

Mr. Brodie—Did you notice any difference where the land was cultivated and where it was in grass?

Mr. Fisk—No, I did not in my own grounds.

Mr. Brodie—I know it is easier to drive over land in grass than when it is cultivated, for when it is cultivated the wheels, in the spring, sink in and break up the soil. I think that eventually, instead of cultivating and spraying, we will have to have our orchards in grass.

Mr. William Craig—I sprayed thoroughly this year, and I had the best crop of fruit I have ever had; but, as Mr. Fisk said, I do not lay that altogether to the spraying, because we had an unusual season. I have faith enough, however, in spraying to go into it thoroughly next year. Usually we have had a fair amount of cider apples, but this year, I am thankful to say, we had none, and we had only a very small percentage of second-class fruit. We have been taking out every alternate tree, cultivating it and manuring it heavily, and top dressing the rest, so that, in a year or two, we shall be able to give a more definite opinion on spraying; but at present we have faith in it.

Mr. Barnard—I think I had better say what was told me by the vice-president of the Pomological Society of France. The apple orchards of Normandy are of very great value, and he told me that he had been visiting some of the old orchards and he found that, as a rule, the people wanted two crops—a very heavy crop of grass and a heavy crop of fruit—which is a difficult thing to get; but there it is a success when plenty of manure is used. The trees want plenty of space, and they must be well trimmed. He also said that it was a custom with the farmers of Normandy to scrape the bark of their trees as soon as they thought there was an insect lodged on it. They spread a linen cloth on the ground, and it was wonderful, he said, to see the quantity of insects and bark that dropped upon it as the scraping proceeded. The tree was then washed with soapsuds, and limed. In this way the Normandy orchards had been known to have been preserved for centuries, and they were still giving heavy crops. The ground, the gentleman told me, was sufficiently rich to produce a heavy crop of grass; but care had to be taken that it did not take all the strength out of the ground. There had to be a double coating of richness, so to speak, so that the tree could have its share as well as the grass. I thought that we might try it here. The gentleman I have referred to, on visiting Canada, found such a supply of fine fruit that samples were sent to France three years in succession. The result was that gold, silver and bronze medals were struck specially for Canada, and diplomas were also sent, thus enabling us to participate in the important work done in France by the Pomological Society. The fruit was photographed and cuts made, and it was also analyzed, and the value of each sample reported upon by the chemists of the Society.

Professor Fletcher—The method that Mr. Barnard mentions has been adopted by some of our best fruit-growers. Mr. Shepherd has adopted it.

Professor Craig—I have been very much interested in the discussion that has taken place. It has in the main, confirmed the results of my own observations during the past year. I am very glad to notice the judicial manner of

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Mr. Barnard

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Mr. Barnard  
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