

no wonder that some are misled. Pruning should never be done in winter in this country; it might do south, but is ruinous here. It is better done after growth commences, from 10th June till August. I have had very good success with this work from the end of sugar-making time to last of April, generally a leisure time and weather suitable. Most of the old orchards have been ruined by winter pruning, the cut turning black, and never healing, and in large wounds, eventually causing a total inward decay of the tree. This was the cause of the loss of not less than \$60,000 worth of nursery stock near this city. No cut should be made quite close to the branch, but at the end of a swelling at the bottom of limb; if cut quite close, on large limbs the inner bark of the limb will grow around the cut, forming a sort of basin, which will hold water, and cause decay in the wound before it is healed. This is a little contrary to a leading nurseryman's advice given at a Farmers' Institute some little time ago. Never attempt to alter the natural growth of the tree. Keep a straggling grower, like the Greening, up; never prune the centre out, only take out superfluous branches; never prune from the inside, but thin out the outside to let in the sun and retain as many of the inside bearing branches as possible, instead of taking out all the inside shoots and leaving long limbs with bearing shoots at the ends not pruned at all. This country does not require too much sun to ripen the fruit, and does not want too much wood cut away.

The fruit should be picked when dry, and kept from even slight frost while in the starchy state. If it remains till it has fully matured it will not keep so long. About the 1st of October, as a general rule, is the right time for winter fruit, and have all the fruit gathered if possible after the full moon, as I have found that any bruises made then will become dry and not decay. This I have often proved to be a fact, and I have had the thanks of many to whom I imparted this information, after being themselves satisfied by experience. If at all put in barrels they should be kept unheaded, and put in a cool place under cover, or otherwise in heaps under shelter to allow them to sweat for a week or two before finally barreling for shipment or storage.

When barreling for shipment, place the apples in circles over the bottom of the barrel, with stems down, until covered; then fill with a uniform size and quality. Never by any means put inferior ones inside; it would ruin the reputation of any fruit grower. Shake well after putting in each basketful. Fill about one inch above the chine, then press the head in tight and brand with the name and quality of the apple. Always put inferior ones by themselves, and mark them accordingly. A want of principle in some shippers has greatly depreciated prices, and caused suspicion against the honest shipper. But if a brand is once established there is no trouble in getting the highest prices. I think that farmers ought to ship their own fruit, with their name and brand attached, appointing one of themselves to see to the shipping, forming themselves into a co-operative association in each locality; and as each farmer's apples would be sold separately, he would receive the amount they sold for, less his share for expenses and carriage, and he would receive all the profits himself, whereas at present a greater part goes to the middleman who buys and handles it. I was in-

formed that one man at Lucan cleared \$12,000 this winter on the apples he bought last fall. I look on the formation of this institute through the noble and untiring exertions of Mr. Weld, as calculated to do much good in disseminating practical information through the medium of the FARMERS' ADVOCATE, that now reaches to every part of the Dominion; that we, as members, should be very careful in expressing our views; from actual experience only should every member speak, so that no erroneous teaching be spread throughout the land.

Mr. Bartlett stated that the Baldwin was a tree which at present would not thrive well in this locality. Young trees would soon lose their vigor, decay in their stalks and then die. He had frequently seen and heard of large Baldwin trees, the trunks of which had been broken off during a storm. These had always been found to be largely decayed at the point where they had been broken off.

In reply to a question why he had not included the Wagner (which the buyers had called least last season), and R. I. Greening, in his list, Mr. Deadman said that the former variety was small, and, like the Snow Apple, liable to be injured by black spots, and that the Greening shrunk very much during the winter months if stored in bins. Replying to a question about the cause of the black spots seen on apples, Mr. Deadman said that they were not due to the soil, that he was conducting experiments with them, and hoped to be able next year to furnish the Council with reliable information about both the cause and the remedies of this plague, which was so detrimental to our fruit interests.

