

to a special inspector appointed for this purpose, in default of which the inspector should have power to go on and destroy the trees, and the cost should be a special tax upon the lot to be collected by the municipality. I have known of many cases of orchards, rightly condemned for "Yellows," where the trees have been left standing for months, a deadly source of infection to the whole neighbourhood.

After all it is the fruit growers themselves upon whom the whole matter depends. The township of Saltfleet, in which I live, is one of the best inspected townships in Ontario. Why? Simply because the fruit growers are fully alive to the importance of the situation, and insist on the municipality making proper provision for the inspection. Several attempts have been made to reduce the pay of the inspectors, etc., and they have always been overwhelmed by public opinion. The cost of efficient inspection need not press much on the individual

taxpayer. But the inspectors should be well paid for the work they do. In the township referred to the total amount paid out for inspection for the year 1909 was \$517.65. Half of this is now paid by the provincial government, leaving only about \$260 to be paid by the taxpayers, or considerably under \$1.00 each.

Most of the fruit growers could not possibly inspect their own trees for the money. When they are properly educated, as they are here, they are only too willing to have it done. That is why the inspectors require not only to be men of firmness in doing their duty, but also men of tact and information as well, who can command the confidence and respect of the growers, and educate them up to be willing and eager to have their trees inspected. Where such a class of men are appointed, the present act—its weaknesses notwithstanding—will work fairly well, and where such men are not secured, it will be more or less of a failure.

Boxes vs. Barrels in the East*

Dr. S. W. Fletcher, Director of Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station

The drift is all towards the use of the box as against the barrel package. This is in keeping with the trend of the times with respect to other commodities. The box package, or at least the smaller type of package, will some time entirely supplant the barrel. The smaller package will not necessarily be made of wood. We can expect the wooden package to be replaced, eventually, by paper, celluloid, or some other cheap material. Even now some very substantial paper boxes are on the market. When speaking of the box type of package, therefore, we refer to the size and shape of package, rather than to the material.

While the box type of package is the ideal towards which we are rapidly working, it by no means follows that every eastern fruit grower should begin packing in boxes at once. He should begin only when he is ready; and nine-tenths of the growers are not ready. To be ready for box packing means that the grower can get good boxes about as cheap as barrels, bushel for bushel; that he is able to grow a crop of fruit, preferably of high quality varieties, at least 90% of which is fancy or No. 1; that he is able to command skilful and experienced packers; that he is able to put a large quantity of box fruit on the market, not one year only, but year after year, so as to win a reputation for the brand; and that he ships his fruit to markets that are already familiar with the box pack and take kindly to it. At the present time not one apple grower out of ten

in the east is able to meet these conditions.

With respect to the market, the fruit grower must recognize the different demands of two entirely different types of markets. One of these, the common or general market, will pay a fair price for good or common stock. The other, the special or fancy market, will pay a fancy price for fancy stock. The box package supplies the special or fancy market almost exclusively, while the barrel package supplies both, but more especially the common or general market. These two classes of markets will always exist, or as long as some people are more successful in accumulating money than others.

The demand for cheap or common fruit, at a fair price, will continue to be very much greater than the demand for fancy fruit at a high price, because there are many people who are able to pay fancy prices for fruit. The proportion of fruit growers who are able to grow fancy fruit is as small as the proportion of consumers who are able to pay fancy prices. Location, soil, and the varieties best adapted thereto may make it more profitable to grow staple varieties for the common market. This cheap fruit—the main supply of the great middle class of people—will be marketed in barrels to best advantage for many years to come.

The successful marketing of apples in boxes depends so much upon skilful grading and packing and upon the possession of a large quantity of fruit so packed, that it seems likely that very little impetus will be given to box packing in the east except through co-opera-

tive shipping associations. Here and there an exceptional grower may find it profitable to pack his fancy grade of certain varieties in boxes; but it does not seem probable that box packing will make much headway in the east except through the co-operative shipping association, with its trained business manager and its crew of trained packers.

These conclusions indicate that the eastern fruit grower should be conservative on the subject of the box apple package. The drift is towards the smaller package, but for many years to come, apple growers who are so situated that they must produce apples for the general or common markets—which means a majority of the growers—will find the barrel more profitable.

Training Blackberries

Tying up blackberry canes makes cultivation of the berry patch easier, and facilitates all the labor that has to do with the management of a blackberry plantation. Instead of using two wires along which to train the canes, Mr. W. H. French, of Ontario County, Ont., uses only one. "I place my posts about sixteen yards apart in the rows of blackberries," said Mr. French to an editor of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST, who visited his plantation, "and between them stretch only one wire, to which the canes are tied with stout cord such as binder twine. I have used other methods of tying the canes but prefer this one, as it is more quickly performed than staking and requires less labor and work than where two wires are used. I use barb wire so that the twine will not slip.

BIENNIAL IN HABIT

Growers should bear in mind that the canes are biennial in habit while the roots are perennial; that is, the canes grow one year without fruit and bear the following year. They should then be removed to give space for younger wood.

Mr. John Ferguson, of Sunbury County, N. B., writes that he removes the old canes as soon as the picking is finished. The canes are cut down close to the ground with a corn knife, or, better still, with a short blade fastened into a two inch handle. Thus the principal canes are shortened to four or five feet, and the laterals to about twenty inches. By pruning in this way, Mr. Ferguson has found that the fruit is larger, and that the setting of more fruit than the plant will bear is prevented.

The old canes are gathered up immediately after the pruning has been completed and burned immediately. Mr. Ferguson uses two wires stretched from post to post. The new canes are lifted and supported on these wires. The suckers which come up between the wires are treated as weeds.

* A portion of a paper read at the conference of the American Pomological Society at St. Catharines, Ont., last September.