

The Canadian Horticulturist

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THE SPRAYING SITUATION

Happily for the fruit industry of Canada,
orchardists in all sections are gradually adopting
spraying as one of the essentials to the produc-
tion of first-class fruit. In some districts and in
some exceptional seasons, conditions are such
that the grower does not feel that the ravages of
insect or fungous pests warrant the expenditure
of time and money demanded for thorough work.
For continual success, year after year, scientific
spraying pays. Leading orchardists in the vari-
ous fruit sections have proved this.

Some successful growers claim that they can
reap bountiful harvests by proper cultivation
and by maintaining such conditions that insects
have no harboring or breeding places. These
precautions are beneficial, but where 60 or 75
per cent. of the crop is free from blemish under
such conditions, 90 per cent. would be perfect
if spraying were carried on in conjunction. In
most sections the orchard pests must be fought
in more ways than one. That this is the case
has been brought home forcibly during the past
few years to those who grow fruit extensively.

The difficult part of the spraying problem is to
show the man with the small acreage that thorough
spraying must be done. Many such growers
cannot afford to purchase a power sprayer, and
effective work cannot be guaranteed by the
ordinary hand pump. In some sections, an at-
tempt has been made to have the spraying done
by the same system as threshing is done. This
method furnishes the proper power but it has
disadvantages. The chief objection is that a
great number of orchards are not sprayed at
the right time. Practically all the trees in a
locality are ready for spraying about the same
date. Farmers at the best, are slow to agree
under such circumstances. Everybody wants
the sprayer at the same time. The result is
numerous orchards go unsprayed and the owner
of the machine does not make sufficient cash
to convince him that it is a paying investment.
When associations own the machine and hire
the operator the latter difficulty is overcome,
but the former remains.

There are two ways in which this may be
remedied. One is the education of the farmers
or fruit growers, by example where possible, to
work together more harmoniously for mutual
benefit; the other is the placing on the market
of a less expensive power machine. At present
too many have to club together to make the op-
eration of the machine a paying proposition, and
the result is some orchards do not receive effective
treatment. Thus, centres are left from which
insects and fungi spread to the surrounding
orchards. The same conditions exist in the
leading fruit sections. Here and there is a
grower who will not spray. His orchard, then
is the breeding centre for the district, and the
labor connected with spraying is doubled to his
neighbors.

There is yet much to be done before spraying
will become general in the apple sections. The
governments have done yeoman service, but
much remains to be done. The co-operative
fruit growers' associations, too, have in some
cases been of great benefit in introducing the
practice, and in forcing members to spray their
orchards thoroughly a certain number of times.
The small, unsprayed orchards are the curse of
fruit growing. It is the duty of those who realize
the advantages of spraying to spray the more
thoroughly and show their less intelligent neigh-
bors by practical results that it pays. It may
take time but eventually they will be converted.

DOMINION FRUIT CONFERENCE

There will convene at Ottawa this month the
most important gathering of fruit growers ever
held in Canada. The delegates appointed by
the various provincial fruit growers' associa-
tions are the leading and most representative
fruit growers in the Dominion. It is well that
this is the case, because the matters that are
to be discussed are of vital importance to the
fruit industry.

The convention will fail in one respect if it
does not succeed in arranging for the holding
of similar conferences at regular periods in the
future. Spasmodic gatherings of this nature
accomplish but little. There is as much and
even more reason for the holding of annual,
or at least bi-annual national conferences, as
there is for the annual conventions of the pro-
vincial associations. The matters to be dis-
cussed this year are of such far-reaching im-
portance they can be carried to a successful
issue only by systematic and sustained effort.
The provincial governments give financial as-
sistance to their local associations each year.
The Dominion government should do the same
for a larger body.

THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST will be en-
larged next month that it may contain as full
a report of the conference as possible. Here's
wishing the gathering will prove a complete
and unqualified success—the first of many
more to follow.

