



Expert Apple Pickers Gathering the Crop in a Bruce County Orchard.

A busy scene in the eight-acre orchard of Mr. W. S. Holmes, of Lucknow, in Bruce County, is here shown. The method used by Mr. Holmes is to harvest the fruit off the tree and put the apples under cover as soon as picked. For that purpose a horse and team of eight is kept for hauling the barrels under cover. In Mr. Holmes' opinion too many farmers pick their apples and pile them in heaps, which remain unpacked for days, sometimes weeks, in which condition the fruit is often seriously injured. Often after the apples are harvested they are left in the orchard subject to the weather. Apples used in this way almost always, Mr. Holmes believes, arrive at their destination in slack condition and sell at reduced prices. Two of the men shown in the illustration, Messrs. W. T. Holmes and P. Headley, are expert apple pickers.

SETTING AND CARING FOR PLUM TREES

MILTON BACKUS, CHATHAM, ONT.

IN digging holes for plum trees dig three feet in depth and fully as wide. Digging should be done in the fall, so as to obtain the benefit of the winter's freezing and thawing.

In setting the trees, stretch a fine wire the length of the row, having the distance apart marked on the wire with either paint or thread. In this way two men will set ready for filling a great number in a day. The distance they should be set apart depends, somewhat, on the system of pruning.

I advocate low heads the shape of an inverted umbrella, severe winter pruning of from one-half to three-quarters of each season's growth. This prevents the trees at-

taining greater height than about 7 feet, so that pruning, spraying, thinning and packing can all be done cheaply by standing on the ground.

On receiving the trees from the nursery, I cut off the entire top to a bare stub not more than 2 feet long, and form therefrom a head having 5 to 7 branches. With the above system of pruning a tree, they should be planted not closer than 16 to 20 feet.

In regard to fertilizing, I have used only wood ashes, the land being naturally strong. Frequent and clean cultivation is best. I keep my orchard free from all fungous diseases, except the rot, by spraying as soon as growth begins, with sulphate of copper, and