ed all and every right which he had, so that even if the nurseryman could be reached by law, the buyer of the goods has practically put himself out of court by signing such a contract. The agent, who sold the stock, was not known in the neighborhood in which he was doing business, had no property in the country so far as was known and, therefore, was wholly irresponsible, Thus, it will be seen, that the customer has no chance of redress, should occasion require, either from the nursery firm or its agent. This contract was used by the Northwestern Nursery Co., Fife Lake, Mich.

We draw attention to this extraordinary contract with the purpose of warning our fruit growers and farmers against signing contracts and agreements without knowing exactly what they are signing. It is indiscreet, also, to deal with unknown agents, supposed to represent foreign nurseries, whether the nursery firm is well-known or not.

PURCHASE BARRELS EARLY

We wish to emphasize still further the wisdom of buying apple barrels early in the season. Coopers will sell much cheaper at the present time, and buyers of apples will buy the stock much more readily, if the owners have the barrels on hand. Indeed, this is very often an inducment by which the latter can get an advance of half the price of the barrels. Present prospects indicate that there will be a fairly large export trade this year, and barrels are sure to cost more after September than before.

There is no reason, also, why every grower should not estimate the crop which he is likely to have within the limit of twenty-five per cent., over or under. If, then, he orders for what he thinks is seventy-five per cent. of his crop, at the present time, in case his estimate should be too low, he will not have to buy more than twenty-five per cent. at higher prices. If his estimate should be higher, he will have, at most, only twenty-five per cent. to carry over, and, with proper care, will be out only his interest on a small sum for this. Think about this, and buy your barrels now.

Changes in Prize List

Several important changes have been made in the fruit prize list of the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto. In the sections for plate fruit, the prize list calls for nine specimens on each plate, instead of five, as formerly. These sections cover apples, pears and peaches. In the case of plums, 20 specimens were called for instead of 12, as formerly. Prizes have been added for pyramids of fruit.

The object of the change is to insure a better display of fruit. The management of the exhibition has felt that the display of fruit in the past has not been as attractive as it should have been. It is believed that the prizes offered warrant these changes being made.

The latest report of the Dominion Chemist, Mr. Frank T. Shutt, M. A., Ottawa, contains much information of value to fruit and vegetable growers. The questions treated include the control of moisture in orchard soils, commercial fertilizers, insecticides and fungicides, analyses of apple pomace, and so forth. Write to the Central Experimental Farm for a copy.

Fruit Wrapping Machine

A fruit wrapping machine has been put in operation in California, says a correspondent of the *Country Gentleman*. It requires practically no attention, and entirely automatically wraps the fruit.

The fruit rolls down a slight incline to the operator, turning slowly over as it approaches him and giving him an opportunity to remove defective specimens. The fruit is lifted and placed, stem up, in rubber cups, which carry it to a mechanism operating much as the human hands. It is carried to the paper being cut and printed from the roll. The twist of the paper is made over the stem ends, thus cushioning the stem and preventing puncture injury. If the machine becomes clogged, it is stopped by a clutch operated by electricity. A counting attachment registers the number wrapped.

A Fruit Drying Process

An invention which produces "naturally dried fruit" in an "artificial manner" by a hot air process, has just been tested before experts in California, and proven highly successful. The fruit is laid in trays, constructed of wire netting, and a continuous draught of air heated to 150° is forced through the fruit. Moisture extracted is carried away through an air stack and by control of heat and air, nature is closely imitated.

The new process is claimed to do the work in two weeks' less time than the field drying method, and with the same result. The first tray of fruit, which happened to be prunes, taken out of the dryer was acknowledged by the experts to be exceptional. When weighed to ascertain the shrinkage by the new method compared with the old, an increase of 10 points was noted in favor of the hot air.

Profit in Spraying

The Nebraska Experiment Station has just issued Bulletin No. 106 entitled, "Does it Pay to Spray Nebraska Apple Orchards?" The Bulletin contains much information of value to Canadian fruit growers.

The spraying operations from which the records published in the bulletin were obtained were conducted in two orchards. The purpose of the work was to demonstrate the proper methods of spraying apples; and to determine whether, under the conditions existing in Nebraska, it pays to spray. The materials used were Bordeaux mixture and Paris green in the first three sprayings; and arsenate of lead alone in the last two sprayings.

The cost of spraying in one orchard was about 29 cents per tree for four sprayings, and in the other orchard about 40 cents per tree for five sprayings. Spraying produced a net gain per tree above the cost of spraying of $1.70 in one orchard, and $2.56 in the other orchard. It increased the yield of fruit by 1.7 bushels per tree in one orchard, and by 2.1 bushels per tree in the second orchard. The improvement in quality of fruit was also very noticeable. In one orchard the sprayed trees produced about 45 per cent. of No. 1 fruit while the unsprayed trees gave only 4 per cent. of No. 1 fruit. In the other orchard about 62 per cent. of the crop on the sprayed trees was first class fruit while only about 22 per cent. of the crop on unsprayed trees was first grade.

Suggestions are given in regard to methods of preparing and applying spray mixtures, and various arrangements for convenience in the work are pointed out. Five sprayings are recommended, as follows:

First—After the cluster buds open, but before the individual flower buds expand (usually late in April).

Second—Just after the petals fall (usually early in May).

Third—Three weeks after the blossoms fall (usually early in June).

Fourth—Ten weeks after the blossoms fall (commonly late in July.)

Fifth—Three weeks later (commonly about the middle of August).

Marketing Muskmelons

A bulletin has been issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station of Illinois on "Marketing the Muskmelon." This is a summary:

The leading type of muskmelon grown in Illinois for the general market is the Netted Gem, and the matter presented in this bulletin has special reference to the marketing of this type.

Illinois Gem melons intended for shipment to the Chicago market should, as a rule, be picked as soon as the fruit will part readily from the stem, but not before.

Well graded melons sell better than ungraded stock.

The quality of a melon is the primary factor which determines its grade. The relation between the netting of a melon and its quality, makes it possible to grade melons with extreme accuracy as to quality, on the basis of netting.

The full benefit of grading cannot be secured unless methods of packing are employed which will enable the melons to present an attractive appearance upon the market.

Different styles of pack should be adopted for melons of different sizes.

A convenient packing shed facilitates proper grading and packing.

To handle the melon crop properly, the working force must be thoroughly organized, and each person trained for his particular duty.

The most satisfactory way of supplying melons to the smaller cities is to ship directly to one high-class retailer in each city.

The safest plan to follow in shipping melons to a large city market is for the grower to make arrangements with some trustworthy commission firm to handle his entire product.

Landscape Gardening

One of the most notable personages in the art of landscape gardening that ever lived and one whose works and writings have been felt throughout the avenues of experience during the past century was Humphrey Repton of England, 1752-1818. He was a master in the science and practice of landscape architecture. Two of his best works are: "Sketches and Hints on Landscape Gardening" and "The Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening." These two books have been re-printed and illustrated in modern form and have been issued in one volume under the title of "The Art of Landscape Gardening," edited by John Nolen, A.M., member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., of Boston and New York. The price of the volume is $3 net.

The work is a classic in landscape architecture. Its preparation has been carefully done. Its illustrations are high class. It deserves a place in the libraries of all persons interested in the laying-out and management of grounds.