take the following regarding apples.

"Our most prolific crop is the Transcendant, one tree alone yielding fully two barrels of apples. This is the first variety to bloom in spring; on that account there is some danger in certain localities of injury to the blossom by frost.

Mulching around the roots of the trees with half rotted straw, above the snow during winter, has been tried to retard in early blooming, but without any apparent advantage.

Sweet Busnett is the name of another variety deserving of special mention on account of its fair cooking qualities, very little crab flavor being noticeable. Ten varieties of Russian apple trees carried fruit to maturity last summer. Blushed Calville, a summer variety, bore rather better than a bushel of apples of good size and of fair dessert quality, and were ripe on the 25th August. A weakness of this variety, more noticeable than in previous years, was its tendency to drop its fruit with every high wind.

The following fall varieties also carried full crops of large to extra large apples, suitable for cooking purposes:—Lieby, Ostrekoff, Silken Leaf, and Russian Gravenstein. The latter variety is, in quality, size, coloring and appearance, second to none of our eastern grown apples. One of the lessons learned among the apple trees the past summer is from the flat headed apple tree borer. Their work was first noticed last fall, when they worked considerable damage. They are detected by the borings or sawdust-like castings found at the root of the tree. When this is noticed the parts should be cut into with a knife until the borer is found.

Three years ago the first attempt at top-working the large apple on the crabapple was tried. So far as noted it has been a success. A number of the scions first inserted bearing heavily the past summer. The benefit of this work consists in the fact that top-working a half hardy scion on a hardy stock increases the hardiness of the scion. Such varieties of crabapple trees as Transcendant, Hyslop, Sweet Russet and Virginia, are congenial stocks, and make a firm union with the large apple.