

Canadian Farm Affairs.

TOBACCO GROWING IN QUEBEC.

The experience of most Canadian tobacco growers is limited to the culture of the plant. Very little is known respecting fertilization at the relation of soils to types, so that in many instances land utterly unfit to the purpose, owing to lack of fertility and suitability, is put to tobacco, producing a nondescript article, which very often is afterward treated in such a manner that whatever small proportion might have been good is spoiled with the rest. As is well known to tobacco growers in the United States, the commercial value of tobacco, especially in the cigar leaf types, is derived more from the proper treatment of the plant from the moment it is harvested to the time it is sold than to any previous care.

After long consideration of the matter by the honorable minister of agriculture, he decided to establish an illustration station in the center of production of tobacco. The work to be carried on here is not to be on experimental lines, but rather more illustrative of the processes and methods which have been found to produce the best results in our climatic and other conditions. The main object is to teach how to cure the leaf and how to sweat and pack it, besides the many minor details of the art.

There is no doubt but that in our fall season the atmospheric conditions are very often adverse to the proper curing and drying of the leaf in buildings, affording no control over the natural elements, and the consequence is that the greater part of the quality is destroyed at this stage. Now it is proposed to show the necessity of improvements in the buildings used for curing and drying tobacco, and to this purpose a carefully designed building, embodying all the principles known to the expert curer of tobacco, has been put up at the illustration station, established at St. Jacques, Montcalm Co., Que.

This is not a very elaborate affair and can be built at small cost. It differs essentially from the ordinary barns, in that it is air-tight and is provided with a rational system of ventilation. Artificial heat will also be experimented with, not so much with a view to doing the curing properly, as to completing the drying of the stems and stalks which remain generally more or less full of water when very cold weather sets in. All this work is to be done on a large scale with a view to extreme economy and profits. Then the process of fermentation is to be taught to growers visiting the station. These are the two principal objects in view, but of course the entire line of operations will be conducted so as to be illustrative of some fact ignored or neglected by growers attached to old methods. Fertilization, especially, is to receive the closest attention; the combined use of chemical fertilizers and nitrogenous plants played under will be made a special feature of the work.

The actual average yield per acre is not above 700 lbs of dry leaf, and it is believed that when farmers have learned how to use chemical fertilizers and green fertilizers the average yield will be raised to 1200 lbs with a corresponding gain in the quality of the crop. The expert in charge of the station will also deliver lectures during winter at meetings of tobacco growers, where information will be given to them respecting the requirements of the different markets and general information. It is hoped that by these lectures farmers will be brought to grow a more regular product, limiting themselves to the variety that may be found to succeed best in a particular district and thus create a regular product, which is an indispensable element of success.

Concerning the products of the stations it is proposed to export to Europe all that which may be thought suitable for markets there, the results, including every item of cost from beginning to end, will be made known to growers and their attention turned in this direction. New varieties will be experimented with in view of finding out which will give the best substitute to the tobacco now imported for the different manufacturing purposes.

The appearance of the '99 crop and the low prices which have ruled the

past year make growers eager to learn something, as they realize that conditions have changed greatly.—[Louis V. Labelle.]

THE BEST APPLES FOR ONTARIO.

Both in importance and general culture the apple ranks first among the fruits. Its period for use extends nearly through the year, as by planting a selection of summer, autumn and winter sorts a constant succession of this indispensable fruit can be easily obtained. My list of the best six varieties for a home garden is as follows:

Yellow Transparent, a new Russian variety imported in 1870 by the U S dept of agri at Washington. Tree a strong grower and an unusually early bearer; fruit pale yellow, good size and good quality, skin clear white at first, turning to a pale yellow when fully ripe. It is the earliest of all apples, and this makes it exceedingly valuable as an early market variety or for domestic use. My experience with this variety is very satisfactory. It never spots, is always bright and clear of skin, of a mild, pleasant yet sprightly flavor, it bears abundantly and at an extremely early age; it should be in every home garden in Canada.

Primate comes next. Tree a strong grower, very hardy and one of the most productive; fruit about medium size, roundish, pale yellow or straw color, with a blush on sunny side; flesh tender and fine grained, juicy and sub-acid; ripens early and continues in season a long time, and is very free from scab. When well grown and perfectly ripe it is one of the finest dessert apples in its season.

My third choice would be Duchess of Oldenburg. Large size, streaked with red and yellow, flesh juicy, sprightly and sub-acid, ripening early in the fall; tree a vigorous grower, having fine healthy foliage, bearing abundantly and when very young; succeeds in all sections of the country and is as valuable in the extreme north as in the south and is as hardy as any known variety. These facts, with its freedom from scab, recommend it to all parts of the country, and it is just as valuable in the orchard for market as in the garden for home use.

