

ance of the services of fruit inspectors in those provinces where such services have been so effective on account of the nascent nature of the fruit interest therein; the inspectors being

used for this purpose whenever not engaged in the actual work of inspection."

The conference was brought to a close by the adoption of resolutions thanking Hon. Mr.

Fisher for the able manner in which he had presided at the various sessions, and with hearty cheers for Canada, for the fruit industry of the Dominion and for Hon. Mr. Fisher.

## Practical Pointers from Practical Persons

Picked up and Penned by A. B. Cutting, B.S.A., Special Representative of The Horticulturist who is visiting the homes of fruit and vegetable growers in the Niagara Peninsula

IT would seem that there is need of more accurate information regarding the preparation and relative quantities of ingredients of the lime-sulphur wash. So many different proportions are advised by different men, and so many different ways are adopted for mixing these proportions that the new beginner, and sometimes the experienced grower, is at a loss to know the best method of procedure. Two questions should be settled, if possible. First, What is the best definite formula for the mixture? and second, Is boiling necessary or is it not? There are some difficulties in the way of answering these questions; yet they are not sufficiently formidable to warrant the many different opinions that exist among fruit growers.

In 1905 the Dept. of Agri. conducted valuable experiments in the use of this mixture. During the present session of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Nelson Monteith stated that a continuation of the work is under consideration. In the interests of the fruit industry, the work not only should be continued but also it should be extended to cover and to settle, as far as practicable, all points at present debatable.

### THE LIME-SULPHUR WASH.

Whether lime and sulphur should be boiled by steam or not is the most disputed point among the users of this popular mixture for San José scale. Many growers believe that steam must be used for accurate results. On the other hand, there are many who boil simply by the energy of the lime in slaking, and with results equally as satisfactory. Among the latter is Mr. J. H. Broderick, of St. Catharines, who claims that the mixture can be boiled without an engine if double the usual amount is prepared at a time. A double quantity of lime is necessary to get a greater amount of heat generated, which is necessary to produce the desired result. Mr. Broderick's method of procedure, step by step, as explained in his own words, is as follows:

"Take a 40-gal. barrel and in it place a hoe with a strong handle, then put in 40 lbs. of best lime (Beachville). In a large pail put 30 lbs. of sulphur, and add enough water to make a paste. Apply then to the lime in the barrel 15 gals. of boiling hot water—and now is the time for the operator to hustle if he ever hustled in his life; immediately after adding the water dump in the sulphur. Over the top of the barrel place a heavy canvas to keep the material from splashing and boiling over, leaving a small vent around the hoe handle for the escape of steam. Keep this cover on the barrel for about 15 minutes, when the violent boiling probably will be stopped, then add about 15 gals. more water. Stir slowly by moving hoe around bottom of barrel—do not raise hoe to let the air in. Allow the mixture to boil about 40 minutes, then add enough warm water to fill the barrel. The mixture then should be strained into another barrel; to do this easily, it is necessary to stir often and well. After straining there will be about 35 gals. of material; this should be diluted sufficiently to make 80 gals. It is then ready for use."

### WOULD AMEND FRUIT PACKAGE LAW.

According to the Canadian Fruit Package Law, practically any basket besides the four specified sizes may be used for shipping fruit, so long as it is stamped plainly on the side in

large black letters with the word "Quart" in full, preceded with the minimum number of quarts the basket will hold when level full. This regulation is very unsatisfactory, as it leads to confusion and, sometimes, indirectly, to dishonest practices. A standard size and no other should be used. A basket stamped in the manner required by law has no meaning to the ordinary consumer, and even to many retail dealers. The fact that a basket is stamped "9 Quarts" or "10 Quarts," as the case may be, makes little or no difference in the selling price of the basket, for usually these small sizes bring as much money in the market as the regulation 11 quart size. Mr. E. D. Smith, M.P., Winona, thinks that this clause should be done away with, or at least it should be changed so as to compel shippers to stamp undersized baskets with the words "1 Quart Short" or "2 Quarts Short," as the case might be. Both suggestions are good. The adoption of either would mean much to further the cause of uniformity and honesty in our fruit packages and packing.

