

spring. In the year 1898 a consignment of trees was shipped to Belleville, and during inspection it was found that this carload had some scale in it. A list of all the places where the trees had been sent was secured, and everything on which scale could be found was destroyed. This spring the growers of that section became alarmed and sent in a petition to Hon. Mr. Monteith, the Minister of Agriculture, asking for an ex-

amination, and I was ordered to go down. I made a careful examination of those places most convenient to Belleville in which the scale was found in 1898. Although it is now seven years since those trees were destroyed, which would give the scale time enough to make an appearance, still I could not find a single scale. The fact, however, remains that there is more San Jose scale in Ontario than ever before.

### **New Heads for Cherry Trees**

J. L. HILBORN, LEAMINGTON, ONT.

What is the best plan to deal with my lot of 25 cherry trees? They are thrifty and measure one and a half inches through the trunk. I procured them two years ago from the corners of the fences. They grew from the common cherry. I would like to grow new tops of the latest and best varieties. Shall I do it by budding or grafting, and at what time, and should the work be done in a different way from apples?—(J. G. Wait, Wicklow, Ont.)

The cherry cannot be grafted so far as I know. The tops might possibly be changed by budding in early August, but I do not think it advisable to try it. I would grow them as they are, as that is a good variety. The Montmorency is considerably larger, finer and later, but I do not think it practical to change such large trees. They are always budded the first season of their growth.

### **Picking and Handling Apples**

W. H. DEMPSEY, TRENTON, ONT.

**A**PPLES require great care in gathering and handling if the most is to be made of them. They should never be picked until they are matured, well colored, and of full growth yet firm. They should, however, be picked before they have commenced to decay or fall from the tree ripe.

I have found that apples picked under the conditions described, and placed in the fruit house the same day, will keep better than when green or over ripe. When green they are subject to scald in the barrel or box if

the temperature is warm, and if there is any fungous on them it will continue to develop. I have seen hundreds of barrels thrown out from this cause. If over ripe a great many will be found to have decayed by shipping time and many more will decay before they reach the market, and arrive in a wet, waxy condition.

**I Have 1,200 Plum Trees** in bearing, including 60 or 70 varieties. There are two distinct classes of plums, the Domestic and Japanese. The Japan class has a positive brilliant color with a certain pineapple flavoring. It is also claimed to be more exempt from plum rot and the attacks of the curculio. In the domestic class the best varieties are Lombard, Reine Claude, Glass Seedling, Bradshaw, Niagara and Imperial Gage. Of the Japan class the leading varieties are Abundance, Burbank, Wildard, Chabot and Satsuma.—(A. W. Peart, Burlington, Ont.)

**If Trees Are Overloaded** so that they cannot bear fruit to maturity it is better to thin the fruit in August than put props under each limb. The prop I prefer is the removal of the fruit. If the tree has such a load that it cannot hold it up without splitting, by all means remove enough to bring the tree through without injury, so that it will be in a condition to fruit the following season instead of having to wait a year or two to recover from the overload.—(W. H. Dempsey, Trenton, Ont.)