

"This variety of apple has paid me better than any other in my collection, which embraces some fifty varieties.

The Duchess is apparently not destined to be a long liver in our climate; it is too precocious for that. My experience with it would limit it to about thirty years. The trees are rather on the small side, and can be grown without crowding about twenty feet apart.

I notice further that when budded on the common stock it is very apt to sucker, but when root-grafted it is free from this fault.

This apple, the Yellow Transparent and the Tetofsky belong to an entirely distinct type of the *Malus* from any other in general cultivation, and are botanically assimilated to the Siberian Crab (*Malus Baccata*), of which those indigenous to Southern Europe are only sub-varieties.

The Alexander is called a Russian apple, but has no botanical affinity to those previously mentioned. It is evidently of west of Europe origin."

SMALL FRUITS IN BRANT AND OXFORD.

Mr. S. Cornwell, Sec. of the Small Fruit Growers Association, of Brant and Oxford, sends us an extended report of their January meeting, clipped from the *Norwich Gazette*.

Mr. Barnes maintained that the business was profitable and referred to Mr. S. Cornwell's sales of \$900 worth of small fruits in a single season. In order to get the same amount of profit that there would be in these operations, in other lines such as grain and other produce, a pile of hard labor would have to be invested.

Mr. Charlton—Will Mr. Cornwell tell us how he made \$900 out of small fruit that year?

Mr. S. Cornwell—The figure stated is the total price received; the cost of picking has to be taken out of that. My berries sold at 8 cents; I paid 1c.

per quart for picking; and I had three acres bearing. I never had as good crops or prices as that year.

Mr. Chas. Grantham, of Cainsville—I think it is a great mistake to raise on the price of picking to a cent and a quarter.

The Chairman—Yes, those who sell for five cents and give two cents for picking can't be very anxious to make a profit. I had no difficulty in getting pickers at one cent. I had to turn off about half of those who applied for work at that price. All my adult pickers averaged from \$1.50 to \$1.75 per day, and fourteen year old boys and girls earned from 80c. to \$1 per day, with two or three hours rest each day at noon.

Mr. Charlton—I think it is well enough when, like Mr. Cornwell, one can get \$900 for the crop and 8 cents per quart for berries; but many last year sold for three cents. I think that strawberry growing, as generally practised, does not pay. To sell at 3 cents and pay 2 cents for picking was hardly encouraging.

Mr. W. H. Lee, of Cainsville—That sort of thing comes from raising poor fruit, and poor fruit is going to come behind every time, and the further behind it gets the better for the careful grower. It pays to raise good fruit.

The Chairman—There are two men losing to every one who makes, taking large and small together.

Under the head of *Culture of Strawberries*, Mr. D. M. Lee said: In the preparation of land the following precautions might be used to advantage: Choose land that is not too light; strawberries thrive best on heavier soil; his crop was the best in Ontario last year and was grown on clayey ground, almost sticky. Prepare the ground thoroughly; seeds and roots will bother the plant-growth; corn or