Mr. D. Leitch said that although the Baldwin and R. I. Greening did not thrive well on root-grafted stalks, they did very well in his locality when top-grafted on a hardier variety. He attributed the blowing down of the branches, to which the former variety was so very subject, to the winter frost. The sap, which was very abundant in this soft-wooded variety, expanded when freezing, thereby splitting the tree, especially in the crutches. These fissures—although closing up again in summer, when they could not be seen—admitted sufficient water to decay, and thereby a material weakening of the attachment of the branches. The Baldwin thrived better on light soils than on those of a heavier nature. Too rapid a growth, caused by too rich a soil, was very detrimental to it, as well as all other varieties. This caused the tree to have sappy and not well-matured wood, which was more liable to suffer from frost than that which was well matured. To this too rapidly forced growth he attributed much of the loss of the nursery stock referred to by the essayist. He had found the seeding down of an orchard with clover very injurious to its productiveness and to the quality of the fruit. The fruits of the orchard not requiring nitrogenous fertilizers, he recommended using ashes and an occasional dressing of phosphates in the orchard, and saving the products of the farm yards for other crops. He had found that highly-flavored varieties of fruit required a more liberal manuring than those not possessing so much flavor.

Mr. Weld said that while the fruit interests of Michigan were declining, as reported in the last report of the Michigan Board of Agriculture, those in Ontario were rapidly rising; acres and acres were added annually

to the orchards. The famous fruit grown on the Pacific slope he had found to be far inferior to ours. They were large but light, and inferior in flavor. He favored the essayist's remarks about branding each barrel, but would recommend the name of the locality in which the fruit had been grown to be added as well, as otherwise foreign goods might be shipped from Canada under the name of Canadian fruits, thereby injuring our reputation, which was very high at the present time. He drew attention to the numberless frauds that were conducted in the sale of so-called cider, canned and dry fruits, &c.; e. g., cider was very extensively sold in the N. W. T., which resembles no more the genuine article than soap-suds did, and some American citizens had last year bought large quantities of turnips in Ontario, dried them, and exported them as dried apples to the U. S. All such frauds were necessarily very injurious to the fruit interest, and should therefore be carefully guarded against. He announced with pleasure the removal of the tariff on trees, shrubs, seeds and green fruits, for the American fruit trees had been proved to be more satisfactory as well as cheaper.

Mr. Deadman said that he had always cultivated his orchard, taking good care not to injure the roots. He had found the codling-moth to affect the trees near the house, while those some distance away were not injured by it. For the destruction of this moth he recommended placing a lantern in (or directly over) a tub filled with water, or, still better, with vinegar; one of such traps to the acre being probably sufficient; the traps to be set out when the apple was in bloom, and remaining out till no insects were caught.

The old and well-tried practice of pasturing with sheep or pigs was also recommended; the sheep to be taken out before much of the fruit fell, as otherwise they were liable to be injured by consuming too much of it.

Combine Against the Beetle.

The Colorado potato beetle can be subdued if all growers will take sufficient remedial measures with concerted action; otherwise the scourge is likely to proceed from bad to worse. As a step in the right direction it is proposed that all farmers' clubs and granges take the matter into consideration and purchase the necessary Paris green or London purple, and supply all who may call at about the wholesale cost, and then discuss the subject at their meetings, through the press, and if need be, make from-house-to-house visits among all the neighbors and urge upon them a concert of action. The long-looked-for parasite to destroy these insects not having put in an appearance this seems to be the only way out of the difficulty. Isolated and spasmodic effort does not avail much. The safest way to apply the poison is to add a heaping teaspoonful of the powder to a pailful of water, keep it well stirred and apply by spraying with a watering-pot containing very small holes in the nozzle. Three applications during the season are requisite.

While the English people welcome the importation of Canadian horses into England, they insist that it shall be done by private enterprise and shall not be stimulated by the English Government. A recent writer in the English Live Stock Journal declares that the life of any administration that in any way assists Canadian importation of horses is not worth a month's purchase.