

We are persuaded that the best and easiest way to overcome this evil is to turn the pigs into the orchard. Mr. Ritchie, of Bayfield, has done this for years, and has almost ceased to fear the ravages of the codling moth.

Mr. Springer, Wellington Square, employs bands of empty salt bags, tied around the trunks, and examines the bands once or twice a week for the pupæ and unchanged larvæ. He has almost got rid of this destructive pest.

CANKER WORMS.

We are not concerned about the different kinds of canker worms—it is enough for us that we and others have to lament their cruel ravages. Lately, at the State Fair at Rochester, in conversation with a veteran horticulturist, he declared that a fresh tar band around the apple tree trunks effectually checked the larvæ. The female is wingless, and if the tarry band is freshened with repeated applications, a stop is put to the depredation. These bands should be applied after the apple crop is secured in the fall, and kept up till the month of June.

THE "AMERICANA SYLVATICA."

The ravages of this caterpillar have been most destructive over a large portion of Ontario during the present season. Had a fire passed through our orchards it could not have left our apple trees under more barren poles. The eggs of this pest are dexterously glued to the terminal branches of the trees in the months of August and September, and continue there till the 15th or 20th of May. At the first approach of genial weather they develop into perfect caterpillars, and commence the work of destruction. At night they congregate in a crotch or fork, and can easily be destroyed by an application of the spirits of ammonia. This may be done by means of a sponge, or other convenient appliance.

THE PEAR TREE LEAF SLUG.

This offensive pest may be destroyed with a home-made sand or dry earth pepper-box. A thorough application once or twice in spring, and again in September, when the second brood appear, will effectually rid the orchard of this pest.

BLIGHT ON THE APPLE AND PEAR TREE.

For some years this disease has been very prevalent throughout Ontario, and in some of the Northern States of the Union. Its characteristics this season have been entirely different from those of former years. It has attacked the tips of the young apple trees, the fruit buds of the pear, and has generally ceased its ravages after penetrating the branches a few inches beyond the first affected parts. We may truthfully affirm that most people are in entire ignorance of the causes of this disease. We are inclined to lay the burden of the offence on Boreas. His cold winds injure the tender stems, disorganize the sap vessels, and leave the limbs a blighted mass. If proof were needed, it might be found in the double blightness of the past spring, accompanying two frosty nights. *Fungus* may be a philosophical word, and men may use it philosophically enough, but to me it would seem when the vital organisms of the apple and pear are injured by the cold, that the matter of which the branches are composed assumes other shapes, develops other organisms, and appears to our inspection as *fungoid* excrescences, which, for want of better terms, we call *fungus*.

I have again greatly trespassed on your patience and forbearance by my lengthened address. My only apology is a desire to further the interests of horticulture, not so much among the members of the F. G. A. of Ontario now present, who are intimately acquainted with these matters, as among a large and increasing class in our Province, who are acquiring town and country lots, to whom the pleasures and profits of horticulture are little known and less appreciated. If any of you think it a queer way to do this by exhibiting the difficulties attaching to fruit culture, I merely answer, to be forewarned is to be forearmed. Difficulties overcome add to the zest of the pleasures realized. There are few valuable and pleasurable occupations without corresponding drawbacks.

Pursue, gentlemen, your laudable and successful efforts for the furtherance of fruit interests, and your self-denying labors will in the end be crowned with the plaudits of an enriched, happy and contented people. Flag not, until you have diffused the civilizing influences of Pomona throughout the length and breadth of our land; remit no effort to bring horticulture into favorable repute, until every farmer and possessor of land derives the advan-

tages which you so fully estimate, and which are to be so successfully obtained from the cultivation of fruit and fruit-trees. Many portions of our Province have as yet scarcely heard of your efforts. Cease not to agitate horticultural questions and interests until every township has its show, and at every Provincial Exhibition the tables groan with the rich and luscious products of Pomona.

The address was listened to most attentively. At its close,

Mr. Wm. Saunders, of London, moved a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, and spoke very highly of its general excellence. He also added the request that the report be furnished the Secretary, and published in the annual proceedings of the Association.

Mr. H. M. Switzer, of Palermo, seconded the motion, which was unanimously passed.

Mr. Legg, of Stratford, gave his experience as to the eradication of caterpillars, saying in his district they were the greatest pests in July, and if overcome then they were easily got the better of.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

Mr. Mackenzie-Bowell, M.P., proposed the re-election of Dr. Burnett, complimenting him highly on his abilities.

Mr. Mackenzie Ross, of Chatham, seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Wm. Saunders moved, and it was seconded, the election of Mr. Wm. Haskins as Vice-President. Carried.

The following Directors were elected:—No. 1 District, John Croyle, Aultsville; No. 2, P. E. Bucke, Ottawa; No. 3, F. H. Hora, Glen Lawrence; No. 4, P. C. Dempsey, Aldbury; No. 5, G. B. Salter, Port Hope; No. 6, Geo. Leslie, jr., Toronto; No. 7, Oliver Springer, Wellington Square; No. 8, A. M. Smith, Drummondville; No. 9, Chas. Arnold, Paris; No. 10, Wm. Roy, Owen Sound; No. 11, Wm. Saunders, London; No. 12, Mackenzie Ross, Chatham; No. 13, H. Robinson, Collingwood.

