

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Cleaning up the Garden.

By "Alar."

Many people leave their cleaning-up time in the garden, as well as house-cleaning time, to the spring; but Eve believes in cleaning up the garden in the fall, so that it will be ready when the spring rush comes, and also so that she can look out upon a neat space unstrewn with rubbish during the winter.

When she gathers the last peas from the vines, the latter are pulled and thrown into a pile, to be carried off and burned as soon as dry enough. The potato vines are treated in the same way when pulled. The potatoes should be dug, as I have remarked before, as soon as possible after the tops are all killed by frost, and stored in a dry, cool place. I have heard of many losses of potatoes in this part of Alberta through carelessness in this matter in the fall. One man had his whole crop frozen in the ground; another had an occasional potato frosted, and not knowing which was which, they were all thrown into a bin, and a large loss resulted from the rotting caused by those few frosted potatoes. When we think of the One who was so careful to have all the fragments gathered up, it seems almost a sin to let one's summer's work be wasted through such carelessness.

It takes but little extra time when gathering in the crop to clean up the rubbish. Turnip tops and extra cabbage leaves, etc., are carted to the stables; the animals appreciate such tastes from the garden at a time of year when their fodder is getting dry. A good, strong cart, such as the small boy likes, is a very handy thing to have for such work, or a light wheelbarrow.

By and bye the flowering plants will all be dead. Don't leave their dry twigs to remind you dismally of last year's flowers, but gather them off, spade up the beds, clean up the paths, and let it all remind you of the flowers that are to be another year.

When the other things are pretty generally cleaned up, move the frame of the hothed to one side—the heating material will be of no use for that another year—and rake the soil back on to the garden; then scatter the manure around those berry bushes. It will act as a winter protection, but should not be put there till nearly time for the ground to freeze.

Then, before the ground freezes, or the "gude mon" puts away his plow for the season, it will not take him long to plow that part of the garden in which a plow can turn, and you will be ready with the first warm days of spring to sow your seeds.

A good housekeeper keeps her house always in order for the chance guest, but how often the approach to the house is anything but inviting! How many a garden is a dreary place in the months of frost? Dead vines rattling against the wall, dried branches rattling in the wind, where once was a flowerbed, and dried weeds in the fence corners! No wonder that we feel that nature is dead, instead of only sleeping, to awake in new beauty with spring's return.

Let us cremate the dead things, turn the seeds and the worms under with the plow, mulch the small trees, and give to everything the effect of being tucked into its winter's bed, and the garden will not have half so depressing an effect for half the year.

Gooseberries, and How to Grow Them.

Gooseberries are best planted in the fall, and should be put out about five feet apart. If you get your plants in the fall, you can either heel them in then and plant in the spring, or you can plant them then.

In propagating they are very easy to layer; but to get the best plants they are better grown from cuttings. You must have a rich, heavy clay loam, and it must be well drained and not be a stiff clay. The surface must always be kept open, and not allowed to get baked or hard.

The chief difficulty with sandy or light soil is that the roots of the plant get overheated, and are practically burned. You cannot grow gooseberries down south at all. As to moisture, gooseberries must have a lot of it. If water is scarce, a good substitute is a cut-straw mulch. Spread it on the ground two or three inches thick, and it keeps the ground cool and moist.

The question of pruning is simple enough. With your finger and thumb pinch out any shoot which is getting a little stronger than the rest. If you make your bushes too open you let in too much sun, and if you don't make them open enough the berries are difficult to pick, and you are more apt to have mildew. It is necessary, now and then, to cut one out of the old branches and let its place be taken by new wood. It is the two-year-old and three-year-old wood that bears the largest and finest berries.

The best time for pruning is early in September. It is a great waste to allow your plants to set fruit buds along all your wood, three-fourths of which you don't want at all. By cutting off all the wood you don't want to bear fruit, you are making the fruit buds strong and vigorous, and ready to bear fruit next year.—[Canadian Horticulturist.

