

thus keeping the air pure. It can also be advantageously spread over the manure heap when the decomposition is too rapid, thus preventing the loss of ammonia.

#### Effect of the Colonial Exhibition upon Canadian Fruit Culture.

We have published extensive accounts of what the Colonial and Indian Exhibition has done for our dairying interests; and it now remains to be said what effects the exhibition has had upon our fruit industry. Our country is to be congratulated on her good fortune in having had such an indefatigable worker as Prof. Saunders to represent her fruit interests, and in his no less able and conscientious successor, Mr. A. McD. Allan, the now president of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association. The exertions of these gentlemen have resulted in incalculable benefits to our farmers and fruit growers, having brought our fruits conspicuously before the principal dealers in the leading markets of Britain and other countries, and having popularized the name of Canada where everything was previously regarded as American. Mr. Allan has proved the success of the cold storage system of shipping vegetables and the early varieties of fruits, which will enable our fruit growers to make shipments from all parts of the Dominion without risk of loss.

A radical change appears to be taking place in the tastes of British consumers with reference to the quality of the fruit demanded. The demand has been for highly colored varieties which, according to Canadian tastes, do not possess the quality of flavor; but now the demand for the best flavored varieties is rapidly increasing. This change will enable us to export larger quantities; our export trade in apples alone this year from Ontario reaching between three and four hundred thousand barrels, 100,000 from Nova Scotia, and 10,000 from Quebec. The demand for pears, plums, etc., is also likely to increase. For early varieties of fruits, there may be some difficulty in procuring cold storage facilities until the demand warrants the making of special preparations for the trade by the shipment companies. The trade in the later varieties, however, will not be effected, as no refrigerators are required for their transportation.

It is a remarkable incidence that Canadian fruits, like Canadian cheese, have advanced in the appreciation of British consumers as compared with American fruits, and now our apples bring about 2s. per barrel more than those from the United States. It was difficult to bring about this change, but now our apples are separately classified in the three great centres of distribution, viz., London, Liverpool and Glasgow. It may here be noticed that our reputation in one article of commerce helps us in our other products. Our freedom from stock diseases, our exemption from adulterations and fraudulent productions, especially oleomargarine, butterine, etc., and the reputation of our cheese, have all helped us marvellously, so that the mere mention of our name in the production of butter and fruits has carried great weight.

More than all this, the attention of British fruit dealers has been specially called to our fruits, and those who have heretofore purchased on commission are now anxious to pay cash for all shipments made by our fruit growers, thus bringing them into closer contact with the consumer, which will have the effect of putting into our pockets the profits of middlemen.

Surely we cannot be accused of exaggerating the quality of our fruits when we present the following resolution passed after careful inspection by so high an authority as the Fruit Committee of the Royal Agricultural Society of England:

"Having inspected the extensive and attractive exhibition of hardy fruits, comprising apples, pears, grapes, &c., from the several fruit-growing Provinces of the Dominion of Canada, the Committee desire to express the great gratification they derived from the opportunity of seeing the fine growth and high color of the majority of the specimens. Many varieties were tasted and found excellent, more especially the tender-fleshed apples. In comparing some well-known varieties that have long been in cultivation in Great Britain, the Canadian apples are found to differ in that rich flavor which is peculiar to some of the British apples. The Committee are aware that some samples of fruit were gathered before maturity in order to be presented at this Exhibition."

There is hardly any limit to the extent to which our fruit trade may be developed. Inquiries and orders have come in from Norway and Sweden, and even little Denmark, who is getting so jealous of us on account of our rivalry with her in the English butter markets, is noticed amongst the inquirers for our fruit. Not less brighter are our prospects of an extensive trade with Germany, India, Australia and other countries, not only for fresh fruits, but also for our evaporated fruits and vegetables.

