

prevent the orchard being robbed. Of course if soil and location are suitable proximity to the house should be recommended for convenience sake. Frequently very indifferent fences, if any, surround the family orchard. It is commoner to see horses and cows browsing under the trees nipping off the tender growth of branches, undisturbed, unless the good wife can spare time from her many and arduous duties to drive off the intruders.

The Orchard is periodically manured by heaping up a little mound of it *against* the trunk, as if that were all that were necessary.—*It is starvation*—Along with starvation there are pretty sure to be insect depredators. The Borer gets into the trunk; the Tent Caterpillar preys on the leaves and the Codling moth worm devours the fruit.

The trees, if pruned at all, are desperately amputated in the larger limbs, with stumps left to project and decay, as if the one idea was to get as much firewood as possible without regard to symmetry of tree or the prevention of interlacing of the branches. Is it strange, is it surprising, that with such treatment one frequently hears the complaint: I've often tried to raise fruit "*but have always failed?*"

There is no reason why every farmer should not have enough fruit for his family use to last through the whole year, and enough to sell too at a good profit.

Only go to work determined to win, displaying as much intelligence as you do in raising your calves, pigs and poultry and you will succeed.

Now, as to what the Farmer's Orchard should be.

First choose ground that is naturally drained or that can be easily drained. You can grow apples on a great variety of soils but they seldom thrive on *very dry* sands or soils saturated with moisture. The favorite soil is a strong loam of a calcareous or limestone nature such as that in the vicinity of Montreal Mountain, or a deep gravelly, marly or clayey loam or sandy loam on a gravelly subsoil are best adapted to apple growing. A sandy soil is so porous that it does not retain moisture long enough, and all the soluble parts of manure are quickly washed out of it, and therefore there is great difficulty in growing an orchard on *dry* sandy soil. In such cases the addition of clay and manure is recommended as beneficial.

A clay soil, in which clay predominates, is defective inasmuch as it retains moisture too long, and in dry weather becomes hard, baked, and impervious to light showers. Such soils must be underdrained and an application of sand or muck is recommended. Although the apple tree requires a rather moist soil, wet soils are most unsuitable. If a young orchard tree in the spring, after the snow has disappeared stands in wet soil it cannot live. I have always endeavoured to plant my trees on sloping ground (and I believe that Orchards on northern