Horticulture.

THE ORCHARD.

Grafting the Plum.

(*To the Editor of the* CANADA FARMER.)

SIR,—Would you or some of your readers inform me of the proper time to graft the plum? Is it done earlier or later than the apple?

Whittington, Ont. D. J.

The grafting of stone fruits, as the plum, cherry, peach, etc., should be done before that of the pip fruits, apples and pears. The right time is just when the buds of the trees to be grafted are swelling. It may be done, however, when the foliage has appeared, if the grafts have been kept dormant

Peterborough Horticultural Society.

The annual meeting of the above society was held in the town hall, Peterborough, on Tuesday the 19th January —the President, Rev V. Clementi, in the chair. After the reading and confirming of minutes, and an appropriate address from the President, the following statistical report was read by the Secretary:—

Members on the Roll	62
No. of Entries, July Exhibition	154
No. of Entries, September Exhibition	374
Prizes awarded, July Exhibition	$ 91 00
Prizes awarded, September Exhibition	163 00
Funds in hand	376 00

Messrs. T. B. Clementi and Jas. Edwards having been appointed Auditors, the Treasurer's account, showing a balance in hand of $376.00, was submitted to them, found correct, and adopted.

The following officers were elected for the current year: —Mr. George Barlee, *President*, Mr. John McClelland, *Vice-President;* Mr. Robert Brown, *Sec.-Treas'r.*

Committee.—Messrs. C. Ormond, A. W. Kempt, D. W. Dumble, James Edwards, John Burnham, James Best, — Harris, C F Henderson, and Edg. Walton.

The Rev. V. Clementi was appointed Delegate to the Provincial Exhibition, which will be held this year in the City of Ottawa.

Injury to Forest Trees by Wild Animals and Birds.

At a recent meeting of the Scottish Arboricultural Society, a very interesting discussion took place on the above subject. The portion we subjoin bears practically upon many of the grievances to which the Canadian farmer is frequently subjected:

Mr. McCorquodale said, the experience of every extensive planter was that where game was numerous there was very great difficulty in getting up young plantations Rabbits, hares, deer, and squirrels were relatively the most destructive to trees, and the best remedy was shooting down the game, although few proprietors would allow that to be done. The outline fence of plantations should be made proof against game, and for this purpose he used wire netting, with 1½ mesh, 3 feet high. Rabbits, however, sometimes climbed over such a fence, and it was absolutely necessary to keep a sharp look-out for burrows, and fill them up to prevent the rabbits and hares getting into the wood below the fence.

Mr. Dunn, Dalkeith Palace Gardens, said that if proprietors really knew the great amount of injury done by game to young plantations, and the immense loss sustained, they would not be so fond of keeping up a large stock of game. Rabbits did more injury to plantations than all other animals put together, though destruction was caused by hares, squirrels, deer, rats and mice (especially the short-tailed mouse), and moles. He then proceeded to read a very interesting paper on the injury done to young trees by birds. He showed the crops of capercailzie, which he reckoned the chief offenders, containing no fewer than 266 shoots and buds. Where these buds were taken off by birds, he explained, the effect was to stop the growth of the tree for that year Black game, wood pigeons, the tomtit, and the bullfinch were also very destructive to young trees.

Mr. James Rait, Castle Forbes, said that in Aberdeenshire foresters were much troubled with rabbits and red and roe deer. He saw lately a wood of 42 acres which had been all destroyed except 2 acres; another of 1 300 acres, a large proportion of which had been destroyed by hares, rabbits and roe-deer; and another of 300 acres, almost entirely spoiled. He maintained that it was far more to the interest of proprietors of hill lands to plant them than to stock them with game, for by planting them they would give a return of £1 per acre, if not more. As an illustration of this, he instanced a wood of 300 acres which had lately been sold for £17,000, whereas if the land had been let for shootings, it would during the whole time not have brought in more than £500. He was anxious that the Society should take up this subject in thorough earnest.

Mr. Lorraine, The Riding Mill, Northumberland, said that if they shot down the birds they would have a plague of insects which would destroy every thing.

