

II.

PACKING

A box of fruit that is packed as it should be is attractive, pleases the eye, and is already half sold at an advanced price as soon as it is placed on the market. Good packing also means increased power to stand the wear and tear of shipment, especially for long distances. Second and third grade fruit should be kept off of the open market and out of competition with the No. 1 grade as much as possible. The present waste of second and third grade fruit will doubtless be done away with in the near future by means of evaporating plants, jam factories, etc., of which there is a vital need on Vancouver Island.

12.

FROST

To avoid frost as much as may be, do not plant trees in hollow or low places, surrounded by higher ground, as the air drainage is bad in such localities. Plant on rising ground and slopes, and, whenever possible, near large bodies of water.

13.

CARE OF ORCHARDS

As to the care of orchards when matured. After thorough work in spraying and cultivation, the land needs keeping in a good state of fertility, as all bearing fruit trees are hard on the soil. Do not use artificial fertilizers indiscriminately, or without understanding what you are about. While some of these are helpful when used carefully, one can overdo it.

Keep humus (and thus moisture) in the soil by ploughing cover crops, especially the clovers. Do not cultivate too late in the autumn, or say August. Better let a crop of weeds grow than to encourage too late a growth.

Keep the trees stocky. Don't have bare poles, nor yet too many limbs. Encourage fruit spurs all along the limbs close in by shortening in the lateral branches. Watch the leaves of your trees for indications of trouble. Large, dark green leaves tell you of health and vigor. When the leaves