

Issued  
Each Week

# FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME

Only \$1.00  
a Year

Vol. XXIX.

FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 23, 1910.

No. 25

## THE POSSIBILITIES OF APPLE GROWING BEING DEMONSTRATED

Illustration Orchards Have Been Established in the Georgian Bay District, Ont. Natural Conditions Most Favorable to the Production of Apples. Trees Sadly Neglected. A Solution of the Situation

**W**ONDERFUL possibilities lie before the apple growers of the Georgian Bay District. It is the home of the Spy. Other valuable commercial sorts as well as all seem to be especially adapted to the prevailing soil and climatic conditions. The rank and file of orchardists in the district, however, heretofore, as outlined briefly in Farm and Dairy last week, have not been alive to their opportunities in respect to apple growing, and while there is on practically every farm from one to 10 acres of orchard, the trees have been



I. F. Metcalfe

neglected until they are in a sad state and quite incapable of returning fair profits until placed under better management.

### AN ERA OF AWAKENING.

The district, so far as apple growing is concerned, is now entering on an era of great awakening. The possibilities of the apple orchards are being proved in a most practical way by means of demonstration orchards. The township of Nottawasaga, which is in Simcoe County, and borders on the Bay, has been organized by the district representative of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, I. F. Metcalfe, B.S.A., and six orchards, located at advantageous points, have been selected for the work of demonstrating to the fruit growers how to prune, spray and cultivate their orchards. It is expected ultimately to show that there is a remarkably good profit in orchards when properly managed.

The orchards selected for the work of demonstration are all located on main roads. Large signs draw the attention of all passers by to the work that is being done. The remarkably improved appearance of the orchards since they have been renovated and the practical demonstrations in pruning and spraying in all of the six orchards to which the farmers were invited, have aroused great interest. The work so far has included scraping, pruning and spraying the trees, and manuring and cultivating the orchards. Shortly the orchards will be seeded down to some cover crop, which will check the growth of the wood and allow it to mature before the cold weather of winter must be endured. Three sprayings in all will be given during the season. These, it is thought, will be sufficient, since there is only one

brood of the codling moth in this northern district. With the exception of one of the orchards where part of the trees were sprayed with Bordeaux, commercial lime-sulphur diluted one to 40, and arsenate of lead, three pounds to the barrel, is the spray mixture used.

### NOTHING COMPLICATED ABOUT THE WORK.

The spray outfit used for demonstrating is of a very ordinary kind. The wagon and tower were fitted up by the owner of one of the orchards; the outfit is such as any farmer might make for himself. The work is being done in the simplest manner possible, and materials in their most convenient form are being employed. Afterwards, if the farmers of the district care to go into spraying on a wholesale plan, the home-made spray preparations will be given a trial.



Some Effects of the Influence of the Orchard Demonstrations

This illustration, taken in an orchard near Collingwood, Ont., near one of the demonstration orchards, shows how many farmers, are starting in to improve their orchards. The lower branches of these naturally low headed trees were pruned off most improperly. The owner meant well, but did not know how to do the work. The Department, through the District Representative, I. F. Metcalfe, B.S.A., is prepared to show farmers in the district just how to properly care for their orchards.

—Photo by an Editor of Farm and Dairy.

The orchards are located on the farms of the following men: W. Hamilton, Collingwood; W. J. Owens, Duntroon; C. Campbell, Stayner; R. Steele, Cashtown; S. Blackburn, Creemore; John Osborne, Duncedin. These orchards are representative of orchards in the district, some of them being equal to the worst before they were taken over by the Department.

### CONDITIONS IN THE ORCHARDS.

The orchard on Mr. Hamilton's farm when taken over was in sod. It was simply dying because of the oyster-shell bark louse. The orchard was most favorable for the work, since the trees were comparatively young and were not so large but

that something good could be made out of them. Several trees of the lot are left unpruned and unsprayed. These contain dead limbs, which on examination prove to be covered with the oyster-shell bark louse, their presence not having been suspected by the farmers, who wondered what killed the limbs. Mr. Hamilton's orchard at the time it was inspected by an editor of Farm and Dairy had taken on an appearance quite the equal of the best cared for orchards in other noted apple districts.

It was thought by many farmers that the orchard at Duntroon on Mr. Owens' farm could not be cultivated. It had previously been in sod—not unlike the other orchards taken over by the Department and practically like all the orchards in the district. Part of this orchard is of medium sized trees. These have been put into excellent shape, while some remarkable transformations have been worked in connection with the older trees in the other part. Many of the trees, in fact, most of them, had years ago been grafted to good commercial varieties, but these grafts had been allowed to shoot up unpruned and uncared for. Now this orchard is a very respectable one, and Mr. Owens is greatly pleased with the work that has been done.

### UNPROMISING PROSPECTS.

Probably the worst proposition of the six was encountered in the orchard, taken over at Stayner on Mr. Campbell's farm. The trees were very old. They were high, thick in the tops and full of dead wood. Some great object lessons in pruning are to be found in this orchard, and they show what it is possible to do even with the worst of apple trees. This orchard has probably been set out for over 50 years.

The demonstration orchard at Cashtown on Mr. Steele's farm is by no means a promising one. The trees are scattered. They were previously so full of dead wood that the greater part of some of them had to be trimmed out. If it is possible to get results from this orchard, there is great hope for any other orchard, no matter how bad anticipated no exceptional results are anticipated from this orchard as a whole, good results are looked for from individual trees.

### A CHARACTERISTIC ORCHARD.

A very unpromising, neglected orchard was taken over from Mr. Samuel Blackburn, Creemore. There was so much dead wood and fallen limbs in it that it was quite impossible to drive a rig through at all until a lot of it had been cleared away. The orchard is only a little more than one acre in extent, yet the pile of firewood obtained from the trimmings of these trees would keep the average farm house cook stove supplied with fuel for many months. Mr. Blackburn had thought this orchard to be a hopeless proposition and had