

apples. (We are planning to publish cuts from these photographs in our next issue.—Ed.) These will show an abundant crop. Every tree carried all or more than the limbs should bear and compared splendidly with other varieties in the orchard. The nature of the early formation of the apple shows almost entire protection from the frost or damage from continued rain, guaranteeing a distinct advantage over any other variety, as illustrated by the crop the first year, while other varieties all failed.

Fifth, as to the size of the apple, the specimens presented to you with this report, which I personally plucked from the trees without a ladder, show a satisfactory average size, but without a tinge of color. I can wholly endorse the opinion of Prof. Crowley, sent to inspect for the Orange Judd Company of New York, that "they compare favorably in size with the Ben Davis or Baldwin, the average showing rather better than the latter variety."

Their keeping quality has been tested already, and sufficient proof is at hand to show they stand the test. Mr. Spencer will pick his present crop about the middle of October, and says they will be at their best about the first of March following.

There only remains for consideration the quality of the mature apple. At this date it is impossible from personal observation to form any accurate judgment of the flavor, but I can say that the texture is firm, solid and juicy. A few months hence, I hope to settle, according to my own taste, the point of flavor, which opinion I can only hope may express that of the majority who may have the opportunity of using it. In the meantime, I can only fall back on the opinion of other disinterested parties. Mr. Maynard, secretary of the National Association of Gardeners, says: "It is similar in flavor to the Baldwin, but more juicy, and in this respect, as well as in its apparent cooking qualities, similar to the Greening. The meat is firm, the texture fine and smooth and the quality of the flavor very good." Prof. Alex. Glehan, president of the West Virginia Horticultural Society, and J. F. Moore, join in the following statement: "In color the fruit is a dark, rich red with small yellow dots sprinkled over its surface. It is strictly a winter variety, not being ready for the market before the last of October, and in flavor compares favorably with the Wine Sap, and is a better keeper and shipper than the Ben Davis, the skin being smooth and firm but not undesirably tough."

From the above it would seem that the Spencer Seedless apple has, in my judgment, all the qualities necessary to make it a success as a "commercial apple." Added to this is the seedless

characteristic, which will, as an attractive table apple, as a No. 1 cooking apple without seeds or core, as well as an evaporating apple, give it a value for many years far in advance of other varieties and which at the present time can scarcely be estimated.

Every apple of this variety, like every seedless orange, is not entirely without a seed. I was given a full liberty to pick and cut as many apples as I desired. I made full use of this privilege. The vast majority of the apples were absolutely seedless, but occasionally an apple, especially when taken from the side of the trees adjacent to the other varieties, showed one seed, seldom perfect, and apparently squeezed into the flesh of the apple, in one case within half an inch of the flower end, indicating that it had been caused by pollen from trees of another variety. This theory seems all the more plausible according to Mr. Spencer's view, because the proportion of single seeds found is always greater in a season where high winds prevail at the time the apples are in blossom.

A few words may be acceptable as to its history. The apple has not been originated by the operation of any special genius on the part of Mr. Spencer, except it be the genius to experiment continuously with the hope that something of value might some time be the result. In that spirit, Mr. Spencer has year after year planted apple seeds, watching especially anything peculiar. In the course of these operations he found the first seedless apple tree, which tree Mr. Spencer declares has been greatly improved by careful selection in budding and grafting. He has since then found other trees with peculiarities, which have yet to be tested as to their real value. He has a fondness for this kind of work, and continues it year after year. He believes he has the theory out of which will also come the stoneless peach and the pitless plum. Whatever the individuals may do or say whose business is disturbed by these strange freaks of nature, the general public should, and I believe will, hail them with delight, and give to such men as Mr. Spencer every encouragement in the production of superior varieties.

My personal conclusions are that the Spencer Seedless variety will force its way to a front place: Because as a "commercial apple" it has *intrinsic merit*; it matures and comes into bearing early; it has a beautiful appearance; it produces a good crop; it is a good medium size; and, being solid all through, produces more meat than a larger apple with the obnoxious seeds and core. According to the best evidence, its quality and texture are No. 1, while its keeping qualities are

excellent. Without question, these characteristics give it the highest value among all other varieties.—(Signed) JOHN DRYDEN.

### Preparing For Strawberries

The preparation of land for a new patch of strawberries is work that should be done this fall. Perhaps some of the readers of THE HORTICULTURIST have a piece of old sod land that they purpose to plant with strawberries. If so, the first consideration is to destroy the quantities of white grubs that always exist in such land. To do this, plow the land before cold weather sets in, and let it lie thus all winter.

In the early spring, plow again, harrow and sow some crop that can be cultivated during the summer. By the next fall, or at most the following spring, the land will be in the best shape for strawberries. The exposure in the upturned sod during the previous winter and the following cultivated crop will have destroyed the great majority of the white grubs, and the ground will be in an excellent state of cultivation.

### Signs and Omens

Rabbits' feet are said to be lucky—but not in an orchard of young trees.

A boy stealing apples at night portends trouble—if you are a good shot.

It is a bad sign to see a neglected orchard on Friday—or any other day.

If you see a vision of greenbacks when you harvest your apples this fall, it is a sign of good times.

A few tons of manure scattered on an acre of orchard soil in the dark of the moon will conjure large crops.

A plow or a harrow standing on the lee side of a wire fence in rainy weather is a sign of hard times ahead for the owner.

To sell 13 peaches for a dozen on the 13th of the month, or any other day, is a sign of generosity on your part and good luck for the other fellow.

If you subscribe for THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST on Monday or Tuesday, or Wednesday, or Thursday, or Friday, or Saturday, or Sunday, you will be happy as long as it continues to come.

Little apples, wormy apples, deformed apples, and apples that are not apples, in the middle of a barrel is a sign that the packer is a fakir—and the goblins'll get him if he don't watch out.

When webs of fall web-worm are observed, either cut out the branches to which the web is fastened and burn, or destroy nests while on tree by holding a lighted torch beneath it.