The Gravenstein is very large, round, greenish-yellow, often when well grown having a beautiful reddish shade; flesh tender, juicy and crisp, with a slightly aromatic flavor and of the first quality; tree very vigorous and productive, bearing regular crops of finely-shaped, handsome fruit. King of Tompkins Co fruit is of the largest size, red, making a handsome appearance; flesh inclined to yellow, juicy, tender, with an agreeable rich and vinous flavor which, with its beautiful appearance, makes it a valuable market sort as well as for home use. It bears a good crop annually when well cared for, and commands first-class prices in any market. My sixth choice would be Northern Spy. This apple needs no recommendation, as it has established itself in the minds of all who know it as a variety that has no equal in fine high flavor and long-keeping qualities, retaining its natural flavor through long storage better than any other variety. Its only fault is in the long time it takes to come into bearing, but when it does begin to bear it is a lasting satisfaction to its owner. This fact can be largely overcome by planting Talman Sweet and after it have grown a few years top-grafting with Spy. It will then fruit much sooner and be of better quality by this second grafting.—[W. Warnock, to Goderich (Ont) Hort Society.]

Ontario—The L. E. & D. R. R. have made a survey for an extension of their road through Elgin Co to St. Thomas. The township of Southwold is cut up with three railroads and several fine farms practically destroyed. There is much local dissatisfaction that the Dominion government has given \$3500 p mile toward this extension. It is another case of a government present to satisfy corporate greed.—Winter until late Feb very mild with but little snow. Since then snow has come in abundance, making it almost impossible to do much teaming in the woods. The past summer being very dry, feed is rather scarce and prices will have a tendency to be high for the same. Prices of most articles which the farming classes require are abnormally high while the prices for those commodities

which they want to sell are low. Here we see the effects of the combines and trusts on the one hand and the lack of co-operation and organization of the laboring classes on the other.—Farmers at Clachan are fairly contented which indicates they are prospering. We can carry on mixed farming, as something is sure to catch the rise in market. This year beans are 1.50 p bu, hogs 5c p lb l w, hay 10. Wheat and beans last year light crop. Wheat went into winter quite uneven, being too dry, although on light land it looks well. Clover seed should be sown as soon as the ground is fit to put a team on. Use a grain drill with a grass sower attached, setting tubes well back, which makes a perfect seed bed and benefits the wheat if careful to drive the drill between rows of wheat, sowing 10 lbs clover and five of timothy. Winter hanging on in Wentworth Co. The most that can be done is to plan for coming work; this is very important. It is not altogether the line of work that a person is in, but the amount of skill and energy that is put into it that makes success. While we are very much interested in South Africa, it is taking too much energy, men and money from peaceable pursuits for the good of the nation. Poultry, dairying and the pig business are being enlarged and horse raising is getting more attention lately.

Wants the Grange—There can be no doubt but that some farmers' fraternal organization as has been proposed by Secretary James would be a most decided advantage. This want was what gave rise to the grange and later to the Patrons of Industry, but the results of these efforts to organize farmers are not very encouraging to try any new organization along that line. The objects to be attained, as set forth in Mr James' proposition, viz, to promote the "interest," "education" and "pleasure" of the farmer and his family are very worthy; but the question arises, what are the farmers' interests? In answering this question you at once get into financial, mercantile and political questions, and these, so far, are the things that have played havoc with farmers' organizations. I am of the opinion that nothing we have had as yet so nearly filled the bill as the grange, and if we could have a revival of the interest in that order it would accomplish the objects we have in view better than an attempt to launch a new organization, says C. J. Thornton of West Durham, Ont, in The Sun.

Apple and Potato Barrels—The size generally but not uniformly used in exporting apples from New England to the English markets is the flour barrel holding a little less than 3 bu; the potato barrel is much the same in capacity. Effort is being made in the east to secure uniform state laws regulating the size of all barrels for handling fruits and vegetables, these to be of the capacity of the flour barrel.

Dominion Grange Officers are: Master, Jabel Robinson of Middlemarch; overseer, J. McDougall of Milton; lecturer, J. G. Lethbridge of Strathburn; secretary, W. F. W. Fisher of Burlington; treasurer, James Fallis of Newbridge; chaplain, J. Allan of Churchill; steward, J. G. Mitchell of Glencoe; assistant steward, J. Gray of Lonsdale; gatekeeper, H. J. Dynes of Burlington.

Ontario Sheep Interests are unusually bright, writes the veteran John Campbell in the Sheep Breeder. It is long since in Ont sheep breeders have had such a steady demand at good paying prices for the surplus of their flocks as during 1899. There has been no boom and we trust there will not be. As wool has increased in value considerably, and market lambs are selling at \$4.50 to \$5 p cwt, delivered at the shipping stations, the growing of sheep is certain to increase with us, and that will be one of the results of the general disappointment in producing the bacon hog. With very little experience the conclusion is easily arrived at that 100 lbs of lamb is grown at much less cost than 100 lbs of bacon hog, and it brings an average of \$1 p 100 more when ready for the market. In my 20 yrs experience with pure-bred sheep, that line of sheep husbandry at present compares very favorably with any year during that time. There is a strong, healthy trade with a greater discrimina-

tion by buyers in favor of the good ones than at any previous time. The good, the choice and the extra choice ones find ready customers. The lesson, therefore, is "Produce the best."

After years of careful experimenting, we now have a long list of hardy, valuable commercial fruits that we can grow as well as they can be grown anywhere. Plantings have not been as extensive as they might have been and we do not produce sufficient for our own market. It would be well if more extensive plantings were undertaken. [Pres C. P. Newman, Que Pomological Soc'y.]

SPRAYING FRUIT TREES.

The question of spraying fruit trees to prevent the depredations of insect pests and fungous diseases is no longer an experiment but a necessity.



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