

get too cold, it is difficult to make the cheese face. The curd mill or picker tears the curd to pieces as fast as one can conveniently feed it.

By this process, a good deal of stirring is saved, no strainers or racks are needed, and the salting is done with more certainty and evenness. There is not so much danger of getting the curd too sour, and a few moments' delay is not of so much consequence as it is when the curd lies in the whey. It seems to be certain that a firmer cheese is secured. The gas which makes open cheese either escapes or does not generate, and hence a tainted or floating curd makes a cheese that stands perfectly true on the aranges without the least sign of "huffing."

That there is any real improvement in the quality of the cheese we are not prepared to say. The indications of tainted milk are still perceptible in the flavour, and cooling the curd retards putrefactive action, which will sooner or later show itself, especially if the cheese be subjected to excessive heat in the rail-car, on shipboard, or in the storehouse. Still, the advantages of the Cheddar process, and of grinding a tainted curd, are apparent; but we concur in the opinion of Dr. Wight that, if the milk is all right, the old method is as good as any, so far as the quality of the cheese is concerned.—*Utica Herald*.

SULPHUR AS A DEODORIZER.—The *Maine Farmer* says:—"One night a sort of domestic animal, known as a skunk, took up his abode in the back entry of a house, and being disturbed by the cat, emitted a most disagreeable odour—as he is always sure to do when he is at a all suspicious that his rights are being invaded. The dairy being in the neighbourhood of where the conflict took place, it became infected with the noxious odour, when our friend, in his haste to cleanse the premises, burnt some sulphur in the room. The effect was magical, as it completely neutralized all the foul smell."

CORN LEAF FODDER.—It has long been the habit in the South, where hay is scarce and poorer than here, to rely largely on cured corn leaves for wintering all kinds of stock. These leaves are stripped from the corn, the stalks being left in the field till winter. The *Arkansas Farmer* tells how it should be done: "As soon as the shuck ripens, begin to strip the blades. Do not put the fodder on the ground, leaving it until evening to bind. The method of tying in small bundles as it is stripped, and hanging on the stalks to dry, is best. When about three-fourths cured, gather and throw in good-sized close heaps, late in the evening, and let it go through a heating process during the night; next day throw open the heaps—the heat will dissipate the remaining moisture, cure the fodder sooner, and give it, at the same time, a tenderness and flavour much relished by the stock. Spare no pains to cure it well—if mouldy and dusty, it may prove more than worthless."

Horticulture.

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The Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario.

This Association held its regular autumn meeting in St. Catharines on Thursday the 22nd Sept., 1870. There was a very full attendance of members, and a very fine display of fruit. The collection of grapes was very extensive, embracing a great number of varieties, and many of the newer sorts, including the Kuman, which latter sort was exhibited by Mr. John Brown, of Thorold, and Messrs Coleman and Merritt, of Geneva, N. Y.

The meeting was called to order by the President. The minutes of last meeting were read and the following Committees appointed:—

Committee on apples and pears—Messrs. Dougall, Morse, and Bennett.

Committee on grapes—Messrs. Read, Taylor, and A. M. Smith.

Committee on other fruits—Messrs. Mills, R. M. Ball, and Saunders.

Committee on wines—Messrs. Farrell, Logie, and White.

Committee on seedling fruit—Messrs. Cross, Arnold, and Halton.

The discussion of the best method of pruning and training the grape vine was then entered upon.

Mr. Y. KEATING, of Jordan, stated that he trained his vines on the arbour system. His vines did not cover the top of the arbour trellis as yet, and therefore he allowed the vines to fruit on the perpendicular part of the trellis; but as soon as the vines are able to cover the top he intended to prune off the branches from the perpendicular part of the trellis and confine the fruit and foliage to the top or horizontal part. He has about an acre and a half planted with the Delaware, of which one acre is trellised. He pruned in March and April, and has three canes to each vine, but has not practised trimmer pruning, but is of the opinion that a little pinching in during the summer would be serviceable. The vine now exhibited by Mr. Keating and covered with ripe fruit has been planted six years. He manured his vineyard two years ago by ploughing under clover, and last spring applied a dressing of well-rotted barnyard manure. His soil is sandy loam, the soil about eight inches deep, with a hard, yellow sandy subsoil, having a clay pan two and a half feet below the surface, and clay from eight to nine feet down.

