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## Care of the Peach Orchard

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It is generally considered in Ontario that peaches can be grown only in the Niagara peninsula, in a limited section in Lambton county, and in the Leamington district, but this is not so. Norfolk county is fast showing the public that it is entitled to a place, and along the shore and on a number of the gravel ridges through Elgin and Essex counties are to be found to-day some excellent orchards. I believe, too, that in the very near future these counties, that is Norfolk, Elgin and Kent, will be competitors with the counties in which the industry is already established. In these sections they have no injured reputations to overcome. I do not mean that in the established sections they have a poor reputation, but they have sometimes sent out fruit that is not up to the standard. This year there came to my notice a shipment of fruit from the Niagara peninsula, that had been sold on order, which on being opened caused the dealer to remark: "I do not want any more fruit from there;" and the next orders went to the west, where there had been no hailstorm, instead of to the east.

### SELECT GOOD VARIETIES

The first essential in the orchard is to

have good varieties; it is very difficult to give a list that is suited to all sections of the province. It is much better to go to some neighbor, who is making a success of the business, and see what he is doing. The varieties that are doing best for him will probably do best for you.

We find growing to-day in large numbers such varieties as Longhurst, Sneed, Rivers and Alexander. While I do not say that these varieties should not be grown, still they should have no large place in the commercial market. There are many other varieties that have no place there also. In every orchard that I visited in the Niagara peninsula two varieties at least are grown, and I did not visit a single orchard in which both varieties were not to be found. These two are Yellow St. John and Elberta. The Smock stands, perhaps, as next choice.

It is surprising how little a great many prospective growers know of peach culture. There came under my notice this summer an orchard of about four acres, now three years of age, in which the owner had grown his own trees from pits selected in the neighborhood from trees that were producing fruit of fairly good quality. He expected to

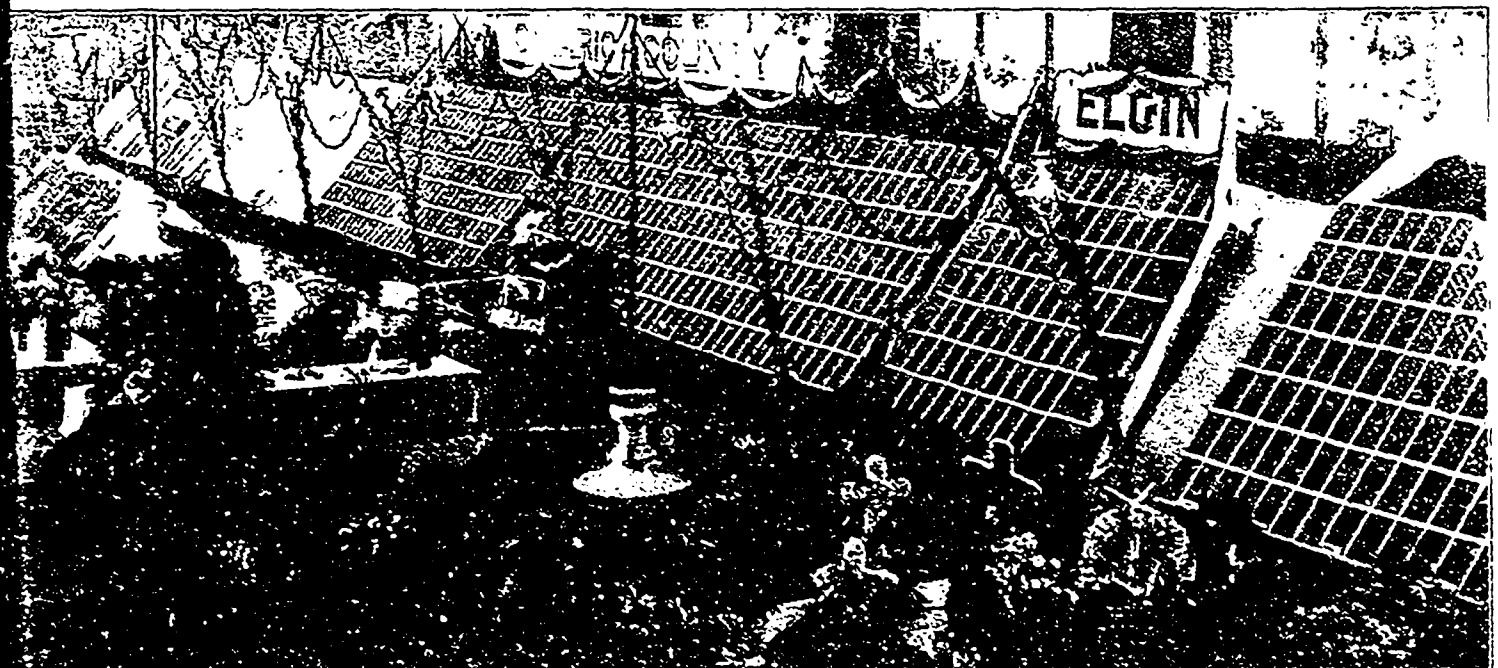
get varieties true to name. When asked why he did not bud them he stated that the trees purchased from the nursery usually seemed to contract a disease at the junction of the bud and the root stock. The disease was really the bore working where he stated because he had not planted the trees sufficiently deep.

### SOIL REQUIRED

The kind of soil on which the trees are planted is not so important as the drainage of that soil. There are a large number of orchards doing exceptionally well on a very heavy clay, and some are doing equally well on a light sand, but in every case where they are doing well on the clay it is well underdrained. On a soil, with an impervious subsoil, the roots cannot take their natural course and spread out deep down in the soil. I dug up a number of dead trees on a soil of this nature last summer, and in every case the roots spread out horizontally and were very near the surface. They had not in any case entered the cold wet subsoil.

In a soil to which the trees are adapted naturally the roots go down very deep much the same as the pine or chestnut; in a soil to which they are not adapted it is often necessary to bank them up considerably to get enough soil

\*Extract from a paper read at the annual convention of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, held in Toronto in November



An Idea of the Extent of the Exhibits at the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition, held in Toronto last month may be obtained from this illustration