These directors, who represent the thirteen electoral districts of the Province, subsequently met, and re-elected D. W. Beadle, of St. Catharines, as Secretary-Treasurer.

Plum Culture in Canada.

At the meeting at Stratford of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, the President, introduced the subject of "Plum Culture—Can it be made Profitable in Ontario, and What are the Best Sorts?"

Mr. Street thought the soil and climate were well adapted for plum culture, and that they could be profitably raised. He had grown very fine plums from wild stock. He cultivated several kinds, but considered the Lombard the best.

Mr. Jarvis had been very successful except within the past few years, since the curculio had made its appearance. The quantity of the fruit was equal to any he had ever seen. He believed the curculio was not so bad in the country districts, where they still raised large crops. He had tried every method of exterminating the curculio, but had found none so effective as putting sheets under the trees, then dislodging the insects by jarring them, when they were easily killed. He preferred the English Green Gage.

Mr. Buchan recommended the Lombard as a sure grower.

Chief Johnson cultivated principally the Washington, Lombard and Victoria, and had a large crop this year. His trees were watched every day, and every plum that fell was gathered and burned. The ashes, fresh from the stove, were put at the foot of the trees. This year he had mixed slaked lime and ashes, and scattered them over the trees early in the morning with good results.

Mr. Freed said the practice in Hamilton was to shake the trees, and allow the fowls to pick them up.

Mr. S. H. Mitchell had found plum raising very profitable a few years ago, but it was not so now on account of the curculio. He thought he had wasted more time killing the insect than the fruit was worth; it didn't pay to keep old trees; twelve years was long enough; he had not suffered much from the black knot, but recommended growers to get rid of the common blue plum, which was the most affected by this disease. He raised the Washington, Gen. Hand, Imperial Gage, Reine, Claude de Bavay, the latter of which he considered a very fine variety, pretty free from curculio, but the Lombard was preferable for profit.

Mr. Legge preferred the common blue plum.

Mr. A. Smith, Shakespeare, thought blue plums very liable to black knot; he considered plums a profitable crop.

Col. Roy grew all kinds of plums; in the neighborhood of Owen Sound there were no curculio, and the crops were very large. He thought as soon as a plum tree began to fail, another should be planted alongside it.

Col. Magill grew about twenty-four varieties, the most profitable being Lombard, Yellow Egg, Bradshaw and Duane's purple; the English Gage was also good. He allowed the curculio to have its own way.

Mr. Gray considered that dark plums were the most affected with the black knot.

Mr. Saunders described the black knot, which was a plant growth, and disseminated spores from which other knots grew. Size and color were wanted for market; he would favor the growing of large handsome fruit; the Bradshaw was an early fruit and always sold well. He thought the curculio could be fought successfully. The rotting of the fruit was, in his opinion, due to atmospheric causes.

Rev. Mr. Campbell said a great many plums of the commoner varieties had been planted in the Niagara district within the last few years, as it was found they were the best for market. The black knot had disappeared, though it was destructive a few years ago.

Mr. Kettlewell was satisfied plums could be made profitable. He considered that the curculio might be kept down, and the result paid for the work.

Mr. Clarke had banished the blue plum, and with it the black knot had disappeared. In his opinion plum culture was very profitable. He favored Blecker's Yellow Gage after the Lombard. It was a heavy crop.

Mr. Buck said that in the Ottawa district only wild plums could be cultivated, the frost killed the tame varieties.

Mr. Arnold thought it was doubtful whether destroying curculios paid for the trouble. Pond's Seedlings paid him best. He thought nothing of the Wild Goose plum or the Italian. The cause of plums rotting on the branches was probably fermentation.

The President urged all farmers to destroy their blue plums to avoid the knot.

Fall Setting.

As to fall setting of raspberries and blackberries, the *Fruit Recorder* says:—

Last year we urged upon our readers the importance of setting these in the fall; another year's trial has more fully convinced us of its importance. Last fall we set out about two acres, hilling up the plants well when set, and the past spring we set as many more. To-day those set in the fall are fully double the size of those set in the spring, and the failures to grow will number four times as many in the spring planting as in the fall; besides, there is so much more time in the fall than in spring, to do the work.

By setting in the fall, and a small quantity of manure thrown over each hill, the soakings from this going to the roots of the plants gives them double the start next spring.

One important point in the growing of small fruits, for either family use or market, is to get as large a growth as possible on the plant or vine the first year, for in proportion to their growth, so will they yield.

Mr. Charles Downing, Newburg, N. Y., writes as follows about fire-blight in pear and apple:—Your friend seems very despondent about his blighted trees—and I am sorry to say that no remedy that I am aware of has been given. I have tried all the cures without avail. When it first appeared here, more than sixty years since, it was very severe, and, as near as I recollect, nearly every pear tree in this town died with it. My father kept cutting as fast as the blight appeared, until he cut down every tree on the place. I remember one stump, 3 feet high and 8 inches in diameter, was left, which sprouted and made a fine bearing tree. My father then had no nursery, but twenty years after, when the blight came again, he had a good stock of nursery trees, half of which, with one-third of his bearing trees, died with the blight. The third visitation of blight was much