

## GARDEN & ORCHARD.

### Fall Treatment of the Orchard.

Clean cultivation of the orchard has proven itself a valuable practice to the great majority of orchardists, and is being more and more practiced in the orchards of the general farmer, as well as in those of the professional. Wherever it is practiced it will be found advantageous at this time of year to seed the land down to a good growing cover crop. The fruit in the orchard is now approaching its mature size, and, consequently, does not require as much of the moisture and nourishment as it did earlier in the season, so that the sowing of a crop will tend to divert the excess of water and of plant food from the fruit to the growing crop. This crop should be allowed to grow as late as it will into the fall, and in the spring be plowed under. Its presence will serve as a protection against frost during the winter. In the spring it must be plowed under early and thoroughly. With a rapid growing crop, such as rye, this may not be an easy thing to do. Besides serving as a protection during the winter, this crop by being plowed under in the spring adds greatly to the humus of the soil, thus making it of a more desirable texture, and greatly adding to its moisture-retaining capacity and its fertility. The presence of the crop during the late summer and fall prevents the growth of the late varieties of noxious weeds in the orchard, and gives to it a cleaner appearance.

There are several crops that serve very well for this purpose, the chief of which are winter oats, rye, rape, peas, hairy vetch and clover. On general principles the legumes are preferable, but few of them make sufficient growth to warrant their use, consequently the cereals wheat or rye are commonly used. Rape and vetch are both hardy, and will give good growth, while the clovers and peas must be sown very early to give satisfactory growth.

The treatment must be much the same as for a regular crop. Put the land in a good condition of tilth, then harrow and roll after sowing. The seeding, however, should be thicker than usual to insure a thick matted growth of the crop before cold weather sets in.

### The Vegetable Crop.

In the central district of Ontario (from Oshawa to Berlin and Brantford) the prospects for an early tomato crop are good; early potatoes are fairly good, while the late crop is only medium. Onions are badly blighted, and the bulbs are small. The celery crop is later than last year in this district, but promises well. Cabbages, cauliflowers, corn and beans all promise well. In the southern section (centering around Hamilton to Ojibwa) the tomato crop is fairly good. The dry weather has affected the potato, onion, cabbage and cauliflower crop; the acreage of the latter two are a little less than last year. Celery is very poor; melons are a failure at Ojibwa; corn has suffered much at Tecumseh for want of rain. In the western division prospects for a tomato crop are good; the early potatoes have been poor, but late ones promise fair; onions are a fair crop; celery is doing well; late cabbage and cauliflower promise quite good. In Eastern Ontario, tomatoes are about a two-thirds crop about Ottawa, while from Belleville to Picton they are good. Late potatoes promise well; onions are only fair, blighting some; celery is late, but fairly good; late cabbage and cauliflower promises quite good. The general outlook in the Ottawa section is for a vegetable crop much below the average.

### Notes on the Fruit Crop.

The various reports on the apple crop reaching this office continue to confirm previous reports. The Nova Scotia apple crop is bound to be much below the average, frost having done much damage at blooming time. Many orchards have only the early varieties, while few if any show a full crop. The early varieties may turn out about one-fourth of a crop, while later varieties may turn out a half or slightly better. There is always the hope that things may not be as bad as they seem.

The United States crop is considerably below normal, according to the official Government report, though a large apple operator of New York, whose opinion the Fruit Trade Journal respects, has it that the New England crop is larger than last year. New York State is reported to have a full crop of Baldwins, which is the chief apple of the State. Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio are reported to have an abundance. The Middle West, however, is undoubtedly short. The Coast regions anticipate a splendid crop, probably the largest crop yet harvested there.

### British Fruit Crop.

The Canadian Trade Commissioner at Glasgow sends the following report on the fruit crop in Great Britain, taken from an English journal:—

A well-known fruit salesman who has been visiting the fruit-growing areas of England, says he found the apples to a considerable degree ruined, and there was no hope of anything more than half the usual supply. The pear trees were even worse affected, and the growers confessed that they would be satisfied if they were able to get in a quarter of the usual crop of sound pears.

The cherry orchards were destroyed, and the cold and the rain had made most of the strawberries unsuitable for table purposes. As regards plums and greengages, both crops were hard hit, but whilst the quality of the fruit would not be so good as usual, there was the prospect of a limited crop, which would bring enhanced prices.

The best quality gooseberries are in short supply, and are bringing about double the normal price. The best table strawberries, of which the supply is limited, and cherries worth eating, were being sold at all sorts of fancy prices.

## APIARY.

### The Honey Crop.

At a recent meeting of the Honey Exchange Committee of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association, reports were received from four hundred and fifty points throughout the Province, representing 23,582 hives of bees, an increase of sixty per cent. over last year. All parts of the Province were well represented.

Practically no old honey is left on the market, and the prices recommended by the committee, according to the reports, were realized. The average production per colony of light honey this year is 58.3 pounds, as compared with 59.1 last year. The crop in the central and western part of the Province is lower than last year, but the much larger crop in the eastern counties maintains the average.

After considering the reports carefully the Committee recommended the following prices for this year:—

No. 1 light extracted (wholesale), 10 to 11 cents per pound.

No. 1 light extracted (retail), 12½ to 15 cents per pound.

No. 1 comb (wholesale), \$1.80 to \$2.25 per dozen.

No. 2 comb (wholesale), \$1.50 to \$1.75 per dozen.

In view of the decrease in the crop and the firm prices of fruit, it is believed the above prices should be realized, and it is suggested that beekeepers hold a part of their honey for later delivery.

