

take place, there is little doubt that even at the outset a paying business will be done. Just in the rear of the hotel is the station of this Company, which is the only covered one in Canada west of Toronto, and guests will be able to go from the hotel to the train, and *vice versa*, without being exposed to the elements, which of itself is a feature to be appreciated.

### Will the Orchard Pay?

BY G. C. CASTON.

If we were to judge by the crops of the last two seasons we would say, decidedly, no. But in this, as in all other branches of agriculture, we must expect some bad seasons and poor crops as well as good ones; yet, taking one year with another, an orchard of well-selected fruit trees, properly cared for, will give better returns per acre, in proportion to expense of cultivation, than any other crop produced on the farm. In the first place, while the young trees are growing, and up to the time they begin to bear, they do not monopolize the whole of the area of the land on which they are planted, but a crop of roots can be grown between the rows each year without detriment to the trees, provided plenty of manure is used. In fact, it is essential to the health of the young trees that a hoed crop should be grown amongst them, on account of the cultivation the land receives thereby (no one ever yet saw a young orchard thrive in sod) until they attain bearing age, so that during this time we do not lose the use of the land. One point of vital importance is the selection of varieties, and to those who are about to plant out a new orchard I would say that herein is the chief secret of success and future profit. We have been growing too many varieties in this country, and the consequence is that in the fall of the year the markets are flooded with unsaleable or low priced fruit, which brings no profit to the grower and tends to lower the prices for good fruit. In the first place we must select varieties suited to the climate, and in no part of North America does the climate vary so much in a short distance as in this Province of Ontario. Several varieties which thrive in the counties bordering on Lakes Ontario and Erie will not succeed at all in the counties north and east of them. That is when grown as nursery trees. But I am satisfied from my own experience, that for the colder parts of Ontario wherever a Duchess or a Wealthy or a Talman Sweet will thrive we can grow almost any variety of apple we wish by following the plan I have advocated in this journal before, viz.: Plant nursery trees only of the hardiest varieties, and then plant a number of young native seedling or other hardy stock upon which to top graft the tender varieties; for, as I have pointed out in former articles, it is always the trunk or crotches that fail in a tender tree; therefore, if we have a native seedling or any other perfectly hardy tree and graft our tender kinds into the limbs above the crotches, we are going to succeed with many varieties which would utterly fail if planted as a nursery tree.

Now, as to varieties which may be planted as nursery trees, I would class the Duchess of Oldenburg as the hardiest and best of the hardy apples, on account of its early bearing and great productiveness. It is unequalled as a cooker, of very even size, thereby making very few seconds or culls, and its freedom from fungus scab, being always clear and bright.

That it will be a very profitable apple I have no doubt, as experiments have been made in shipping them to the British markets the last season with gratifying results. When packed in fancy cases and given cold storage while in transit they arrived in prime condition and brought fancy prices. The Yellow Transparent is a comparatively new and hardy Russian variety, an early bearer and of good quality, good for home market, but on account of its color will not likely ever equal the Duchess as a market apple, especially for export, as the British buyer likes a highly colored apple. There is also a new variety, the "Red Beithigheimer," which, I believe, will be an acquisition, hardy, highly colored, large, of good quality and clear skin.

The Alexander is also a hardy clean skinned, productive and profitable variety. In winter apples I would recommend the Golden Russet, Wealthy, Pewaukee, Scott's Winter and Baxter. The latter variety, however, spots badly in some seasons. I would not plant the Snow, as of late years it has been so badly affected by the fungus scab as to be almost useless. We have a far better apple in the Wealthy. It is more hardy and comes into bearing earlier. The list I would recommend would be as follows:—As nursery trees, summer varieties, only one, Yellow Transparent. I would not plant the Astrachan at all, nor the Tetovsky, except for stock to graft on. Autumn—Duchess, Red Beithigheimer, Alexander, and if I were to add another fall apple I would say the Calvert. Winter—The varieties mentioned above, viz., Golden Russet, Wealthy, Pewaukee, Scott's Winter and Baxter. Now, I would top graft on my seedlings or other hardy stock the following varieties, which are too tender to succeed in many localities as nursery trees, Gravenstein, Cranberry Pippin, Ribston Pippin, King of Tompkins, Northern Spy.