Vandalism at Fairs.

In the horticultural building at one of the recent fairs it was noticed that some of the fruit tables had, in spite of the vigilance of those in charge, been raided by greedy or thoughtless spectators, to an extent so appreciable as to detract seriously from the success of the exhibit. On some of the plum plates but three or four plums were left to tell the tale of what had been, while bunches of grapes were left in all stages of dismemberment, the beauty of the clusters being practically ruined. Not even the apples had been spared. The writer was told by one of the guardians of the exhibit, that, within a few minutes previously, no fewer than five had disappeared mysteriously from one end of a table. This occurred during one of the first days of the fair, and, of course, the pilfering was continued to a greater or lesser extent during all of the remaining days.

For such vandalism as this there is no excuse. Probably those who take a plum here or a grape there—and those who do such things are not, as a rule, children—do not think there is any great wrong in it; nevertheless it is safe enough to say that these consciously honest people would be very careful not to take such unwarranted liberties were the eyes of the guardians of the table upon them. Leaving that aside, it is eminently selfish to spoil the look of a plate of fruit. There are others who wish to see the exhibit at its best, and who, possibly, may not exactly enjoy looking at bare patches of china. Moreover, were

every spectator to avail him or herself of the privileges claimed by these mighty ones, where would the exhibit be? Since, then, it is practically inconvenient to have a cordon of police about each table, and equally as impracticable to secure each display in hermetically sealed glass cases, it might be well for those who have been thoughtless or conscienceless in this matter, to turn over a new leaf, and see to it that in future we shall be secured from vandalism at fairs.

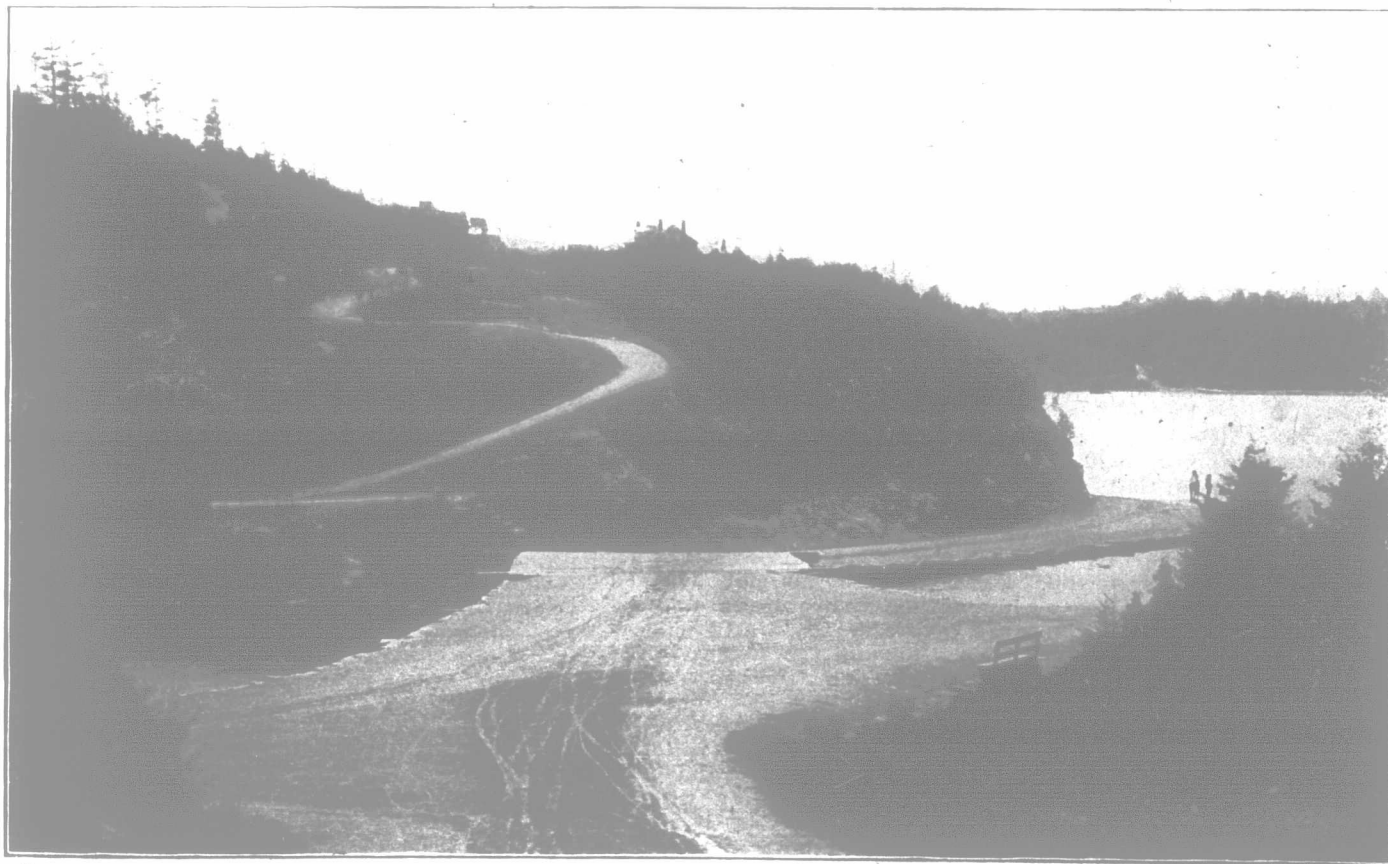
Perambulating Orchard Meeting.

