

started to cut it down. Hearing this, Mr. Metcalfe secured his consent to take it over as one of the demonstration orchards. It now has a fair appearance and affords an excellent example of the intrinsic value of even the most hopeless orchards.

The orchard at Dunedin, on Mr. John Osborne's farm, like the others, had not been plowed in years, nor pruned, nor sprayed. It had borne some very good apples notwithstanding. The trees are thrifty and after the care they have received this season they will be in a position to demonstrate the advantages of up-to-date orchard practice.

It seems most remarkable that in a district favored as is this one, apple trees should have been allowed to suffer such neglect. Exceptional success should attend fruit growing in the district. The soil is well adapted to the growing of apple trees and of many of the semi-hardy fruit trees. The tempering influence of the Georgian Bay to the north and the protection offered by the Blue Mountains near by, which are a continuation of the Niagara escarpment, render the climate of the district most favorable for fruit. Years ago apple trees were planted here in large numbers. Farmers were encouraged by the remarkable growth made and planted still more of their land to orchard. Most of the orchards are comparatively old. Very few young orchards are to be seen. Thus it would seem that the discouragements previously mentioned that led the farmers not to plant more orchards, went so far as to keep them from caring for their old ones. Owing to lack of knowledge as to how to care for their apple trees, indifferent markets and prices, their owners allowed these orchards to become a very secondary consideration.

The influence of the demonstration work is already having effect. Some of the farmers have commenced to prune their trees, to plow and cultivate their orchards, which for years have been in sod, and general rest is being taken in the work. Mr. W. F. Kidd, of Simcoe, who is in charge of the practical work in the orchards and to whose expert skill considerable of the success of the work is due, will remain in the district throughout the summer, going from farm to farm, talking over orchard matters and showing those farmers who wish to learn by actual demonstration how to prune and care for their orchards so that they may return greater profits.

**METHODS OF MARKETING.**

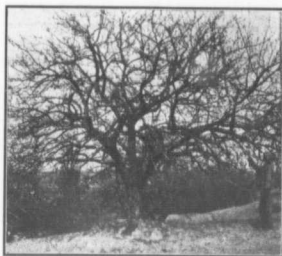
Remarkable as is the situation in regard to the orchards of the district under consideration, much of the situation is due to the methods of marketing that have been in vogue for many years. Some 25 years ago farmers in the district became convinced of the fact that Spys and Greenings were the best varieties of apples that could be grown. In fact, they were the only kind that could be sold and as a result the majority of the trees were grafted to these sorts. Buyers from a distance, eager to get the high quality fruit that can be grown in this northern fruit belt each year have gone into the district and bought the apples "so much for the orchard," the farmers not having realized the value of the crop. Hence the returns from the orchards were not such as to encourage farmers to give them better care, to inform themselves as to modern orchard practice, or to put the orchard into any shape whatever where they might have had a chance to demonstrate how profitable they could be made.

The time of awakening seems now to be at hand. It will be only a matter of a little time when these orchardists will become seised of the advantages of co-operative selling and will organize themselves so that they may reap the best returns from the sale of their apples by selling them through co-operative associations. Thus they will obtain prices commensurate with the high quality of the fruit they have to sell.—C. C. N.

**Draft Horses as an Investment**

R. M. Holby, Ontario Co., Ont.

Driving, or even general purpose horses are all right in their place; one or two are a convenience and almost a necessity on the average farm of 100 acres or more, but when it comes to raising horses for profit, the draft horse stands alone for a farmer's horse. After two years of age the draft horse will earn his feed, if necessary, and will sell for at least one-third more money than



Much too Thick in the Top

his lighter rival. This extra one-third is nearly all profit since the cost of raising the two classes is about the same.

There is perhaps a wider range of prices between draft and light horses than ever before, especially where weight and quality are available. If the last few years are any criterion, the discrimination in prices will continue to widen. Even farmers as well as city draymen are looking more and more for horses to draw heavier implements and heavier loads, thereby lessening the cost of hauling.

