

One of the most interesting fruit farms visited in this locality was that of Mr. John G. Mitchell, consisting of about fifty acres, of which fifteen are devoted to fruit; and the whole place is in a most excellent state of cultivation. The thrifty farmer is known by his fences, and those of Mr. Mitchell are quite models in this respect. The particular fruit for profit with him, as with most growers in this valley, is the plum, and the success attending his efforts was well shown by the immense loads of Coe's Golden Drop, Lombard, Glass etc., which were harvested from his trees.

Mr. Hartman showed the same success in his own orchard with plums, and not far away in the vicinity of Collingwood there are many other noted plum growers, and among them, Dr. G. M. Aylesworth, a well-known member of the Fruit Growers' Association, who ships a large quantity of this fruit, both northward as far as North Bay by rail and Sault Ste Marie by boat, and southward by express to Toronto and Montreal. Among all these growers a great deal of difficulty has been found in identifying varieties, owing to the frequent mistakes made by careless nurserymen in the propagation of trees, and to the frequent habit of substituting one variety for another when filling orders. Should a plum station be established in this vicinity, all varieties will be grown and little by little all misnamed varieties grown in the section will be identified.

Mr. Mitchell's apple orchard was also well worthy of attention. Here, as indeed all over this section, there is a good crop of apples, the best probably in the whole province, for the apple scab thus far has not become so prevalent in this northern section as it is in the southern districts. The local estimate of the crop is sixty per cent. of a full crop of apples; probably this means very near the average. So successfully is the apple cultivated in this section that a large *apple store house* has been erected near Thornbury by Messrs. Ingersoll & Hunt, where apples are stored in barrels and repacked for export just at such times during the winter season when they will bring the most money. The double wainscoted walls are filled with sawdust, and both on the outside and inside of this double wall air spaces are constructed. This house is cold in summer, and sufficiently warm in winter to preserve the fruit from freezing, without fire.

Some of the *principal varieties of apples* grown for market in this district are Ben Davis, Spy, King, Baldwin, Ribston Pippin, Fameuse, Cayuga Red Streak, St. Lawrence and Golden Sweet, but of all kinds the most productive is the Ben Davis. Some five year old trees of this variety in Mr. Mitchell's orchard are loaded to the very ground with fine, well-colored fruit, and this early and regular bearing seemed to be a marked characteristic of this variety.

Pears are not widely cultivated as yet in this section. Indeed, many of our varieties would probably be too tender this far north, but the *Flemish Beauty* which is hardy, succeeds admirably. Some trees of this variety in Mr. Mitchell's orchard produced fruit which was remarkably fine. One tree in particular, which was fifteen years planted, had produced four barrels of pears in