

"Everything that is grown in a sub-tropical country can be grown to perfection in this valley. Corn ripens in July and can be ripened at intervals as late as November. Four full crops of alfalfa are harvested in a season. I sometimes allow the cattle to run on the fourth crop. From the other three, I get an average yield of 5½ tons to the acre. All the hardier fruits, such as apples, pears, plums and cherries grow to perfection and in abundance. This district is particularly adapted for tomatoes. Watermelons, peaches, apricots, walnuts, and almonds and all the different varieties of grapes, including the Tokay, Muscat Alexandra, Zinfindell, German Resling, Concord and Niagara, do equally well. It is usually a matter of surprise to fruit experts, who believe that the delicate Black Hamburg grape can not be grown in British Columbia, except under glass, that I have grown them here in the open at Keremeos successfully, for the last 10 years and also the *Prunus Simonii*, a tender variety of fruit, supposed to be of Chinese origin. We grow the sweet potato and very good samples of tobacco.

"As to quality of our fruit, I might refer you to the result of the last Horticultural Fair at London, Eng., where British Columbia fruit captured the gold medal, while at the Provincial Fair at New Westminster, last September, which was open to the world, my own small exhibition of 100 pounds, net, took 24 prizes—18 first and 6 second—and it is a well known fact in the Valley, that my orchard was in the poorest condition it has been for the past 10 years.

"To the fruit grower looking for a location, this district, with its mild, sunny climate, clear spring water, railroad facilities, with a surrounding mining country, demanding an ever increasing supply of fruit, can not be too highly recommended. We have people here from various districts, including California, and they are unanimously agreed that for an all-year climate, this can not be excelled."

These statements by Mr. Richter regarding the Similkameen, have been vouched for by the leading fruit growers in British Columbia. The majority of them acknowledge that, as quickly as this valley becomes better known, it will be one of the best fruit growing sections in the province. The success attained by Mr. Richter has caused him to sell his ranch to a large land company, that is now placing it on the market in small blocks. The irrigation system is well under way and an ample supply of water has been provided for.

The town site of Keremeos is near the head of the valley, and where the creek of the same name joins the Similkameen River. This is one of the finest sites that could have been selected. Owing to the tropical climate, it should not be long before Keremeos will be known as "The Pasadena of the Canadian California."

The valley is the warmest and driest in British Columbia. It varies in width from one-half mile to four miles from mountain to mountain, and contains some of the richest land in the province. The bottom lands are sub-irrigated, and have for years been used as meadows. Rising above these meadows, in gentle slopes, are benches of large area. It is on these benches that the largest amount of work is being done. It only requires the water, which will be furnished by irrigation, to enable the land to produce the finest fruit.

The following are a few results obtained by some of the growers in the Similkameen

Valley: four and a half acres of onions produced 95 tons at \$22 a ton, or \$2,090; ten acres of potatoes produced 200 tons at \$14 a ton, or \$2,800; one acre of tomatoes, 5,000 plants, bore 85,000 pounds at two cents a pound, or \$1,700; two-thirds of an acre of strawberries produced \$900; tobacco produced \$100 an acre between fruit trees: a

twenty-acre peach orchard brought \$10,875 on the trees; one and a third acres of pears brought \$1,420; one apple orchard produced 12 tons an acre and brought \$750 an acre. Now that better transportation facilities have been provided, it is expected that there will be a great rush to take up land in this section.—W. G. R.

The Fruit Bark Beetle

L. Cæsar, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

MANY cherry trees in the Niagara district last autumn were losing their leaves as if a blight had suddenly come upon them.

Having heard of this, the writer along with one or two of the fruit growers made an investigation in September, and found that, in many cases, the real cause of the withering of the leaves was that a tiny beetle was attacking the trees. This beetle is known as the fruit bark beetle, or shot-hole borer, *Scolytus rugulosus*.

The beetle is about one-eighth of an inch long and one-third of this amount in breadth, is almost cylindrical in shape, and black in color. In dead trees it makes little round holes like shot-holes, and from this sometimes gets the name of shot-hole borer. If the bark of badly-infested dead trees be removed, the whole surface of the wood is often found to be engraved with little tunnels or channels, running in different directions. In these channels, the white, legless grubs of the beetles are often found, it being the grubs that make the chambers.

