

season. If the shippers will put up the fruit, I will have a careful oversight of it from the time it leaves the orchard until it is safely stored on shipboard, and Mr. W. A. McKinnon will meet it on arrival in Great Britain, so I think we ought to succeed this season."

#### SHORTENING-IN PRUNING

**P**RACTICAL experience in fruit growing has brought about some very radical changes in our views of orchard pruning. At one time our theory was: "Pruning is a thrust at the vitality of the tree, and the less of it the better," but now we are convinced this notion is entirely erroneous. We find the unpruned apple orchards void of fruit, even in this year of enormous fruitage; fruit spurs are stunted with dense shade, and produce nothing, while the tree itself is wasting energy in trying to thin out its own wood, and is choked with half dead and weak growing branches; while those trees which have been carefully pruned each year, are carrying loads of fine fruit, on vigorous wood.

#### ANNUAL CROPS THE RESULT

**I** SHORTEN-IN all my apple trees every year," said Mr. Brennan. "Here is a row of Spys and Baldwins which produce fruit every year. The secret is in the pruning and thinning. That tree is forty years old, and I do not intend to allow it to grow any larger, but will cut it back every spring, to encourage young wood growth, and this young growth is the bearing wood of the following year. I treat plum and pear trees just the same way. I was led to prune as I do by the success of the renewal system in pruning grapes. I argued that if this method applied to grapes why not to other fruits?"

*When do you prune?*

Mostly in early spring. My aim is to produce plenty of young vigorous wood

every year, and then I expect good fruit on it the following year. I reduce the amount of bearing wood that I may always have plenty that is fresh and vigorous.

*Do you manure heavily?*

Yes, I give a heavy annual dressing of ashes and bone dust, and couple with this clean and constant cultivation until August.

For a long time this Journal has been advocating the thinning of fruit, both to save the vigor of the tree and also to secure fine fruit; but never until now, have we found an orchardist carrying out the practice in a whole orchard. No wonder Mr. Brennan succeeds in making as much money off his fifteen acres as many a man does off his one hundred.

#### THINNING PEACHES

**M**R. BRENNAN says he finds the Alexander peach one of his most profitable varieties. Of course it is inclined to overbear and consequently to be small and worthless, but he prevents this by two methods of thinning. The first is by pruning. He shortens the peach wood every spring, never allowing the tree to grow beyond a certain size. This method not only thins out a portion of the bearing wood, but encourages a certain amount of new wood growth for the following year's fruitage. It also develops young growth from the ground up, so that he has no waste, barren wood, and his whole tree is within easy reach for thinning, spraying and fruit harvesting. One tree was pointed out which was fifteen years planted. That tree, said he, will never be allowed to grow any taller or spread any wider. The trees in the orchard are only twelve feet apart each way, and yet by his method of shortening back all vigorous growth every spring, they have abundance of room.

The second method is by removing a portion of the young fruit in June. Walking