

ORCHARDING ON CHEAP GROUNDS.



UHAT to do with the land that will not bring more than \$5 to \$15 per acre has been a problem with many farmers, for generally such land is almost worthless for most crops. Located upon hill-sides, or in exposed places where the soil is poor, there seems to be no use or demand for it. But in the last quarter of a century a great deal of the land in the northern belt of states has been turned into apple orchards, which have been paying from \$15 to \$75 per acre annually—a profit that would be considered satisfactory by any farmer. The orchards have been well taken care of, and have demonstrated what can be done. Instead of allowing the land to remain idle, the owners planted the orchards of trees on them, and then carefully cultivated them. To day the land is worth considerably more than at the beginning.

The only drawback to planting orchards on such land is that one has to wait so long for returns, but the orchards should be planted simply upon the principle that as we grow older the farm is becoming more valuable, even though we personally never receive the benefit. It is another way of laying up money for our children. The armies of worms and insects that attack the orchards are frightening many indolent farmers out of the business. They declare that there is no money in the work, and in so doing the insects are doing a good turn to the careful, painstaking growers. The time is rapidly coming when only the careful and well-posted will make money in orcharding, and while others fail they will receive the benefits of markets only half supplied with the fruits. Destructive insects and diseases are even now keeping down the supply of apples, so that the markets are rarely over-supplied. But those who study the latest methods of destroying the borer, codling moth, apple maggot, apple scab, and other foes, will be sure to make orcharding pay more than if these insects had never existed. Those who do this work successfully will always be in the minority, and while the great number will be decrying the failure of the whole business, the few progressive ones will be making good incomes.

The trees on poor soil need more training than those on rich. Enrich the earth around the trees, and they will get established. Barnyard manure is undoubtedly the best for this, and where it is abundant do not be deceived into buying any prepared mixture. Allow poultry, sheep and swine to fertilize the orchards by roaming at large in them. They open the soil, let in the air and sunlight, fertilize the trees, and destroy the insects. By turning the orchards into poultry ranges you will add quite a little to the income from the eggs and fresh chickens supplied for the table or market.

Train the trees young. The best authorities say that only the pocket knife should be used for training and pruning apple trees. This is only another way of saying that the pruning should be done early, before the branches have