Recently I became possessor of a three-year-old filly bred from a French coach horse crossed on a general purpose mare. She was sound and a good mare of her kind and I sold her shortly after for \$135.00. In the same stable were four



Same Tree after Careful Pruning

These two illustrations and the one on the front cover, are all of the same tree in Mr. Owen's orchard, at Dunston, Ont. Mr. Kidd of Simcoe, appears in the foreground. Read the article on page 3. Photo by an Editor of Farm and Dairy.

Clydesdale foals, two from registered Canadian-bred mares. These two foals were purchased at weaning time for \$125.00 and \$150.00 each. The other two were from imported dams and the same sire. They would sell readily at \$175 each. Thus they would bring more money than the French colt rising three years. Good draft colts rising three years old from registered mares would be worth from \$200 to \$300, while an animal in good condition with weight and extra quality would be worth much more.

Money invested in well bred cattle, sheep or

swine will prove a good investment in the hands of business men; but I believe that the first thing to do along the line of stock improvement is to buy draft mares. Horses are a necessity on every farm. From \$150 to \$200 has to be invested in almost any three-year-old horse, sound and able to do his share of farm work. An extra investment of \$150 to \$200 will buy a registered draft mare of which any man may be proud, to say nothing of the added interest in farm life it would give the young folks. This mare will do her share of farm work and produce a good foal as well.

We believe that many farmers to-day pay more attention to increasing their bank account or to paying for land than to increasing the revenue-producing power of their farms. After careful thought, we are satisfied that a man will do better to invest his money in good stock than to put it into either banks or land. In other words, a farmer might better be a tenant, with first-class stock, kept in good condition, than to buy land with not much money to pay down and forever putting his money into the farm to save interest. Even when profit over the cost of feed is taken into consideration, we think the stock side of the question is away ahead. In the case of draft mares they will earn their feed, thereby greatly increasing the profit.

**STOCK VS. LAND AS AN INVESTMENT.**

Suppose a man buys 100 acres of land at \$6,000. Under average conditions, he could rent that land for \$900. The landlord would not receive five per cent. for his money after keeping up repairs. If half that money were invested in three draft mares at \$333-1-3 each or \$1,000 for the three, and in 10 pure bred dairy cows at \$200 or \$2,000, or a total of \$3,000, the income would be as follows: An average of two foals for three mares each year will not be too much to expect and from mares of this value, the foals should be worth at least \$125 each, making \$250 for the two. Deduct \$30 for service fees and there is \$220. After allowing \$25 for depreciation of value in the mare (which would be nothing up to nine years), you have \$170 or 17 per cent. on the \$1,000 invested, and the mares would do the farm work.

A sum, say \$200 each, in pure bred dairy cows should buy cows that would produce from 7,000 to 10,000 lbs. of milk, which would sell ordinarily for 1-4 cents a pound, or \$106 each for milk, while the pure bred calf would go a long way to paying for her board, which would be on an average \$40. After deducting a liberal amount for cost of milking and handling the product, it still leaves a big interest on the investment and dairy cattle are not the only kind that will make big interest.

**SOME EXAMPLES.**

Numerous instances can be given where draft mares have made big incomes. J. Stark, of Durham Co., Ont., has a mare from which he has sold \$1,500 worth of colts and has still three left. Mr. Wm. Pollock, of Ontario Co., Ont., a few years ago sold a Canadian-bred mare for \$250 when she was rising three-year-old. He then bought an imported mare in foal to McQueen for \$500. Neighbors thought he had lost his head, but he refused better than \$450 for this horse's foal before it was two years old and sold him after for a good sum at three-years-old. The next year she did not raise a foal but the following year raised a splendid horse foal which was sold this year at two years old for \$400. He now has a yearling filly, (full sister to last), and a horse foal this year by Acme, which if they were both sold would make a grand showing for this mare, and she is still worth her purchase price. Numerous instances could be given where mares have done much better, but the figures given can be reached by any farmer who will give his attention to the matter in hand and feed liberally when fitting for sale.

Perhaps what I have written will lead some