

## HOME AND FARM.

## ORCHARDING.

Within the last few years great advance has been made throughout our Province in the growing of fruit. This is especially noticeable in three or four counties, where apples are grown in abundance. Even in these counties, however other fruits have not been cultivated to any thing like as great an extent. The rest of the province is very backward in regard to the whole subject. Where beautiful orchards might be growing, there are only old dilapidated trees of natural fruit, or young orchards neglected and left a prey to insects, cattle and a host of other enemies. In many parts cherries, pears, grapes, and scarcely any cultivated or improved fruits are grown.

It is a great pity that this is the case, as there are few parts of the country where they may not be grown. In many localities they would grow to perfection. The soil and climate are well adapted to growing fruit. The fruit would be long keeping, and the indications are that it would be fine flavored. This may be seen by examining the few specimens of cultivated fruit that any of these localities furnish. Splendid apples, grapes, pears and plums are now grown along the Gulf of St. Lawrence from Cumberland County to Inverness County, by different individuals. The finest flavored apples that grow in Nova Scotia grow there. They are the juiciest and tastiest fruit produced in the Province. Grow very firm and crisp, and would probably keep without becoming spongy. Such is the character of these regions where little is raised.

Why more is not grown is curious. There seems to be a prevailing impression that it will not grow. On what this rests is difficult to tell. Fruit grew well enough thirty or forty years ago, as is shown by the old orchards that still remain in these localities. It is also remarked that the climate is becoming milder. What then is the matter? Simply this impression; it is all that stands in the way of the development of this industry in a large part of the province. By this it is not intended that fruit will grow without care, attention and intelligent cultivation in these localities. If care is necessary in the most favored locality, and certainly it is, it is essential elsewhere. If the same intelligent attention was bestowed on the trees in other parts of Nova Scotia as is done in Kings Co., there would be no more complaints that fruit would not grow there. There are some fine young orchards started in many parts "where orchards will not grow" and they are doing nicely. Their owners are to be commended. But apples are not the only fruit to grow, the others should not be neglected.

In order to attain their greatest development, orchards must either be put on naturally drained land or it must be drained to prepare it for the trees. Good thorough tile draining is the best although other methods are used, but they are short lived and expensive in the end. The trees must be manured not only the first year but every year, and they should be cultivated around in the spring so as to start their growth, but no manure nor cultivation should be given in the early fall or it may start their growth so they would winter-kill. The best time to manure is late in the fall or if commercial fertilizers are used, early in the spring. The land should be kept clear of crops, especially grass, unless very heavily manured or when the trees tend to make too great a growth in the fall, in which case they may be checked in this fall growth by putting on some fall growing crop like rye and turning it under late that fall or early in the spring.

Do not indulge in the luxury of new varieties if you have had little experience, but buy standard sorts as Tompkins King, Gravenstein, Bishop Pippin, R. I. Greening, etc.

## THE POTATO BEETLE.

The insect commonly known by this name has been in Nova Scotia for a few years, but has not extended his ravages as fast as is his usual custom, but quite fast enough to suit. It should not be mistaken for a much smaller beetle which eats very fine holes in the leaves, giving them a withered appearance, for this small beetle is quite common all over the province, but usually does no very extensive damage. It can be destroyed in the same way as its more famous relative.

The potato beetle is about the size of a half bean, a little shorter and a little broader, and has ten black lines running longitudinally on its wing covers. It is this characteristic that has given it its specific name. There is no difficulty to distinguish it after once seeing it. The only other beetle found around the potato plants besides the one mentioned above likely to be mistaken for it, is the pretty "lady bug" as it is called. This is very much smaller than the potato beetle and has little black spots instead of lines on the wing covers. It is a valuable friend to the farmer and should not be killed. It is on the potato vine hunting for eggs of potato beetles and other injurious insects which it destroys. The back ground of the wing covers in each case is red. So the potato beetle appears to be red with black lines.

The mature potato beetle does comparatively little damage as a rule. It is the larva which does most of the eating. These are nasty, filthy, slow moving slugs, at first they only appear like little black points, as they become older they look like little specks of wet dirt, while the oldest are quite large, their abdomen being very highly developed—a sure indication of their voracity.