The insects, it is generally believed, pass the winter in the grub (larval) stage, though there are many indications that eggs also remain over winter in the little pockets under the bark, along the small tunnels made by the females. In early spring, the larvæ or grubs, pass through their transformations and come forth as beetles, and almost at once seek weakened or dead trees or branches to lay their eggs in. Often, however, as was the case last year, they will, when numerous, spread from diseased or dead trees to perfectly healthy ones and there do much damage. When a healthy tree is attacked, the presence of the beetle can easily be seen by the gummy exudations that come forth from the wounds made. Attacks may be made on any part of the tree, trunk, branches or twigs.

Cherry trees are not the only ones to be attacked. A few plum trees at St. Catharines were found to be badly attacked, and in the United States, peach trees are, as a rule, worst assailed. Apple and pear trees also are sometimes attacked.

Though the insect did much harm last year and will probably do much this year also, unless precautions are taken, yet the farmers need not become unnecessarily alarmed. The insect has been known in Canada for some time, and in some parts of the United States has, on several occasions, been very destructive, but it has been possible to control it in each case.

In seeking a remedy, we must remember first, that the insects pass the winter in one form or another under the bark; secondly, that in almost every case they attack dead or weakened trees before going to healthy ones. Consequently, the remedy is to cut out and burn every dead fruit tree of whatever kind, and also any very weak or dying tree, and all dead or badly-attacked branches. These must not be thrown into heaps and left there, but must be burned at once. All old brush piles should be destroyed in the same way. In this manner most of the hibernating larvæ and eggs will be destroyed. If, in addition to this, trees that have been slightly attacked have manure scattered around them, the in-

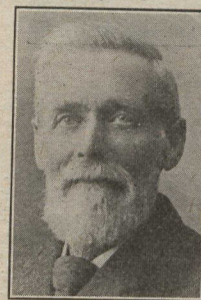
creased vigor thereby given will often enable them to recover from the injury.

Spraying is usually resorted to as a means of warding off attacks. A carbolic and soap wash is usually recommended, one quart soft soap or one pound hard, one gallon water, half pint crude carbolic; dilute to 40 gallons. Such a wash must be put on in the spring, in April, as the adult beetles begin to emerge very shortly after the warm weather begins. There seems to be no reason why lime-sulphur put on at this time should not also have the same result. To secure the best results from either of these washes, it will be necessary to spray, at least, the infested trees a second time, after an interval of a week or ten days.

It is perhaps necessary to call the attention of fruit-growers to the fact that in localities where the San Jose scale is prevalent, trees not treated for this scale are sure to become weakened or killed, and afford favorable breeding centres for the fruit bark beetle. Hence, by using lime-sulphur to check the San Jose scale, preventive measures will also have been taken against the beetles.

Of Wide Influence.

Editor, THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST: The announcement in the December issue that THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST had completed its 30th year, caused me to look up back numbers. It is 27 years since I first became a subscriber.



Mr. J. C. Gilman

While THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST may have been intended primarily for Ontario, its scope of usefulness has not been provincial. Fruit growers in every province have found something within the pages of the publication to enthuse, encourage and instruct them in producing more and better fruit, to grade better, pack better and to place before the consumer, in the best possible condition, the products of their orchards. I wish the publication continued success.—J. C. Gilman, President, New Brunswick Fruit Growers' Association, Fredericton, N.B.

In future the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition will be under the control of an Association that will be called "The Ontario Horticultural Exhibition Association." At a meeting of the directors of the association held recently, it was decided to organize and become incorporated under The Associations' Act. A constitution and by-laws were adopted. The following officers were elected: Hon. Pres., R. J. Score, Toronto.; Pres., W. H. Bunting, St. Catharines; First Vice-Pres., H. R. Frankland, Toronto; Second Vice-Pres., Mr. Couse, Streetsville; Treas., J. H. Dunlop, Toronto; Sec., P. W. Hodgetts, Toronto.