

Montreal

E. H. Wartman, Dominion Fruit Inspector

For some time I have been visiting packing houses in and around Colborne. In all, about 100 packers are employed, which means that a lot of apples are re-packed daily for export. The quantity on hand for re-packing on Feb. 19, numbered about 35,000 bbls. One thing that puzzles me, and that is why No. 3 apples are shipped. I have just figured up the net returns on 1,210 bbls., various kinds, and can only credit the shippers with getting back nine cents a barrel for the apples. If one Liverpool firm sells this amount in 12 days, can we imagine the aggregate of 15 firms doing the same business and what the loss is to our country? The nine cents per barrel would not pay for re-packing them.

I find that apples are keeping remarkably well. Even when an occasional barrel of Snows are opened up, they are found to be in good condition. The varieties most in evidence are Ben Davis, Golden Russet and Spy. It is not likely that packing operations will end before April 1st in this locality.

New Brunswick

G. Bidlake, Fredericton

The annual meeting of the New Brunswick Fruit Growers' Association was held at Fredericton on January 24. In connection with the meeting was an exhibition of fruit grown by the members. Some fine specimens were shown, which were favorably commented on by Mr. G. H. Vroom, who acted as judge.

The president, Mr. J. C. Gilman, of Kingsclear, in his opening address, referred to the fruit crop of the past year, and said that, in spite of adverse weather conditions that had to be encountered, the crop gave ample evidence of being reliable and profitable in many sections of the province. The outlook has never been more encouraging for increasing their acreage of fruit than it is at the present time.

Mr. W. McIntosh, the curator of the Natural History Museum at St. John, gave an interesting address on "Insect Pests in Orchard and Farm," which was illustrated with large colored drawings of the various insects described. The bud moth, the codling moth, the aphid or green fly, the oyster-shell barklouse, the borers and the tent moth were fully dealt with and the several remedies for combatting them described. The brown-tail moth and the gypsy moth also came in for some attention on the part of the lecturer, who expressed his gratification that these two latter had not as yet arrived in New Brunswick, with the exception of one or two stray specimens which had been found and summarily dealt with. He advised his hearers to be on the lookout for any nests; those of the brown-tail moth were easily seen, being always at the end of a branch. The nests of the gypsy moth were not quite so conspicuous, as the female, not being able to fly, had to deposit her eggs in the most convenient place she could find.

Mr. S. B. Hatheway, Kingsclear, gave a short account of his experience as an amateur orchardist. Beginning some few years ago, he laid out an orchard of six acres, planting trees of the McIntosh Red, Gano and Dudley Winter varieties. He gave an interesting account of the system under which he went to work, but said he found the continuous cultivation which the young trees required rather costly. He was, therefore, on the lookout for some less expensive method of keeping down the weeds, and he thought he would follow the example of the president and lay a thick mulch round the trees. This method was much less trouble and expense. He made a practice of going round the orchard frequently with his clippers and taking off the shoots here and there, which made the training of the young

trees a much simpler matter. He would like to see more farmers taking an interest in orchard work, as it was certainly sufficiently profitable, if properly attended to, to make it worth while.

Vroom, Dominion Fruit Inspector, gave a practical demonstration on box packing. In an address on "Orchard Practice," he said that it was no use for a man to start orcharding unless he bought good trees, locally grown if they could be got, and of a variety suited to the district. Plant them 30 feet apart and head them low, as low-headed trees were more convenient for pruning, gathering and spraying. Pruning should be done in May or June, and at least half the growth should be cut off every year. Frequent cultivation was necessary, and it must be thorough, though it was not necessary to go very close to the roots, as they would find the requisite nourishment for themselves. Grass should not be allowed to grow too near the trees, as it harbored mice and other pests. Spraying must be done thoroughly. Mr. Vroom advised those who contemplated going into apple growing, to give their whole attention to it, or keep out. He thought the box business was the most remunerative; a good variety of apple nicely packed and the quality always to be depended on would soon get a man a reputation, which would find him all the customers that he could supply.

Mr. Isaac Stephenson, of Sheffield, was elected president; Mr. W. B. Gilman, vice-pres.; Mr. Henry Wilmot, treas.; and Mr. S. B. Hatheway, sec'y, for the ensuing year. It was resolved to adopt THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST as the association's official organ for the Dominion.