JOHN W. BALL, of Niagara, trains his vines on the arbor trellis plan, no foliage allowed on the sides of the trellis, the vines are trained up the sides of the posts to the top of the trellis, and the sides are open all around, so that he can drive under the trellis in every direction and cultivate with the horse every part of the vineyard. The posts are seven feet long, not planted in the ground, but set upon a flat stone placed under the foot of each post. The horizontal bars are nailed on to the top of the post, so that the whole weight of the top rests on the ends of posts, and braces run from the posts to the horizontal bars. Made in this way, there is no rotting off of posts, nor strain upon a rail, nor blowing down by the wind, nor heaving out of place by the frost. His soil is a clay loam about a foot deep, with a retentive clay subsoil, well under-drained. Has manured them with leached ashes. His vines are planted twelve feet apart each way. Of course, his vines get no winter protection.

W. H. READ, of Port Dalhousie, said that he pruned both in the fall and spring, mostly in the fall because it was more convenient to do it then. He varies his pruning according to the

habit of the vine; those of very strong growth and vigorous habit requiring to be left with longer shoots than those of a slower habit of growth. He has never seen any evil to result from fall pruning. Some of his vines are trained to stakes, others to upright trellises; has not tried the arbour trellis, thinks the best ripened grapes are those near the ground, because they get the radiated heat of the earth. His soil is a sandy loam, about eighteen inches deep, with a hard pan subsoil, located on the south shore of Lake Ontario. He thoroughly manured the ground with barn-yard manure when he planted the vines ten years ago, but has not given them any manure since. High manuring may produce larger grapes, but poorer in quality.

JAS. TAYLOR, of St. Catharines, prunes his vines in the fall and finds that they do not get injured by the winter in consequence. He has more leisure to prune in the fall, and therefore prefers to do it then. He is also satisfied that grape vines are not benefited by high manuring, and has abandoned the practice of manuring them except by a mulch of barn-yard litter over the roots. His soil is a limestone gravel, naturally porous and well drained. Some of his vines are on a side hill, with a western exposure. He has also given up the practice of summer pruning, having become convinced that much summer pruning is injurious, and now contents himself with merely pinching in the ends of shoots that seem to require it.

The meeting adjourned until 2:30 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION

THE PRESIDENT called the meeting to order, and called upon Mr. Haskins, of Hamilton, who remarked that he preferred the arbor system of training and spring pruning, especially for the free growing sorts, such as the Clinton and its confères. He uses as fertilizers leached ashes and bone dust and stable manure. He mixes two tons of bone dust with four tons of ashes and four tons of gypsum or plaster, and applies it to five acres of vines. He finds that many varieties kill back badly in the winter if fall pruned, and therefore he prefers the spring. He has nine-and-a-half acres of grape vines in cultivation, planted two years ago last spring. The vines are showing a little fruit this year. The sorts are mostly Rogers' hybrids, with a good many Delaware and Clinton, with about twenty other sorts for experiment. Is much pleased with the Tona, Delaware, and Rogers No. 4. Thinks the Creveling one of the very best of wine grapes, but the bunches are very imperfect, because the berries do not set well, but are too scattering. The soil is sandy loam, with clay bottom, well under-drained.

Mr. BANCROFT, of Lockport, New York, said that vine cultivators in the United States were now beginning to prune larger and train higher. They have heretofore been in the habit of cutting off too much of the vine at the winter pruning. If the vine sets too much fruit they thin it out, either by cutting out the branches or by cutting off the entire branch, fruit and all. They usually cultivate on upright trellis, composed of three wires, fastening the vines to the wires with willow twigs or rye-straw. There is a new wire contrivance for fastening the wire to the trellis known as Underhill's patent wire back. They have a machine for tightening the wires of the trellis.

Here several members described different contrivances for tightening and slackening the wires of the trellis. The most simple of all seemed to be one described by Mr. Barnes, of Hamilton, but we forbear attempting to give a description, hoping to obtain from Mr. Barnes a full description with illustrative drawings.

The meeting now proceeded to the consideration of the best methods of grafting the vine.

W. H. MILLS, of Hamilton, said he had not been successful in grafting a vine that was already established growing in the soil, but when he dug the vine up and then grafted it and planted it out again, he had met with very good success.

W. H. READ, of Port Dalhousie, said that he had grafted in the fall and then carefully protected the grafts from the frost. In this way forty-five percent. had done well.

C. ANNOLD, of Paris, had succeeded well in the same way. It was not necessary to have the bark of the scion and stock fit together, as in grafting the apple, but they grew just as well when inserted in the middle of the stock.

Mr. BROOKING, of Ancaster, planted out some old vines, thirteen in number, and then grafted them. Of these twelve grew. This was done in April, and the crown where the graft was inserted was covered with earth, leaving one head of the scion at the surface of the ground.

Mr. DOUGALL, of Windsor, had tried grafting the vine, but always failed.

HUGH SMITH, of Sarnia, exhibited to the meeting some samples of a method which was a combination of layering and grafting. The branch of a tree or shrub is bent down so as to admit of the twigs being readily layered; the twigs are then tongued on the underside as for layering. A piece of root of the same