

His next experiment was in the raising of seedling Black caps ; at first he grew only a small patch, but afterwards extended this experimental plot to two acres. In this he was well rewarded by one plant which was selected from the rest, and which is now known among all fruit growers and nurserymen on the continent as "The Hillborn."

Since that time Mr. Hillborn's attention has been very closely directed to the strawberry, both experimentally and for profit. In all he has tested at various times nearly two hundred named varieties, besides a large number of seedlings.

The accompanying view of Mr. W. W. Hillborn's strawberry plantation at Arkona, was drawn in 1884, and appeared in the Farmer's Advocate at that time. The sketch will also fairly well represent his present experimental plot at Leamington.

On the establishment of the Dominion Experimental Farms, Mr. Hillborn was appointed Horticulturist, and began operations at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, with a force of about sixty men. After two years of experience in this position, Mr. Hillborn resigned, and purchased a farm near Leamington, in the County of Essex ; a farm consisting of about seventy acres, which he devoted largely to the peach, cherry and plum, selecting most of the good old varieties, and many of the newer kinds. Six acres were devoted to the strawberry, and besides, there were planted quite a collection of varieties of other small fruits. These conditions all combined to commend Mr. Hillborn to the Minister of Agriculture as the most suitable person in Southern Ontario to conduct experimental work with peaches and strawberries ; and from his experiments we hope for speedy results, which will be of direct value to Canadian fruit growers.

A CONVENIENCE IN FRUIT GATHERING.

Designs for fruit ladders are legion, some good, some bad, and some indifferent. The quadruple stepladder here illustrated must be classed among the good designs, for obvious reasons. Placed under low, branching trees, its use permits one to move about within reach of a large portion of the whole side of a tree, because of its four sides, about which one can freely step. Moreover, when not occupied as "standing ground," the top affords an excellent resting place for the basket. It will be found exceedingly convenient for the home orchard, where one may desire to pick but a basket or two of fruit at a time, and wishes to make a selection of those in the best condition for picking. It should be made strong, but light, so as to be readily moved about.—American Agriculturist.

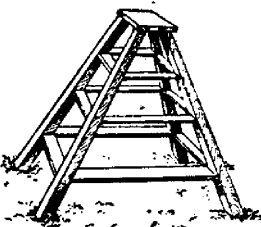


FIG. 691.

QUADRUPLE STEPLADDER.