

THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

are superb apples; and we wish we could add *Spy* and *King*, but our experience in apple growing for thirty years past would condemn them both for planting, the former because it does not produce well until fifteen or twenty years planted, and the latter because it never bears paying quantities. Both are prime apples—the best in quality for general uses, but what is the use of quality if you cannot get enough of it to be worth handling? We have an orchard of Northern Spys, covering about six acres of ground. They have been planted twenty-five years, and have only given us two good crops! We have an orchard of Kings about thirty-five years planted, which have never given more than three good crops and several small crops.

Pears for Export.

1043. SIR, — I intend planting, next spring, a large number of pear trees, and have decided that for *export* varieties the Duchess d'Angouleme, Beurre Clairgeau, and Beurre d'Anjou, are as good as any.

The only question that undecided me is, whether they are sufficiently prolific, to pay as well as others. If planted, they will be in good strong clay soil, well drained, and will be carefully cultivated.

Now will some kind friend, who can speak from sweet or bitter experience, please let me know, through these columns, as soon as possible, if these varieties yield a good paying crop, under the treatment spoken of above?

Also, I would like to know, from an experienced man, whether Mountain Ash is a desirable stock on which to graft pears?

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The experience thus far gained in exporting pears to the British market is so small and limited, covering only two years, and that chiefly from one section, and a limited number of varieties—that it is quite too soon to give a settled opinion regarding the best for the purpose. We have had excellent success exporting the Bartlett in cold storage, for when it arrives in good condition, it sells well. This last season we received from 50c. to \$1.25 net for $\frac{1}{3}$ bushel cases, or about \$3.50 per bushel for the very finest—but they

need great care in storage, or they will arrive rotten and be a bill of expense. We cannot therefore recommend this pear for general planting for export.

Fine DUCHESS pears always do well, if well grown. They usually do better as dwarfs than as standards, growing to a finer size. In the Grimsby section the Duchess orchards have not been bearing well for several years, we do not know why, for the tree has the character of being productive. If this variety does well in Simcoe county, it may be planted with confidence that a fine quality will bring a good price in the British market.

³ CLAIRGEAU is a fine-sized pear of beautiful appearance, and a good shipping kind. Well grown and well colored it is a variety of great excellence, and should do well for a distant market. It may be grown either as a dwarf or standard.

ANJOU is one of the finest, and no pear, that we sent over, brought prices equalling it. Some bushel cases sent over in 1897 sold for \$3.75 each. In our experience at Grimsby, however, this variety is a poor bearer as a standard, and the fruit is not quite as large as on the dwarf. We have always grown it on sandy loam, and no doubt the standard would do better on clay, still in any case we would expect the best fruit on the dwarf.

The KIEFFER should also be planted to a limited extent, because it is sure to *succeed*. It will grow anywhere, and produce tremendous crops. With good cultivation and manure, and thinning, it will yield fine-sized fruit. This pear ripens for use in December and January, and will carry any distance in perfect condition. The only question is its quality, which is very poor for dessert. For canning it is unexcelled. However, should the time come when it is not in demand, no stock would be finer for top-grafting than the Kieffer.

Regarding the Mountain Ash for stock there is no doubt that it will answer, for it has been frequently used; but we would give the preference to a good seedling pear.