

The Farm.

Pruning Apple Trees.

The systematic pruning of apple trees, performed with a definite end in view, is something that should be thoroughly understood by every farmer who is the owner of an orchard, whether large or small, as this is a work which cannot safely be entrusted to others if the future welfare of the orchard is given the consideration its importance demands. When trimming a tree with an unbalanced top I have sometimes found it necessary to cut back a limb with the object of diverting its growth in a particular direction for the purpose of filling up an open space so as to secure a balanced and symmetrical head. A note of this act is made as a guide for future work, but were the following pruning entrusted to other hands the probability is that the particular result aimed for would be entirely frustrated. For general pruning there is no season of the year better suited for the work than the warm days of late March and early April, for if done too early in the winter the severe freezing weather is very liable to cause damage where wounds are made. A result of severe winter pruning performed when the mercury registered at or below the zero point may be seen in two different orchards with one and one-half miles of the writer's home. The one was a comparatively old orchard, very closely planted; the other consisted of young thrifty trees; but in both instances the injudicious pruning had a fatal result. The severe shock sustained by the trees as a result of the cut surfaces being exposed to severe cold caused the bark to dry up and fall from the trunks and large limbs during the following summer. Where large limbs are to be removed the work should be delayed until late June or early July, as the wounds will then heal over with much less damage to the tree.

In such cases the cut surfaces should be treated to a coat of thick paint, grafting wax, or some other substance suitable for keeping out wet and facilitating early healing of the wound. But the necessity for removing large limbs may be prevented by the exercise of a little judgment and foresight when forming the head of the young tree.

If the tree arrives from the nursery with but two limbs, forming a crotch, one should be cut off, leaving the straightest, which should then be cut back at the height desired for the head. From this straight stem a number of shoots will start, and by rubbing off all but three or four suitable ones a well balanced head can be formed. By timely attention to this and similar work, and frequent light pruning of the tree when young, there will be no necessity of lopping off limbs in after years. There are several objects to be kept in view when trimming a tree. One is to allow sufficient space between the large limbs to admit the body of a grown person when gathering the fruit. Another is to keep the centre of the tree well open, to facilitate spraying and admit sunlight and free currents of air, as without these the fruit will be small and uncolored, and the propagation of fungi will be encouraged. On the other hand, if the centre is allowed to become too open, there is danger of the limbs becoming sun-scalded resulting in the drying up of the bark and eventual death of the limbs. When pruning a tree with a spreading habit of growth, such as the Greening, a different system must be employed than for an upright growing one, such as the Northern Spy. In the former case the lower limbs are the ones usually required to be cut out, while the centre of the tree needs less attention. In the latter the reverse of this should be practiced. The King rarely requires much thinning out, but is greatly benefited by cutting back.

In the case of a young tree, where a limb is inclined to grow in a wrong direction, it

can largely be corrected by cutting back and leaving the last bud (which is the one that will force) on the side in which the new growth is desired to extend. Thus the growth can be inclined upward, downward or to either side as desired to fill up a vacancy. One source of much trouble in some orchards is the quantity of young shoots that sprout up from the roots at the base of the trees. This is usually caused through the trees having been crown-grafted in the nursery.

When setting out a young orchard, if care is taken to procure only root-grafted stock, this trouble will be largely avoided. The suckers that grow from the limbs of a tree, and which are usually most abundant after severe pruning may be most expeditiously removed by rubbing off with the hand soon after starting growth. If their removal is delayed until the following spring a new growth will invariably start from the same source. The best authorities claim that late winter pruning tends to encourage the growth of wood and the general building up of the tree, while summer pruning performed during the latter part of June stimulates fruit production. This is certainly based upon scientific principles, but the average farmer can hardly do better than attend to the pruning of his orchard during the leisure hours of the present month.—Ellis F. Augustine, in Farmer's Advocate.

Do Bees Injure Fruit Crops.

BY REV. C. M. HERRING.

If the question were put to us, "Do men steal?" the answer most likely would be, "Some do, and some do not." So it is with this question. Some bees, under certain circumstances, may be like some men who have bad habits.

When pressed by hunger, and the flowers do not supply the wants of the bees, they may resort to the juices of the fruits for supply. They have no power to puncture sound fruit; but when the berry is old and tender, when the grape skin is broken and when the rind of the plum is punctured, and the juices of these fruits are exposed, then the bees will be likely to help themselves if they can find nothing better. To make holes in sound plums is what the bee cannot do. Her sting is not made, or used, for any such purpose, and her tongue is too limber.

What Mr. Hurlin calls that "hole" in the Lombard plum was made by that notorious fruit pest called the curculion, which has served many of my crops of plums in the same way. After the hole was made the bee might have used it for her purpose.

I have kept bees for many years in the same garden with raspberries, grapes, and many kinds of plums, and have never sustained any losses thereby. In fact, I and my neighbors are dependent on bees and a few other agencies for our fruits produced from blossoms.

In that noted fruit garden in Yarmouth, the owner keeps bees for no other purpose but to fertilize his blossoms and thus secure a harvest. If they had turned to and ate up his berries and plums, the owner would be likely to agree with Mr. Hurlin.

STRATFORD, 4th Aug. 1893.
MRS. C. C. RICHARDS & Co.

GENTLEMEN,—My neighbor's boy, 4 years old, fell into a tub of boiling water, and got scalded fearfully. A few days later his legs swelled to three times their natural size and broke out in running sores. His parents could get nothing to help him till I recommended MINARD'S LINIMENT, which, after using two bottles, completely cured him, and I know of several other cases around here almost as remarkably cured by the same Liniment, and I can truly say I never handled a medicine which has had as good a sale or gave such universal satisfaction.

M. HIBERT,
General Merchant.



Safety comes first,

in washing. What is the use of making the work easy, as long as it's risky or dangerous? What does it matter how little a thing costs, or how many prizes you get with it, if it rots and ruins the clothes? It can't be that you want to take any chances. Use Pearline. Nothing that has ever been used for washing or cleaning is more absolutely harmless than Pearline. It gives you the easiest, the quickest, the most thoroughly economical work.



People of refined musical taste buy their Pianos and Organs from the W. H. JOHNSON Company, Ltd., 157 Granville Street, Corner Buckingham Halifax.



Here since 1851 Every Grocer keeps E. B. Eddy's Matches Look for them Ask for them They have the name and fame Made in Hull B. Eddy's Matches Sulphur, Safety, Parlor, Wax

Perfect in any climate E. B. Eddy's Matches Used every day in the year The name is on every box

Good enough for a prince E. B. Eddy's Matches Cheap enough for a pauper

IT PAYS

to insure in the CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION, because of its sound financial position, its moderate premium rates and its unexcelled profits to policy-holders—Policies unconditional—Guaranteed extended Insurance, paid up and cash surrender values—All claims paid immediately upon receipt of proof of death.

S. A. McLEOD, Agent at St. John.
G. W. PARKER, General Agent.

The Endeavorers in the State of Washington have made earnest efforts to secure temperance and Sabbath observance legislation. A temperance bill was recently before the legislature and the Endeavorers prompted prominent representatives to personally visit the Capitol, while about five hundred telegrams were sent from all parts of the State to the senators and representatives. Mass meetings were also held in many districts, all with the aim of properly influencing legislation.

AGENTS! Send postal card to M. S. BAIN, Box 504, Yarmouth, N. S., for terms of the fastest selling article ever invented.

The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Theodore Roosevelt, New York, to be assistant secretary of the navy.