Nova Scotia

R. J. Messenger, Bridgetown

"Disastrous" is probably the best term to apply to the season's operations in export fruit so far. The trouble seems to have begun by one or more Americans who, hearing that we had an exceptionally good crop of clean fruit, came over early in October and paid \$3.00 for apples. This, and the Government reports of a small crop, set our speculators wild. They lost all control of themselves, and acted like a lot of schoolboys after a con. As high as \$2.50 a barrel was paid for apples as they came from the trees, and \$3.00 to \$3.25 for packed apples, something that no cool business man should do in this 20th century of great fruit production. Then the bottom dropped out of the English markets, and it will probably not get back into place again this year.

Numberless reasons for this unforeseen state of affairs have been given; such as an over-run of poor apples, larger shipments than ever before in spite of the early reports, fraudulent combines of dealers, and so forth. The fact remains, however, that apples, for which \$3.00 was paid, are netting 75c to \$1.00 a barrel.

The speculators are now acting characteristically, in that since fate has allowed the farmer for once to get a seeming advantage of them, they are trying to combine to compel the farmer to refund some of the purchase price. One heavy speculator has gone crazy for the second time in the past decade, and some are unsympathetic enough to say that it is his way of paying his debts. A meeting of these worthies was held at Middleton last week "for purposes of self protection," so it was given out, but more probably it was to get the foot more firmly planted on the neck of the "poor, stupid, unenterprising farmer."

One speculator said to me: "No more apples would be bought in this valley for anything near \$3.00 a barrel." He also said that \$1.00 a barrel was enough for apples, and "we" would see that the price was kept down to that or near it. I wonder if the farmers of Nova Scotia will submit to this when the remedy "cooperation" is in their own hands.

British Columbia

The annual meeting of the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association was held at Victoria in January. The election of officers resulted as follows: Pres., Jas. Johnston, Nelson; 1st vice-pres., S. Bartholomew, Summerland; 2nd vice-pres., A. E. Gale, Keating; 3rd vice-pres., S. McClenaghan, Golden; 4th vice-pres., Thos. Wilson, Vancouver; sec.-treas., W. J. Brandrith, Ladner. Thos. Cunningham, W. J. Brandrith and Thos. Wilson were made honorary life members with all the privileges of membership. A resolution endorsing the action of the chief fruit pest inspector in connection with orchard cleansing, was unanimously passed. A resolution was passed asking the Government to make an exhibit of butter and fresh fruit at Calgary.

The reports of the president and secretary were filled with interesting information. They referred encouragingly to the progress of fruit growing in the province and the possibilities. The treasurer's report showed the association to be in a good financial position. It was decided to hold the next annual meeting also in Victoria. Agassiz was decided upon for the holding of the next quarterly meeting, Cranbrook for the second, and New Westminster for the third.

A Horticultural Club

The students of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, who are most interested in horticulture, have organized a club through the efforts of Mr. A. McMeans, the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association representative, and Mr. J. W. Crow, lecturer in the horticultural department. The aim of the club will be to encourage the study and the love of horticulture among the students, and to advance horticultural interests at the college. A reading room, to be accessible at all times, has been fitted up in the horticultural building, and in it, all the leading fruit, vegetable and flower papers will be kept on file. New bulletins will be on hand, and a bulletin board will be used to announce new books, valuable articles in the papers, good bulletins, and so forth. A very large majority of the horticultural publications have very kindly agreed to list the club free, and to them, the thanks of the members are heartily given.

Meetings will be held every alternate Monday for the discussion of all matters relating to horticulture. The first regular one was held Feb. 10, and to judge by the enthusiasm and optimism manifested, the club affords an opportunity for good work, and will be a valuable stimulus to the study of horticulture. Its possibilities for the encouragement of the pursuit of horticulture are great, and Mr. McMeans was accorded liberal applause on a live address outlining the place the club should, and could, occupy in the affairs of the college.

The officers elected were: Pres., A. McMeans; vice-pres., R. M. Winslow; sec.-treas., J. W. Crow, B.S.A. A committee of students of the first, second and third years was elected to give adequate representation. The paid-up membership totals twenty-seven, and this will be increased considerably in a short time.

High Class Sprayers.—Elsewhere will be found the advertisements of the Spramotor Co. Particular attention is asked from our readers to the sectional views of the Hand Spramotors on page 70. This machine in its several sizes has had such a vogue in Canada since the famous Spray Pump Contest held at Grimsby, where it was awarded the first place, that we believe we are safe in saying that there are more of this class of machines in use in Canada than all other kinds combined. Its use is so varied, being well adapted for all the uses in spraying, there being no operations in spraying to which a hand machine may be put that