### CO-OPERATION MEANS SUCCESS.

That the development and success of our export commerce in fruits depends on the formation of co-operative organizations amongst growers is the opinion of Mr. P. J. Carey, Dominion Fruit Inspector, Toronto. The co-operative plan, with central packing houses, is the only plan for satisfactory results. Through co-operation, all our fruit may be placed on the market at its very best, and it follows that we will get the very best out of the fruit. Co-operation will give us a better pack—more uniform and more honest. It will do away with the picking of immature fruit. Large quantities of fruit are picked too soon; on the other hand, thousands of barrels of apples are left on the trees too long—this partly accounts for the large percentage of windfalls in some orchards. Co-operative organizations ship only the best grade, the rest is evaporated—a system that commands confidence in foreign markets; individual buyers ship anything and everything, windfalls and all. This destroys confidence, and eventually will cripple our fruit industry. By all means, co-operate!

### UNIFORM QUOTATIONS.

At a meeting of fruit growers held in Beamsville last month, Mr. J. A. Livingston, editor of *The Independent*, Grimsby, made a strong plea for uniform quotations. Different quotations going out from the same locality on the same day, mean depressions in the market and ruination to the fruit business. Un-uniform quotations keep the markets in an unhealthy state. They injure the grower, the dealer, and everybody connected with the industry. All kinds and grades of fruit should be quoted at the price fixed by the law of supply and demand for that particular kind and grade on a particular day. There should be no cut-throat methods in the fruit trade.

### PRUNING SYSTEMS FOR SMALL AREAS.

For small areas, and particularly for the city man's fruit garden, intensive methods of culture and care must be employed. Among other methods of pruning trees for small lots is the fan system. By this method, the trees are kept low and the branches are trained to grow in two opposite directions, all others at

right angles being cut off. The system admits of more trees on a given area, and at the same time it allows inter-cropping one way between the trees. It also tends to produce better quality and color in the fruit, as the sun has a better chance to do its work. This system is being tried by Mr. H. F. Baker, and Mr. J. W. Brennan, of Grimsby, and by others.

Mr. Baker is experimenting also with a modification of the system, as he is growing peaches trained fan-shaped on a wire trellis. The branches are tied in position to the wires. The trees are pruned so as to keep the new wood well back and near the trunk. This system is akin to that used by some French and Italian gardeners in certain parts of their native lands; it may be valuable for its purpose in our own.

### BLACKBERRIES FOR PROFIT.

A modification of the hedge row system of growing blackberries is adopted in the large plantation of Mr. Newton Cossitt, Belvedere Fruit Farm, Grimsby. Instead of growing the canes close together and in wide rows, Mr. Cossitt thins them out to at least 8 in. apart and keeps the canes in line as far as practicable. The main idea of the system is to have a thin narrow row. Many advantages are claimed for the system by Mr. Cossitt: 1. Ease in cultivating and hoeing around the plants. 2. It facilitates the work of picking and marketing. 3. Better quality of berries is secured, due to energy of root system going to develop one cane instead of half a dozen. 4. No loss through immaturity in centre of rows, such as sometimes occurs when rows are wide. 5. Narrow rows can be grown closer together, more plants may be grown to the acre and, as a consequence, a greater yield is secured.

### THE LONGHURST PEACH.

In most peach orchards of the Niagara peninsula the Longhurst is grown in only small quantities or it is discarded altogether. Many growers object to this variety, claiming that it is not profitable, that it requires too much care and manure, and that the fruit is too "fuzzy" and unattractive. On the other hand; there are growers who contend that usually the Longhurst is not given a fair trial.

Mr. J. W. Brennan, Grimsby, said that "the Longhurst is one of the leading commercial varieties grown, when properly taken care of. It must be grown on sandy soil, well fertilized and built up with cover crops. The tree requires regular and systematic pruning; and, above all, the fruit must be well thinned."

The ideas of Mr. W. D. Culp, Beamsville, another champion of the Longhurst, agree with those of Mr. Brennan, except that Mr. Culp has found better results from trees grown on soil somewhat heavier than sand. Mr. Culp said also: "The Longhurst yields annually, but is inclined to overbear; to get size and quality, it should be well pruned and the fruit thinned every year. The 'fuzz' objected to by most growers disappears as size is developed—a large sized Longhurst is comparatively clean in this respect."

### PLANTING SWEET CHERRIES.

"Most growers use two-year old stock when planting sweet cherries," said Mr. W. H. Brand, Jordan Station, "but, for an even stand, it is better to plant one-year old trees. On trees two years old, the fine root fibres are too far