The prospects being so encouraging, now is the time for our farmers and fruit growers to take courage and act according to the inducements placed before them. In many localities orchards may be a specialty, and there is no reason why almost every farmer should not have a few acres under orchard. Only the most marketable varieties should be selected, for there can be little or no profit in gathering a few apples here and there over a large extent of territory. No matter how good the varieties, good samples cannot be produced without managing the orchard properly, paying strict attention to pruning, cultivating and manuring. It is the destiny of Ontario to drift more into specialties, and dairying and fruit growing may profitably go hand in hand.

#### PRIZE ESSAY.

#### Is Our Future Husbandry to be Special or Mixed?

BY FRANK HOWELL, ST. GEORGE, ONT.

In considering this subject, perhaps as good a plan as any would be to form ourselves into a debating society for the time being, discuss the various advantages in connection with each form of husbandry, and then decide from the points made in each which is the better plan.

We will suppose that it is resolved that the husbandry of the future is to be special. Without any introductory speech, we will open the discussion by introducing the first point on the affirmative side, viz., *the specialist can devote his whole attention to the specialty which he has decided shall be his*. In the professions, we find that the specialist is generally the most skilled in the particular branch of a profession which he has decided to make a specialty, which is but the natural result of special study and practice. Farming is generally called an occupation, but is it not a profession? The successful farmer must

both study and practice; in other words, he must be a "professor" of husbandry.

Time being called, we will now open the negative side by the assertion that *he who follows mixed husbandry has his work more evenly distributed throughout the year*. At first thought this may appear to be false; but it seems reasonable to suppose that with the greater variety of crops and farm produce, and the different seasons for marketing them, the ordinary farmer should be able to go about his work more leisurely, and should be able to do a greater amount without help than would the specialist. A man who is farming, say a hundred acres, can, with the labor-saving implements now in use, get along very well with but one hired hand through the summer, excepting, perhaps, a few occasional days. The specialist, on the other hand, is obliged to have quite a number of men about him for a part of the summer, and perhaps at other times he is comparatively idle. There are a few exceptions to this, no doubt, such as dairying, stock-raising, etc., but they are only exceptions, and not the rule.

Another point for the affirmative side is that *the specialist can command better prices and a steadier market for his produce*. In this, of course, we are speaking generally. Many farmers can furnish first-class samples of different articles of produce, but the specialist has the opportunity of making samples "first-class A;" and, by shipping such large quantities, and with his private brand on each shipment every year, he can not only secure the "first-class A" prices, but he opens up for himself a steady market, the permanency of which rests with himself.

On the other hand, *the ordinary farmer is the more independent of the two*. If the crop of the specialist be a failure for one year, he must look to some other source for means to buy the necessaries of life, while the ordinary farmer seldom finds himself without at least a little flour, a few potatoes, one porker, and a few pounds of wool for clothing. This is the secret of the farmer's proverbial "independence."

*But the returns of the specialist generally come in comparatively large receipts*. This is something which is a source of great satisfaction, as the large amounts are much more likely to be dumped into the "big hole" which is in waiting for them than are the small amounts which are gathered now and again, and which generally find their way to the "little hole" in the bottom of his pocket.

This, however, is partly offset by the fact that *the ordinary farmer has a greater uniformity of income from year to year*. For instance, the special crop may be a complete failure one year, and a great success the next; but if the ordinary farmer loses one crop, he generally has others to make up for the loss to a certain extent, at least.

Another point in favor of the specialist (provided he is willing to meet the extra expense, if there be any), is that *he can select a soil specially adapted to his purpose*. With such a soil, and a climate in which his crop will feel at home, the rest lies pretty much in his own hands, and he should be able to "make or break." Any crop, and a soil particularly adapted to that crop, stand in much the same relation to each other as a basket of provisions does to a hungry man; it is just what he wants. A barnful of hay would not satisfy him; and yet the hay is worth far more than the basket of provisions when fed to a horse, because it is adapted to his needs.

*But the ordinary farmer, if he have a variety of soils (as many farmers have), can reverse the order and adapt the crop to the soil*. This would do away with the rotation of crops to a certain