This list would give the best kinds for market, and, of course, the most profitable, as they are all clean skinned, well flavored and desirable kinds which, if properly picked and packed, would always secure the highest prices. The Baxter, on account of its occasional spotting, might be substituted by the Ben Davis, though the latter is a very inferior apple as to quality, but it keeps well and does not spot.

And now a few words as to marketing. I find it a hard matter to get farmers to pick and cull their fruit properly. The fruit is often shaken from the tree and bruised, windfalls and wormy fruit is all thrown in together and taken to market, and then the man grumbles at the price he gets, and says he will plant no more apple trees, as they won't pay worth a cent. What would be thought of a farmer who took his wheat as other grain to market without cleaning it—if he presented it for sale full of chaff, small grain, cockle and chaff—yet that is just what many of them do with their apples, and then grumble at the prices obtained. I have seldom seen a sample of apples on the local markets presented for sale that were fit to ship, they could only be sold for local use, and at a low price. It will pay well to handle fruit properly, to carefully hand pick and select the best, and only the best, for home or foreign markets. It is well to make three classes, the first class to be the very best specimens, of even size, perfectly free from worms or bruises or any defect. These may be packed in small fancy packages and

shipped. The prices realized for the choicest fruit put up in this way will pay well for the trouble. Then the second quality should consist of the next best specimens, excluding small, or wormy, or bruised ones, and packing carefully in barrels, making an even sample all through the barrel. Put your name and address on all barrels or packages, and pack the fruit in such a way that people who buy will look for your name, and be satisfied when they see your name and brand that the goods are A1. The third class may be fed to cattle, pigs or horses, or made into cider. They are good for milch cows, and will improve the quantity and quality of the milk, so that none need be wasted, but all profitably used. But it will be found that in the varieties I have recommended there will be very few culls, with the exception of a few wormy specimens, and if the trees are sprayed with Paris Green just after the blossoms fall, and once or twice subsequently (if washed off with rain), there will be very few of these. I believe it would be much better to cultivate an orchard every year, and never seed down or sow grain among the trees, but after they attain bearing age no crop of any kind should be grown, as the trees require all the ground to themselves. The land between them should be kept loose by cultivation, and manured well with stable manure and hardwood ashes. The ashes may be applied at the rate of a bushel for each tree, and is one of the very best manures for any kind of fruit.

Where pears will succeed well a few trees will pay well—much better than apples, but in many sections they are a very uncertain crop. And from my own experience I would almost say the same of plums, though in some localities they pay well, and everyone should have at least a few trees. Of pears, I would recommend Flemish Beauty, Clapp's Favorite and Duchess, as suitable to most localities, and of plums, German Prune, Lombard, Pond's Seedling and Imperial Gage.

Apples have ruled from \$2.50 to \$4.50 per barrel for good to best fall and winter varieties during this season, and pears were high in proportion, while plums were sold in the Collingwood plum district at 4½ cents per pound. Of course this has been an exceptional year, and shorter crops have produced high prices, higher than would be obtained in an average or full year. But there is no doubt that if the proper varieties are planted, and good care given to them as to cultivation, manuring and pruning, etc., and the fruit picked at the right time, carefully handled, culled and properly packed, there is no part of the farm that will prove as profitable in proportion to expense as the orchard, to say nothing of the economic value to the farmer of the fruit as a wholesome article of diet all the year round. Then, my advice is, if you have an orchard take good care of it; if you have none, plant one if your soil is suitable, select the proper kinds, take proper care of them, and you will never regret it.

When set for the rising of the cream, milk should be at a temperature of about 90° Fahr.

John Gould, of Ohio, thinks the average dairy farmer will succeed better with cows well graded up along milk-giving lines than with pure-breds. It is not necessarily so, but, of course, a pure-bred herd means a heavier investment to start with, and constant temptations to make sacrifices to the necessities of breeding. It takes a smart man to run both ideas profitably. Better start with a pure-bred sire. Walk first; then run.