

ventions.

order of the day in the Eastern Dairy-ville, will be on before the Western Ontario Fair on Wednesday and 13th. The programme will be, as results of the dairy- by the way, there counting one who n, only four are en- patrons' section, but number (six) in the winter dairy exhibi- with the convention, entry, the number a lerably in excess of shows an especially the October makes, double the usual

RCHARD.

in Sicily.

"The Farmer's Ad- visited the Island of Sicily, in the Mediter- tremendous earth- ty of Messina, the shaken by a seismic it as a fertile and flowers and clus- s. Small wonder ne, despite the ter- o. We append his al original photo-

er his were rolling de section, or the Provinces, to be ments and labor- tain, look askance owing for the lava- rocks older than mer sun, this fasci- illions of lemons ges, grapes, man- etc., in equally Sicily is not de- members of the o America. Her called truly agri- they work hard. to be had, but iration is only for e richer farmers, much must be rted, by hand or y donkey, some- nes half a dozen les from the vil- ge fountain, the tural center of ive life in every ilian township; t, while grapes ow without wa- during the long mmer drouths, ons do not. So e public fountain omes the center ws, and is to e Sicilian town at the club or sewing circle" is h us. The lava na has thrown lavishly over ternal Sicily. kes retaining lls for miles of ces covered h vineyards, and en is the peas- farmer's house, well as—what he left—his ferti- r. For quite won- n pumice-stone- thousand years from the snow- dominates the

ch early October is an unending to within three all the strength huge bunches of bunches having or unknown out-

side Italy and France, with the rich greens of the leaves and the browns of the stones and earth, make artist's pictures on every side. For the vintage, the men, women and children of each farm and its neighborhood are organized to cut the grapes and make the wine. All is color, life and noise, for the Sicilian is not a quiet worker. From fifty to one hundred women, each with a half-bushel basket, heaped with the lovely grapes, on their heads, file along the walk, singing the songs of the country, to a huge room built for the purpose, where the men and boys, barefooted and barelegged, walk and sing in endless procession around the room, forming the human wine-press, which takes the last drop of juice from the grapes, and for which, as yet, no invention has improved upon.

Two days later the skins are returned to the ground, and, with leaf mould, enrich it for another year's growth; and the domestic animals, like those in this picture, are turned in to eat the grape-leaves, and help prepare the ground for the next season; for the goats and pigs together clear it of every leaf and weed.

I have often wondered what the results of a good Canadian plow would be in Sicily, on the people, as well as the land, for every bit of the plowing is done with the crudest spike of wood or iron, driven through a primitive joist-shaped, hand-hewed log, turning up a very meagre fur-

row. But the universal implement with which the earth is turned over, prepared, and often planted with, is the common pick of Italy, which those of her sons emigrating to America continue to use there in the building of steam and trolley railways, better than those of any other race. This pick is often the plow, the spade, and the weeder, while next in utility is the broad, wooden hoe. Hand-hewn, rough, and apparently awkward to handle, it has a field all its own. With it, Aetna stone is forced into new terraces, which creep up a bare bit of mountain-side; and, as soon as built, earth is handed up with this same hoe, which is held there by the new wall, and each lot promptly produces something to repay the farmer for his time. At no season of the year is the earth idle in Sicily.

There are three gatherings of lemons annually, two of oranges and mandarins—the trees heavy with fruit and flowers at the same time.

February brings forth a wonderful carpet of wild flowers; the wealth of variety seems incredible, and with the almond blossoms the same month, it is as a bridal veil over the whole island. Then, indeed, the Sicilian farmer may forget some of his hardships, and revel in the beauty of his home-land and its scenery, and rejoice in its climate and fertility.

If his year has been prosperous, the family donkey is brought out, his gaily-decorated trappings adjusted, and the farm's products taken to market, always by three or four members of the family, often borrowing the high, two-wheeled Sicilian cart for the journey from some more prosperous neighbor. CHAS. A. WILLIAMS.

The Canadian Fruit Industry.

The above is the title of a paper read by W. A. Mackinnon, B. A., Dominion Trade Commissioner at Birmingham, at a meeting of the Royal Canadian Institute, held at Hotel Metropole, London, England, Tuesday, December 7th, 1909, Lord Strathcona in the chair.

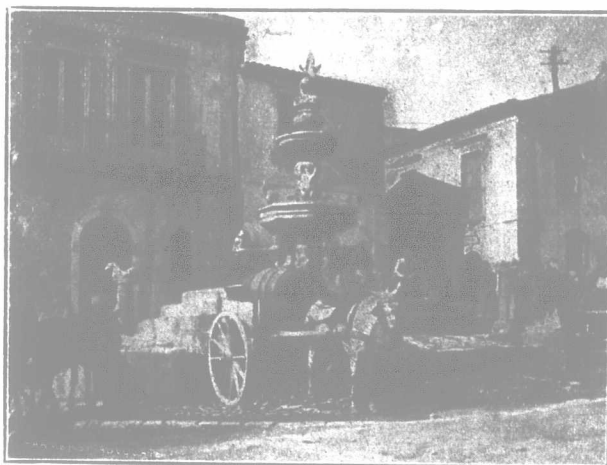
The topics dealt with in the paper are familiar to Canadian readers, and need only be mentioned in barest outline. The vast majority of people are engaged either in production or distribution; not, as a rule, in both. The modern Canadian fruit-grower is, however, an exception to this rule, for he must engage in both, and will, if successful, be master of both. Mention is made of the development of the export fruit trade of Ontario, and following close upon that, the growth of Nova Scotian fruit exports. The total value of green or ripe apples exported from Canada in the year ending March 31st, 1909, was \$4,823,645, Great Britain receiving practically the whole. Frauds in packing, and the appointment and work of inspectors in hindering and detecting these, are referred to. Government has aided considerably in securing better transportation facilities and in disseminating information by means of Experimental Farms, Illustration Stations, and Farmers' Institutes, also through spraying demonstrations.

