

orchard of twenty years standing, of productive varieties, will surely average one hundred barrels per annum, and most farmers can sell these at home at \$1 per barrel for the fruit. What else would yield that sum? This is not more than the acre should produce when you consider the time and expense that has been put upon that orchard to bring it to its present condition.

But many will say, "My apple orchard does not yield that amount of fruit." No, probably not; unless you are making it a specialty. Nothing pays, now-a-days, without special care. An apple orchard, *neglected*, certainly does not pay. How could it yield crop after crop without culture, without manure, and withal, receiving in place of judicious pruning, an annual butchering with the saw and the axe. Would any crop pay under similar treatment?

The apple needs potash. It is year after year extracting this element from the ground, and, if you do not supply, and other fertilizers besides, such as phosphoric acid, nitrates and lime, according to the requirements of the soil, the orchard will soon cease to bear fruit in any quantity, or of any degree of excellence. One-half of our Canadian orchards are starving to death. No farmer would expect a good crop of wheat or potatoes, without the use of manure; why then does he expect fine apples without it, and cut down his trees because, neglected, they will not do what no other crop could do? Do you advise cultivating an apple orchard? asked some one. You may as well ask a farmer "Do you advise cultivating your corn crop? Unless your orchard is vigorous and presents a healthy dark green foliage, by all means work it up, plowing the ground shallow so as to disturb the roots as little as possible, sowing to buckwheat, or keep the ground cultivated any way until you have developed a good healthy growth of the trees. Then you may seed down for a few years at a time. The orchard must have special care, and if a man has not time to give it special care, he may as well be rid of it. Insects must be fought. Large numbers of orchards in this Niagara peninsula are infested with the oyster-shell bark louse, an insect so small that it passes unnoticed; it hides itself under its shell, and there seeks the health and fruitfulness out of the trees. The writer has experimented with soapsuds, kerosene, caustic soda, washing soda. The latter is the most economical. A strong solution may be made in a barrel, and about the first of June the trunks and as much more of the trees as appears to be affected, must be thoroughly washed with the solution at which time the insects are almost microscopic in size, not yet covered by the scale, and are very easily destroyed.

The Codling moth must be fought, and conquered with Paris green, hence this insect will destroy one-third of the finest of the crop; and the Canker worm may be destroyed with the same preparation. The mice must be guarded against every fall and winter, the tent caterpillar must be hunted out and diligently destroyed, and many other important precautions thoughtfully attended to.

And after all, when at last a bountiful crop rewards such patient labor, the same careful attention must be paid to the matter of gathering and marketing, or else all previous industry will lose its reward. Eternal vigilance is the price of success. It pays to use a good ladder, and a swing handle basket with a hook attached, and to gather every good apple with a gentle grasp of the hand, taking care that not even finger marks shall show upon the fruit when housed. It pays to spend time enough over the packing to look at every single apple and to properly assort them into at least three grades. It pays to pack carefully the finest in clean new barrels, lining head and tail end with white paper, and then the grower may hopefully consign his crop to some honorable and responsible salesman. But failing in all this careful attention, is it any wonder that many of our farmers, who find poor sale for the scrubby products of an uncared for orchard, should declare apple culture unprofitable.

I should include, among my remarks on apple culture, the importance of a judicious selection of varieties. The Early Harvest, the Fall Pippin, the Rambo, and the Snow are subject to the spot. The Spitzenburg no longer produce a crop with any certainty therefore discard these varieties in southern Ontario and plant Yellow Transparent, Red

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