

* The Farm. *

The Best Location for an Orchard.

At a meeting of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Mr. Hiller advocated low situations for orchards, and exhibited a Baldwin apple that grew on a tree which stood ten feet from a little rivulet, the bottom of which was eighteen inches below the surface, and stated that his Baldwin apples which grew on trees standing on high ground were of inferior size and keeping qualities. If the facts were as stated, and no doubt they were, it was probably a drouthy year, and the tree that bore so well obtained all the moisture it needed by extending its roots toward the rivulet, while the trees on the high ground were suffering from thirst. It is a repetition of the story in the First Psalm of David of "a tree planted by rivers of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season, and his leaf shall not wither."

My experience is that well drained lowland is just as favorable a location for an orchard as the hillside, and I have had experience with both locations. Fruit trees, like all other trees intended for dry land, will not flourish with constant wet feet and will die in stagnant water. Land lying along rivers usually has good natural drainage, being of a sandy texture and underlaid with gravel. Orchards planted on the alluvial soil along the Susquehanna have universally lived long and borne well.

Situations sheltered from the northwest winds are the most favorable for orchards, and there is not much doubt that it would pay in the long run in all the Eastern, Middle and Western States to plant windbreaks of valuable timber trees to the northwestward of the orchards to protect them from the chilling blasts of winter. These windbreaks might not only fulfil the purpose for which they were designed, but become a source of revenue themselves in raising timber.

Mr. Scherer, of Berks County, Penn., says: "I have a small orchard in Olney Township that is surrounded by a locust belt, and I believe I can raise more apples than any man in the township. I attribute my success to the protection given my orchard."

Professor Schribner, of Maine, says: My orchard is largely on the southeast slope of a hill, and there is not another in the State that has produced larger crops of fruit. It is protected on the north by a forest and on the west by a white cedar hedge, which make a very dense and valuable shelter. A neighbor's orchard is protected by a hedge of white pine, which in ten years grew to be twenty feet high. It is the practice in Maine to shelter orchards, and I believe it brings good results."

Mr. McFarland, of Pennsylvania, says: "In the counties of Blair and Cambria in every sheltered nook they have unfailing crops of apples, which I attribute to the sheltered locations."

Cold air, being heavier than warm air, will sometimes descend suddenly into the valleys and drive the warmer air out up the sides of the hills, and the fruit buds in the valleys will be killed by a spring frost, while those on the hills may escape. On this account some orchardists advocate hill and hillside planting as being the more favorable location, but my experience is that a difference of eighty feet in altitude has made only little difference in preventing frost on the higher ground. We never had the fruit killed in the lower orchard, and were fortunate enough to have it escape in the higher one.

The Baldwin, the Rhode Island Greening and the Roxbury Russet can be grown in New-England up to 44 degrees north latitude in sheltered situations, but not much above 43 degrees in unsheltered situations.—(J. W. Ingham.

Some Things It Won't Pay to Do.

The following are some of the things it is not profitable for the farmer to do: He should not try to farm without manure, and should not plant more acres than he can take good care of. He should not work with old and poor tools nor sow un-

clean seed. He must not keep poor stock, as a poor cow eats as much as a good one. He should not buy at public sales what is not needed simply because it sells cheap. Hogs, sheep and cattle should not be allowed to wander at their will over their owner's and the neighbors' premises. The barnyard should not drain into the public road nor into a stream, as is often the case. Cattle should not be allowed to eat fodder from the stack; it saves a little labor, but waste will make the farmer poor. To leave tools of any kind lying out in the weather or to put them away uncleaned is a bad practice. Cattle must not be turned out onto bare fields in cold weather. An orchard should not be planted and the cattle allowed to browse the trees. Vacant places should not be left in a young orchard, nor should a young orchard remain in grass too long. Of course, all farmers know weeds should not be allowed to occupy any portion of the farm, and bushes should not occupy several rods of ground along the fence or road. It is a thoughtless and very dangerous thing for a farmer to put his name on any paper presented by a stranger. It is careless to buy trees of a perfect stranger, also groceries and such articles as are easily adulterated. Nine times out of ten one will be cheated by so doing. Buy of your home merchants.—(G. W. Clark, in *Prairie Farmer*.

*** STATEMENTS. ***

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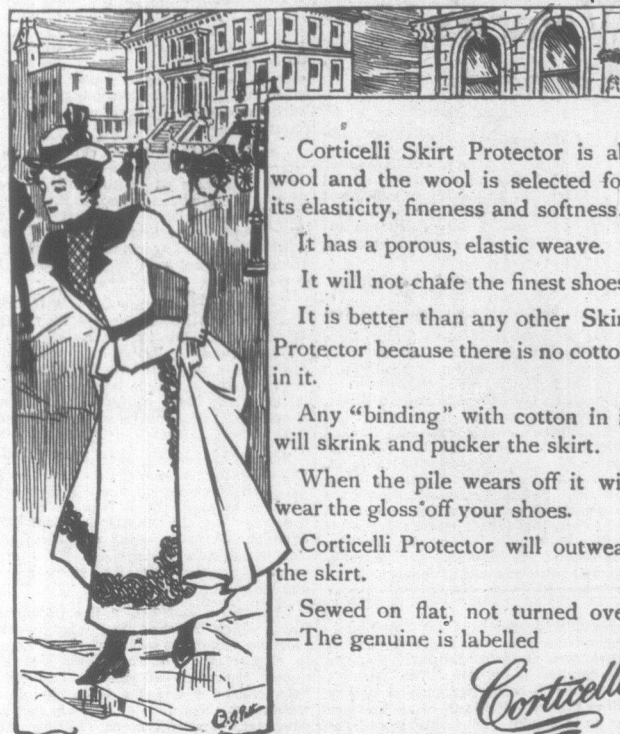
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HALIFAX, N. S.

Wednesday afternoon, near Riverside, the C. F. R. express instantly killed an aged woman, Mrs. Lavinia Ann Pierce, who endeavored to cross the railway track just as the express came along. She was very deaf. Her skull was badly fractured and death was instantaneous. The body was taken to Rotherham, where the deceased made her home with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. William Walker.

James Fitzharris and Joseph Mullet, the two ex-convicts who were excluded by the

board of special enquiry at the barge office at New York last Sunday, were given a rehearing Tuesday. Former Judge George M. Curtis made a lengthy argument for their admission. The motion was denied and Judge Curtis then gave notice that he would appeal against the decision of the board to the secretary of the treasury. The two men were taken back to Ellis Island to remain until a decision in the case is rendered.