HORTICULTURE AT GUELPH

In another column appears a letter explain-
ing some of the difficulties under which the
staff on horticulture at the Ontario Agricul-
tural College has been working, and improve-
ments that are needed. This letter has been
brought out as a result of the criticism in these
columns last month of the work being done
by this department at the college. The latter
really goes to prove the strength of our con-
tention. Had the need for these improvements
been pressed with sufficient vigor, it is probable
they would have been secured long ago.

In the speech from the throne, at the open-
ing of the Ontario Legislature, improvements
in the work at Guelph were foreshadowed.
THE HORTICULTURIST understands that con-
siderable is to be done to strengthen the hor-
ticultural department. We trust this is the
case, and will be glad to do what we can to
assist and supplement the work of this branch of
the college in every way possible.

A RETRACTION

THE HORTICULTURIST regrets to find that in
its Winnipeg correspondence last month an in-
justice was done the branch of The Ottawa Fruit
and Produce Exchange at Winnipeg, which was
credited with having sold 300 to 350 barrels of
Ontario fall fruit a day at five cents a barrel.
Our Winnipeg correspondent first sent us his
notes alone. These referred to the large quan-
tities of fall apples that were being stored in
Winnipeg, and that would have to be sold at
prices that would demoralize the market. Later
he forwarded a clipping from the Winnipeg Free
Press, which stated that large quantities of
Ontario fall fruit were being sold at five cents a
barrel, as high as 350 a day having been auctioned
off by The Ottawa Fruit and Produce Co. Although
our correspondent did not vouch for the truth of
the article, he suggested that it might be published
in a manner that would tend to strengthen the
point made in his correspondence. As space pre-
vented our using the article in full separately and
as it had been sent by our correspondent, we took
the liberty of embodying a short note concerning
same in his correspondence. Care was taken to
quote the Winnipeg Free Press as authority for this
information.

The Ottawa Fruit and Produce Exchange has
written us that the information as published was
false and that the Winnipeg Free Press has made
a complete retraction of same. Instead of large
quantities of Ontario apples having been auc-
tioned off at that price some twelve barrels only
were sold. These apples had been kept in cold
storage by mistake through the shipper not
naming correctly the variety of apples in the cars.
The company further states that they have no
artificial heat in their cold storage cellar to injure
the quality of their apples, although our cor-
respondent did not intend to imply that they had.
These being the facts of the case THE HORTICUL-
TURIST desires to express its regret that anything
was published that did an injustice to The Ottawa
Fruit and Produce Company.

The Fruit Growers of Canada Indignant

It is evident from the expressions of opinion
that are constantly reaching THE CANADIAN
HORTICULTURIST that the fruit growers of Can-
ada are not going to be content until they have
and independent fruit commissioner of their own.
The feeling of dissatisfaction over the existing
arrangement, by which the chief of the fruit
division is under the dairy commissioner, is
general throughout the Dominion. The follow-
ing are views from representative fruit growers
that have been received recently. Rev. Father
A. E. Burke, Aliberton, P.E.I., president Prince
Edward Island Fruit Growers' Association:
"This province, through the fruit growers' as-
sociation, has protested vigorously, by a reso-
lution sent to Hon. Mr. Fisher, against the de-
gradation of the fruit division of the Department
of Agriculture. We will continue to do so until
this important branch of our national resources
is placed on a proper footing and permitted to
exert the measure of influence it should exert
in developing fruit culture in Canada. The
general feeling is that a fully authorized com-
missioner should direct the policy of the fruit
division under the minister only, and nothing
less will satisfy the organizations specially fos-
tering horticulture or the horticulturists of this
country."

Mr. J. C. Metcalfe, Hammond, B.C., president
British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association:
"The fruit interests of the Dominion are of suf-
ficient importance to have a department and
chief of their own. It should not be subordi-
nate to any other department or chief. The head
of the fruit division should stand next to the
Minister of Agriculture and should not be under
the necessity of making representations through
an intermediate or the chief of another depart-
ment. The various problems that are continu-
ally cropping up and confronting the fruit grow-