

FACTORIES PAY GOOD PRICES.

"Now," said Mr. Fick, of Simcoe, "in selling to the factories a few spots are not objectionable, for they are removed with the skin. So, in raising apples for the factory, spraying is not a necessity, and all that expense is saved."

"But if you had clean fruit would it not bring you far more money if you were to export it?" we asked.

"Well, it is a question. The factory pays me 50 cents a hundred pounds, or about 25 cents a bushel, and takes every apple, so you see I have no culls to throw out. Then, if I were packing for export I should have to pick my apples by hand, and that would mean a great expense this year with the present high price of labor; indeed, I do not believe I could possibly get men enough to hand pick all the apples in this big orchard. For the factory I can shake them down and so handle my crop quickly, and with very little expense. Besides this, I have no barrels to buy, and this year, at 50 cents a barrel, they make a large item in the cost of handling the crop. Now the whole cost of handling my apples for the factory is not more than two cents a bushel, for we simply shake them down and carry them in the boxes furnished us. The packing, too, is no small item in putting up an apple crop for export, and I am saved that expense also."

"What varieties have you?"

"I have ten acres of Spy, ten of Greening and twenty of Baldwin."

"What quantity do you expect to harvest?"

"About 20,000 bushels, which will bring me from the factory about \$5,000, with comparatively little expense harvesting them."

"Do you consider this light sand about Simcoe well adapted for apple raising?"

"No, it is not the best soil but by proper fertilizing we can grow fine fruit. When the trees were young I gave them plenty of

stable manure, and now I do not apply stable manure but every year I sow a bushel of wood ashes about each tree. This, I think, helps to give color to the fruit, as well as vigor to the tree growth. Then for nitrates I grow clover. Every spring, say about the first of May, I plow under the clover, putting a chain on my plow so as to cover it well. Then I cultivate the orchard for about two months and about the first of August I sow clover again. Each succeeding year the clover seems to catch better, so that this year I had a wonderful crop, as you can see."

A COMPARISON WOULD BE INTERESTING.

Now, while there is no question that Mr. Johnson's course of so spraying and pruning his trees that they have yielded a crop of beautiful, clean fruit, worth the highest price in the market, is the ideal one for us all to aim at, still it would be interesting to have a comparative report tree per tree, showing the relative profits of the two methods. The one man has been to a very great expense throughout, from spraying to harvesting, while the other has done everything in the cheapest manner.

Perhaps the best commentary on it all is the determination on the part of Mr. Fick that next year, providing he can get the use of a power sprayer, he will have his orchard thoroughly treated. After reading the favorable reports upon the excellent results obtained in lessening scab with the use of the lime and sulphur mixture, his present intention is to give his orchard a thorough whitening with it in early spring.

We are all agreed in the great possibilities which may result from proper spraying, but with a large orchard the undertaking by hand is so enormous that many fruit growers would prefer to take their chances rather than undertake it, especially with the present high price of labor.