



PROF. F. C. SEARS.

Maritime Fruit Interests.

The past year has, on the whole, been a most prosperous one for the Maritime fruit-growers. Crops have been good and prices satisfactory, and though there have been vexations in the way of high freight rates and the poor condition of some cargoes of apples arriving in England, still, on the whole, the outlook is hopeful and the fruit industry is more firmly established than ever.

The apple crop was peculiar in several respects. Perhaps never before in the history of the business has a finer, fairer crop of fruit been produced, taking the Province as a whole; but while one section is blessed with a remarkably abundant crop, another section, perhaps not more than four or five miles distant, has a very light crop. Doubtless methods of culture, spraying and fertilizing are to a large extent responsible for this, yet there must, in some cases at least, be some other factor involved, and we are inclined to think that factor is local frost or exposure to cold winds in blossoming time. This variability is found throughout the Annapolis, Cornwallis and Gaspereaux valleys.

The old and perennial question of varieties is again coming to the front. We undoubtedly grow too many varieties in these Provinces, but it is equally true that we haven't enough sorts that are exactly suited to our climate and markets. If Nova Scotia would hold to the growing of the better kinds of apples in which she excels, and would cease to go astray after strange gods, which she does when she attempts to grow Ben Davis in competition with Missouri and Arkansas, I believe the results would be better. I am quite aware that some men in Nova Scotia have made more money out of Ben Davis than almost any other variety, but I do not believe that this can continue indefinitely, for the Ben Davis of the west (from Illinois to Arkansas) is a better apple than that grown here in the Maritime Provinces, and even the western article is none too good. Buyers and consumers are finding this out and will discriminate against our product, and we have been assured by one of the leading commission men of London that the demand for Ben Davis is visibly declining. In further evidence of this fact, notice what was said recently by the Austrian gentleman, Mr. F. A. Wanniech, who proposes to ship apples to America, namely, that "one reason why American apples are not more popular on the Continent (Europe) is that your exporters send us comparatively few varieties aside from the Ben Davis, which has no virtues but its beautiful colors and shipping qualities."

In connection with the evolution of varieties in Nova Scotia, it is interesting to note that the old reliable Baldwin is coming into favor again (not that it was ever very much out of favor), and will be more largely planted the coming spring than for years.

Another interesting feature of this variety question is the discussion now going on as to whether we shall abandon the growing of the Gravenstein in Nova Scotia, for the lack of boats suitably ventilated to carry them to England in marketable condition. It certainly seems to have come to a choice between these two—better boats or harder fruit; and even the hard fruit would be the better for more fresh air in transportation. Some of the boats provided seem to be sufficiently ventilated, and apples going for-

ward in them arrive all right; but other boats, apparently, cannot land a cargo of our softer varieties, notably the Gravenstein (shipped as they are during comparatively warm weather), in such condition as to be satisfactory.

What to do with our culls is another question which it seems difficult to settle to the satisfaction of everybody. Heretofore many growers have been in the habit of sending them to the English markets, marked simply Baldwins or Gravensteins, etc., as the case might be, and with no grade marked at all. Barrels were branded with some private mark, instead of the owner's name, to indicate ownership and secure consignment to the proper commission house. These barrels were then opened and sold on their merits for what they would bring. While this method offered an outlet for poor fruit, it is questionable whether the depressing effect of such fruit on the market did not ultimately cause more loss than the amount received for the apples. But whether this was so or not, the Fruit Marks Act will put a stop to the practice, and in future the only way for growers to do, if they wish to ship their culls, will be to shoulder the responsibility themselves. Most of the large growers, at least, will hesitate to do this, on account of its inevitable injury to the reputation of their brand. Therefore some other disposition of the culls becomes even more imperative than in the past, and the utilizing of such fruit in canning, evaporating, and in the manufacture of marmalades, fruit butter, etc., would take them out of the fresh-fruit market and put them in a form where their small size and somewhat poorer quality would be no serious objection. No one minds eating poor fruit if it is disguised so that he doesn't know it. One small canning factory has been established at Kingston, N. S., and another at Kentville, and each is doing a very good business, having no difficulty in dis-

about the middle of July. This crop is allowed to remain on the land until the following spring, and is then plowed under. It is true there are some orchards which are in sod and yet give good returns, but as a rule cultivation seems necessary in order to secure satisfactory crops of large-sized apples; yet the results of cultivation are not altogether advantageous, for along with increase in the size of the fruit comes, apparently, greater susceptibility to fungous attacks and a lowering of the standard of quality, and undoubtedly a tendency for the fruit, to lose its keeping qualities. There is much reliable evidence in support of all these undesirable changes, and while no one would, as yet, think of abandoning cultivation on account of them, yet the fact of their existence causes some of the best growers in Nova Scotia to feel that the problem of the best method of caring for the lands in orchard has not yet been satisfactorily solved. F. C. SEARS.

Nova Scotia School of Horticulture.

Ontario: Old and New.

"UPPER Canada," the old name of the Province of Ontario, betokened advancement, and, coupled with the wealth of its natural resources, the pursuit of an enlightened and progressive system of agriculture has been the distinguishing characteristic of its people. This ever-increasing quest for knowledge has manifested itself in scores of ways, such as the agricultural college, dairy schools, experimental fruit stations, farmers' institutes, the educational exhibition, the Agricultural Press, the demand for agricultural or natural science teaching in the public schools, and the call for agricultural books and libraries. Not long ago a local farmers' institute secured through the "Farmer's Advocate" an excellent library of some 50 works on agriculture, and in a short time, so well satisfied were they with their choice and so certain of its value, that a duplicate library was ordered, in order that both ends of the county might enjoy its advantages. All this has resulted in making agriculture in its various departments wonderfully successful. What is called "New Ontario" is that vast area north and west of old Ontario as far as the Manitoba boundary, containing millions of acres of rich, well-watered agricultural lands, besides untold resources, just beginning to be developed, of timber and minerals. Railways and colonization roads are being built, sawmills, pulp mills and other great enterprises are under way, backed by a tremendous spirit of enterprise. The up-springing towns and villages will consume all the agricultural products that the new settlers have to spare, and more. We had a call lately from a gentleman from Dawson City, who told of what the Yukon could produce in vegetables and other crops in a semi-arctic region. It was a revelation, true, but said he: "If such can be accomplished there, more than a thousand miles north of the main line of the C. P. R., no man can adequately forecast the future of New Ontario, with all its favored natural conditions and convenient transportation facilities! Its possibilities are simply beyond computation, especially since it is backed by the accumulative intelligence and enterprise of the older sections of the Province, which long ago made its mark in the records of national achievement."

The boats on the old Miami and Erie Canal, 200 miles long, will hereafter be drawn by electric trolley cars, instead of mules, and the cars which tow the boats will also carry passengers.



COVER CROP CRIMSON CLOVER.

In the orchard of J. Elliott Smith, Wolfville, N. S.

posing of all the apples they can put up, at remunerative prices. Undoubtedly this method of converting the drops and culls into a marketable product is the best one for all concerned, and its more general adoption is greatly to be desired.

In orchard management, there seems to be a gradual extension of the method of cultivating the land during the spring and early summer, and then sowing some cover crop, usually about July 15th. This allows time for the cover crop to make a good growth before autumn, as is shown in our illustration, taken in the orchard of Mr. J. Elliott Smith, of Wolfville, where ten pounds of crimson-clover seed per acre is sown each year.



GASPEREAUX VALLEY, KING'S CO., N. S.