Mr. Maxwell, of Munchos, said that birds did damage, but to a very small extent. It was the rabbits and roe-deer that made the greatest havoc with young plantations, and it would be one of the greatest blessings to the country if the rabbits could be exterminated.

Mr. McCorquodale said that plantations returned £1 per acre for every year, and he illustrated this by a wood of eighty-five years' growth, which he had lately sold at £132 per acre, and another of forty-five years' growth, which realised £70 per acre clear profit.

Mr. France recommended that the rabbits should be shot down in the summer when young.

The Chairman, in closing the discussion, said that many interesting facts had been elicited, and pointed out that the effects of such meetings would be to extend useful arboricultural knowledge all over the country.

Fruits at the Toronto Electoral Division Society.

Referring to the subject of fruit at the above meeting, the Directors' Report read as follows:

Your Directors beg to draw your particular attention to the great improvement which has taken place in fruit culture of late years, and more particularly in pears and hardy grapes. Ten years ago few people would have believed that Canada could produce such fine specimens of these fruits as were shown at the late Provincial Exhibition held in this city—many of them grown in the vicinity of Toronto, and of a quality that would do credit to any country. The exhibition referred to was held too early to show orchard fruit in perfection; the local shows, however, held later in the season, were well supplied with large collections of apples, pears, and hardy grapes in perfection.

Amongst the apples were splendid specimens of the Rhode Island greening, Golden Russet, Northern Spy, Baldwin, Yellow Bellflower, Dutch Mignonne, Swarzie Pomme Gris, and Blenheim Orange.

Amongst the pears were the Bartlett, Belle Lucrative, Beurre Diel, Louise Bonne de Jersey, Swan's Orange, Baron de Mello, Clapp's Favorite, Edmund's, Vicar of Winkfield, Napoleon, Easter Beurre, Duchessed' Angoulme, Doyenne Sieulle, Beurre d'Anjou, Beurre Clairgeau, Sheldon, Beurre Gris d'Nover, Noveau, Lawrence, Winter Nelis and Flemish Beauty, which were all very fair.

In the display of plums there was a great advance on former years, and fine specimens of the following varieties were shown in the several collections, viz. Roe's Autumn Gage, Bradshaw, Bryanstone Gage, Blecker's Gage, Coe's Golden Drop, Denison's Superb, Duane's purple, German Prune, Green Gage, Jefferson, Lombard, Magnum Bonums, (yellow and red), Smith's Orleans, McLaughlin, Pond's Seedling, Reine Claude de Bavay, and Washington. All of these were grown in and around Toronto.

The hot-house grapes indicated no particular improvement on those of former years, but good specimens were shown in all the leading varieties. There were none of the lately introduced new varieties exhibited, although fine specimens of the White Lady Downes, Madresfield Court Muscat, Foster's White, Golden Champion, and Mrs. Pince's black Muscat have been grown to great perfection at one or two private establishments in this city. Nearly all the varieties thought worthy of cultivation in Europe have been introduced here, and are now extensively cultivated in cold vineries in Toronto and neighborhood. The success which has attended the cultivation of hardy grapes has been beyond the expectation of those who have ventured to plant for profit. There are hundreds of acres of land in this neighborhood well adapted to the growth of the vine, and some thousands of gallons of good wine have been made from the produce of vineyards not two miles from this city, and very large quantities of vines have been planted during the past season, within the city limits. The varieties considered the most worthy of notice are the Concord, Crevelling, Delaware, Rogers' Hybride, Nos. 3, 4, 7, 9, 15, and 19, and Salem, Iona, and Israella. These have all ripened their fruit in perfection, and can be recommended as worthy of cultivation in this section of country.