### Wintering Bees Out of Doors.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have a slight knowledge of beekeeping, but have never seen them wintered indoors. First, would it be possible to winter bees on their summer stands in Cumberland County, and if so, what extra protection would they need? Second, as this is quite a windy location, would it be advisable to place the hives in a half-acre lot of second-growth spruce, etc.? The lot is fenced in, and within a reasonable distance from the house, so that would not be any objection in tending the bees during the busy season.

Cumberland Co., N.S.

HONEY BEES.

During several visits in connection with lectures in beekeeping, from what I can glean it would not be desirable to winter bees in your section outdoors. It may, of course, be possible to do so, and if the attempt is made they should be put into the best possible condition for winter; that means, the colony should have a good laying queen. The combs should not be pollen clogged by having been queenless for a long time during the working season; if such is the case, such combs should be removed from the center of the brood chamber. The bees should have no more combs than they can well cover during warm spells in autumn, and the colony should be fed twenty to twenty-five pounds of sugar syrup, say in late October; this syrup to be made of two parts by measure granulated sugar and one of water; bring the water to a boil, then stir in the sugar until dissolved. I mention the feeding of sugar syrup as winter stores because beekeepers in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick complain that bees get much wilder later in the fall, and this is generally not considered good food for bees when long confined, as in winter, to the hive. The single-walled hive should be put in outer packing, with say six inches of packing (forest leaves are excellent) below and at the sides of the hive, and ten to twelve inches at the top. The entrance of the hive should be left open, say four inches, and to prevent the entrance from clogging with dead bees, a clean cut half-inch hole can be bored in the front of the hive, and a board can be

regular entrance. To allow the bees to get out of their hive through the packing, a bridge can be put on the alighting board of the hive, and extending to the inner wall of the outer case, wide enough and high enough not to allow the packing to clog the above entrances to the hive. An entrance, say three inches wide and half-inch deep, should be cut in the outer case to allow the bees to fly favorable days. Remove the propolized or sealed quilt from above the frames and put on a clean cloth. This will allow moisture from the bees to pass up and through the twelve inches of leaves above. There should be an air space between the leaves and the roof of the packing box, with small holes at the side or end of the box close to the roof. This arrangement allows enough air to circulate over the packing to keep that space dry. The half-acre lot of spruce might afford the shelter from wind so desirable, and bees put up as above described should have the best possible chance of wintering. If you have a good cellar and have been fairly successful in wintering in that way, I should advise trying the outside method on a small scale.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

## THE FARM BULLETIN

### U. S. National Good Roads Convention.

An important road convention was held in the City of Niagara Falls, N. Y., on July 28th, 29th and 30th, when the National Good Roads Congress of the United States held its third annual meeting. Among the prominent delegates and speakers present were Senator Martin Dodge, formerly Director of the Office of Road Inquiries at Washington, D. C.; Congressman William F. Sulzer, of New York; Congressman J. S. Simmons, of New York; and Norman E. Mack, Chairman of the National Democratic Committee. A number of Canadians were present, of whom were Reeve Thos. Kennedy, of Toronto Township; W. G. Trethewey, Toronto; W. A. McLean, Engineer of Highways for Ontario; Controller J. J. Ward, of Toronto; Mayor Rudd and Ald. Mahoney, Guelph; and Mayor James Sheppard, of Queenston.

The convention was called to order by A. C. Jackson, president of the association, followed by prayer by Rev. A. S. Bacon, of the First Presbyterian Church, after which Mayor Douglas, of Niagara Falls, N. Y., extended an official welcome.

The first address was that of Congressman W. F. Sulzer, of New York, whose remarks, with respect to the importance of good roads, were particularly forceful. He said, in part:

"The plain people of the land are familiar with the truths of history. They know the past. They realize that often the difference between good roads and bad roads is the difference between profit and loss. Good roads have a money value far beyond our ordinary conception. Bad roads constitute our greatest drawbacks to internal development and material progress. Good roads mean prosperous farmers; bad roads mean abandoned farms, sparsely-settled country districts and congested populated cities, where the poor are destined to become poorer. Good roads mean more cultivated farms and cheaper food products for the toilers in the towns; bad roads mean poor transportation, lack of communication, high prices for the necessities of life, the loss of untold millions of wealth, and idle workmen seeking employment. Good roads will help those who cultivate the soil and feed the multitude, and whatever aids the producers and farmers of our country will increase our wealth and benefit all the people. We cannot destroy our farms without final decay. They are to-day the heart of our national life and the chief source of our material greatness. Tear down every edifice in our cities and labor will rebuild them, but abandon the farms and our cities will disappear forever, and pestilence will decimate the land.

"If you say good roads will only help the farmers, I deny it. The farmers who produce the necessities of life are less dependent than the millions and millions of people who live in our cities. The most superficial investigation of the subject will clearly prove that good roads are just as important to the consumers, if not more so, than they are to the producers of the country.

The burdens of life fall hardest on the farmer. The least the Government can do for him is to help him get decent highways. I am with the farmer in this fight for good roads. I am with the rural districts of our land in their struggle for better transportation facilities, and in Congress or out of Congress I shall do all in my power to hasten the consummation they desire—the ability to go and come along decent roads, without exhausting the time and effort, and the utility of man and beast. I know the farmer's joys and sorrows, his trials and his troubles, and I know how much we owe to the farmers of our country. A debt we can never repay. The establishment of good roads would in a great measure solve the question of the high price of the necessities of life, and the consequent cost of living, which is be-