A good word is said for the Canadian press. "The admirable service rendered by the press, more particularly by agricultural journals and those devoted to horticulture, is unequalled in any other country. Edited for the most part by men of practical experience and an agricultural-college training, printed on good paper, with excellent illustrations, these journals command the respect and attention of the interests they serve. Their broadening influence, and the practical help they afford by furnishing information, correcting errors, exposing or preventing frauds, reporting conventions, suggesting improved methods or supporting reforms, cannot be overestimated."

If asked, Where is fruit grown? the answer

would be, Nearly everywhere. Then follows mention of the special fruit districts of the country, the Niagara and Leamington districts, the Annapolis and Cornwallis valleys, and, in the far West, the Okanagan and the Kootenay sections. Added to these are nearly the whole north shores of Lakes Ontario and Erie, the Lake Huron and Georgian Bay districts, the Island of Montreal, the valley of the St. John, and Prince Edward Island, "The Garden of the Gulf," all becoming famous in fruit-growing.

An appreciative sketch of the season's work on a Canadian fruit farm follows, ending with this sentence: "And need I say more to commend the conditions, the activities, the fresh-air charm, the physical and mental wholesomeness of the fruit-growers' life?"



Village Fountain in Faormina.

Packing Frauds and Inspectors.

In an address by W. A. Mackinnon, Dominion Trade Commissioner, before the Royal Colonial Institute, of London, England, on the "Canadian Fruit Industry," to which we have referred elsewhere in this issue, there occurs a spicy passage on packing of barrelled apples, which we sub-join:

The packing is commonly done by men employed by apple-buyers or speculators, many of whom represent British firms, and operate with British capital. They begin work at the orchards, from which many of the early shipments are exported direct, and are later on engaged in warehouses, grading and re-packing fruit that has been



Sicilian Goat and Pig.

put up more or less loosely for storage. They are duly instructed to observe the amenities of the higher life, or at all events to keep within the limits of error allowed by law to the judgment of the ordinarily prudent man, and doubtless they begin their task with the best of resolutions, meaning well by the ultimate purchaser of their handiwork. But, just as the road to perdition is said to be neatly paved with good intentions, so the bottom of the barrel, which on sale will become the "face," is well and truly laid with fine, handsome fruit, evenly placed in narrowing circles of blushing red; hardly less attractive are the next two or three layers, also carefully placed by hand, wedging the first immovably. Then, alas! comes a falling-off; whether it be that a giddiness

caused by bending head and shoulders deep in the barrel induces loss of memory, or that an ardent discussion on high politics brings oblivion of common things, or merely that our packer is unable to retain the vision of that smiling "face" now hidden from view—whatever the cause, certain it is that he now becomes careless; basket after basket of uncertain quality is poured in, and only when the process of "tailing off" is reached does the memory return of that "No. 1" grade-mark, already pencilled on the "head." Then once more a couple of layers of the best are hand-placed—for might not some captious buyer demand to see the "tail"?—the barrel is pressed, nailed up, and ready for all comers. A fearful practice, you say, sign of commercial decadence and moral depravity—copied, surely, from the devious ways of the Red Man. True, though such things have been known, at rare intervals, even on the costers' barrows and in the shop-windows of this metropolis.

But I would not have you think that such methods are approved or even winked at by growers or dealers in Canada; on the contrary, both have strongly supported the Government in its campaign, educative at first, now punitive, to stamp out these frauds. Mr. McNeill, Chief of the Fruit Division at Ottawa, has an able staff of inspectors employed in detecting and prosecuting the offences of false marking and packing. The penalties have been gradually increased, and this (last) year the names of convicted packers have been published in a Government report. Some idea of the value and calibre of the inspectors may be gathered from the fact that, when not engaged in actual inspection, they are able to meet fruit-growers at orchard meetings, and in the winter at meetings of Farmers' Institutes, to discuss with them, not merely commercial problems, but those having to do with fruit culture in all its aspects. They give orchard demonstrations of spraying, of pruning and grafting, or, at other times, of packing apples in barrels and boxes, and always in the presence of assembled growers, than whom there are no keener critics. An inspector who did not thoroughly understand his work would have a most uncomfortable time, and would never have a second hearing.

History of Fruit-growing in the Annapolis Valley.—III.

By R. W. Starr.

Up to this time, 1860, nothing had been done to encourage the growing of apples for export to England. In that year was held the great International Exhibition, in London, and Nova Scotia was represented by many natural products, and

among them was a collection of ten or fifteen varieties of apples. These were well displayed, and received much attention and admiration.

During the next year inquiries were received from dealers in London, urging the consignment of apples to that market, but the freight rate by steamboat was found to be prohibitory, and by sailing vessels was considered of too much risk, on account of the length of the voyage.

In the autumn of 1862, through the efforts of a few gentlemen in Halifax, a show of fruit and vegetables was held, for the purpose of making a selection to be sent to the Royal Horticulture Society Exhibition in London. This

show of fruit and vegetables made a great success, taking one silver and seven bronze medals, and received especial notice and praise from most of the leading papers. This success was the immediate cause of the formation of the Fruit-growers' Association and International Show Society of Nova Scotia, which was organized on March 3rd, 1863, and incorporated on the 10th of May, 1864.

This Association at once commenced holding annual exhibitions, and from them sending collections of fruit for "Show, Comparison, Nomenclature, and Report" to the Royal Horticulture Society, London; Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and American Pomological Society; also for exhibition to all the great shows in London, Paris, Birmingham, Philadelphia, Chicago,