They eat the entire substance of the leaf, leaving only the main ribs and stalks of the plant. This suggests the remedy. If anything that is poison to them can be put on the leaves so they will eat it, they will be destroyed. The cheapest and most convenient poison for this purpose is paris-green. It is perfectly insoluble and sticks readily to the leaves, so that when the leaf is eaten it must be taken also.

The best method of applying it is with water. If it is a small piece of potatoes, take a tea-spoonful of the paris-green to a sprinkling-pot of water. Keep well stirred and apply through a rather coarse nozzle. Only a slight sprinkle should be allowed to fall on the plants, as it will then adhere, but if more falls on than all rolls off. If the potatoes are planted in rows, this may be accomplished by holding the sprinkler at an angle and walking briskly down the row.

If a large field is to be sprinkled in this way, a barrel should be arranged on a cart or hung between two wheels in such a way that the horse walks between two rows while each wheel runs outside of them. This barrel has two openings or faucets near the bottom with short hose and sprinkling nozzles attached. These nozzles are so held that they come directly over their respective rows. The water is put in the barrel, the paris-green added and thoroughly stirred in, then the faucets turned on and the horse started. It must be kept stirred all the time by the driver. In this way one boy can go over eight acres in a day. One treatment will usually last until the next brood appears or until a heavy storm washes it off. As there are only two broods likely to injure the crop, it will be seen that it is not such a hard job after all to keep these insects in check.

Other methods have been proposed, such as hand picking, but if it is desired to make much of a profit off from the crop, it should never be undertaken, as it is an endless and unsatisfactory job. Other poisons may be used but as a rule they will be found less certain in their action. Sometimes these poisons are applied dry, mixed with some fine powder as flour, this is just as effectual, but is a bother when the wind blows as it is liable to get in the person's face.

There is no danger of the poison (paris green) getting into the potato, as it is insoluble. Animals should not be allowed around the field as they might get enough to poison them.

The time to apply it is after a storm, never before, as the rain would wash it all off. Also when the first brood makes its appearance. By a judicious selection of time for planting, one of the two broods of the season may be avoided. Either so late as to escape one, or so early that the second can do no damage. Never use the same field two years in succession for potatoes. By selecting a field far removed from one where they have grown, sometimes the beetles may be avoided for that season.

## THE HESSIAN FLY IN ENGLAND.

Two years ago the Hessian fly made its appearance in England, and has since been the terror of English farmers. They could not be blamed for being frightened, knowing the amount of damage that it has done on this continent. Besides it is the almost universal experience of insect invasions that they are worse in a newly invaded district than where they have been for a long time. Fortunately there was a lady, who for her rare attainments in entomology, or the study of insects, has been made Honorary Entomologist for the Royal Agricultural Society. She immediately set about studying the habits of the insect there, and reported the best methods to exterminate it, or, where it had gotten too firmly established to do this, how it might be held in check. This work alone was worth thousands of dollars to the country. The fly has been held in check, although it will probably in time extend its injury to all parts of the island.

## PERSONAL.

Miss Eleanor E. Ormstead is the Entomologist of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. She is a perfect lady, abounding in good works, and has done an immense amount of good for the farmers of Great Britain, and are her labors confined to that country alone. A short time ago it was discovered that there was something the matter with the wheat crop of New Zealand. Samples were sent her, which proved to be the Hessian fly. She has telegraphed remedies, and it is to be hoped that they may be able to exterminate it before it has spread beyond control.

## NOTES.

"Moses Muggins," an Englishman, who lately visited this continent, is been making quite a stir among English farmers by advocating American methods. His critics have called him a theorist, etc., but he has shown that his accounts on a farm, which he managed the past year in the way he advocated, which should silence them.

This has been a late spring. Will it necessarily be less profitable?

Do not forget to sow something for the cows when the pastures have dried up. It always pays to have some green fodder growing for them, if it is not needed it may be dried for winter.

Agriculture is a trade. No other trade has so many journals, so many scientific men, nor so many inventors engaged in its improvement.

A creamery is soon to be started in or near Truro. The capital is nearly all been subscribed, and they are negotiating for the building of apparatus. There should be one in every county in the Province.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth? If so, send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mother, there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhea, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives rest and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price, 25 cents a bottle.