Peaches and nectarines do not generally succeed well here in the open air; but in some favorable situations good specimens have been grown. That the peach does not succeed well here is generally owing to the importation of American trees, which are mostly budded on the seedling peach, as a stock. On this stock the tree grows too luxuriantly, and does not ripen its wood early enough to stand the winter; consequently the tree is short lived, and gives but little satisfaction. Peach trees for Canada should be grown on plum stock, and the best variety for this purpose is the common English blue plum. In orchard houses, peaches and nectarines can be grown to great perfection, and the great superiority of Rivers' new English varieties is here particularly noticed. The following varieties have fruited here during the past season, viz.:—Peaches—Lord Palmerston, Early Beatrice, Early Albert, Early Alfred, Early Victoria, Lady Palmerston, Rivers' Early York Victoria, Noblesse, and Violet Native; and of Nectarines, the Rivers' Orange, Prince of Wales, Hardwick Seedling, Red Roman, and Early Newington.

Blackwood on Pruning.

If any man could be so ungrateful to the Giver of all good things, he was not to be found in the land of Kent, but must be sought in some northern county, where they grow sour gooseberries. Master Martin Lovejoy had, in the month of October 1812, as fine a crop of pears as ever made a fountain of a tree.

For the growers did not understand the pruning of trees as we do now. They were a benighted lot altogether, proceeding only by rule of thumb, and the practice of their grandfathers, never lopping the roots of a tree, nor wiring it, nor dislocating its joints; and yet they grew as good fruit as we do. They had no right to do so; but the thing is beyond denial, therefore, one might see a pear tree rising in its natural form, tall and straight, and goodly, hanging its taper branches like a chandelier with lustrous weight, tier upon tier, the rich fruit glistening with the ruddy sun streaks, or with russet veinage mellowing. Hard thereby, the Golden Noble, globular and stainless, or the conical King Pippin, pencilled on its orange fullness with a crimson glow, or the great bulk of Dutch Codlin, oblong, ribbed and overbearing. Here was the place and the time for a man to sit in the midst of his garden and feel that the year was not gone in vain, nor his date of life lessened fruitlessly, and, looking round, with right good will, thank the Lord and remember his father.—*From the Story of Alice of Lorraine.*

BUDS FOR PROPAGATION.—In selecting buds for propagating the peach, I would not give much preference to single, double, or triple buds, believing that the single buds start the soonest in the spring, the double buds the surest. And in budding from yearly trees there is not much but single buds, unless we use very large buds. I prefer to have bud sticks just a little smaller than the stocks, without regard to whether the buds be single or otherwise. In propagating from bearing trees, I find it best to use triplicate buds, as then there is always wood as well as fruit buds. For a budder that can tell fruit and wood buds apart, it will make no practical difference, so far as my observations extend.—*Cor. Gardener's Monthly.*

LARGE CHESTNUT AND ASH TREES.—I send the measure of some fine Spanish Chestnut trees in Oak Park, Tralee, Ireland. The largest, a splendid tree, is still in full vigour; its stem measures 17 feet 3 inches in girth at 3 feet from the ground, and 13 feet 9 inches at 12 feet. The second tree measures 11 feet 4 inches at 3 feet from ground. The third 11 feet 10 inches at 3 feet; and the fourth, blown down, measures 13 feet at 3 feet from the soil, and 10 feet 10 inches at 11 feet. They all have the appearance of being perfectly sound, There is also close to them a common Ash with enormous spreading head; its trunk measures at 4 feet from the ground 13 feet in girth.—*H. Vine, Gardener.*

ASHES FOR ORCHARDS.—The *Scientific American* sensibly says: "The point to which we now call attention is, that our farmers and fruit-growers have ignored, or rather have been ignorant of, the importance of wood ashes as a vegetable stimulant and as the leading constituent of plants. Even coal ashes, now thrown away as useless, have been shown both by experiment and analysis to possess a fair share of alkaline value. We will relate only one experiment: Some twenty-five years ago we treated an old hollow pippin apple tree as follows: The hollow, to the height of eight feet, was filled and rammed with a compost of wood-ashes, garden mold, and a little waste lime (carbonate). The filling was securely fastened in by boards. The next year the crop of sound fruit was sixteen bushels from an old shell of a tree that had borne nothing of any account for some time, and for seventeen years after filling the old pippin tree continued to flourish and bear well."