A DEMONSTRATION OF THE BENEFITS OF SPRAYING.

On Wednesday, Sept. 21st, there was held in the vicinity of Ingersoll, Ont., a meeting of those interested in fruit-growing, to examine some orchards which had been sprayed under Dominion Government supervision, with a gasoline power sprayer, and compare them with others that were unsprayed. A representative of the "Farmer's Advocate" was present by invitation. The meeting was arranged for by Mr. A. McNeill, Chief of the Fruit Division, Ottawa, and had been advertised in the local papers, and made known by circular to members of Farmers' Institutes in the county. From sixty to eighty were present, some having driven 10, 12, or even 16 miles. It was a gathering of shrewd, progressive, intelligent men. Of those that are somewhat known as public officials, there was first Mr. McNeill himself, who, as chief, led the way, and did most of the talking; Prof. Hutt, of the O. A. C., Guelph, and Geo. A. Putnam, Supt. of Farmers' Institutes, who also gave short addresses, and Mr. Hodgott, Secretary of the Ontario Fruit-growers' Association.

In all, four orchards were visited, three sprayed and one unsprayed. As the crowd perambulated from orchard to orchard, in from 20 to 25 rigs, it looked more than anything else like a funeral, except that the speed was too high, and the sounds that were heard were not subdued enough. It was rather the funeral of the fungi.

At the first orchard visited the power sprayer, with which the work had been done, was examined, both at rest and in motion. It is mounted on springs on a broad-tired wagon, the platform with railing, on which those who handle the hose and nozzles stand, being over the tank and about seven feet from the ground. Two lines of hose are ordinarily used, though a third, worked by a man on the ground, is sometimes made use of to reach the center of the tree. Mr. McNeill said that the idea of having demonstration experiments made with power-sprayers originated with Mr. McKinnon, his predecessor in office. Mr. McKinnon believed that many farmers were quite convinced of the advantages of spraying who yet never engaged in it for themselves. It was dirty work, and came in a time when they were busy and they could not be bothered with it. He came to believe that the orchards of the country never would be sprayed generally until larger machines came into use, operated by men who made a business of it, and went about doing the work as threshers do. He arranged for two spraying experiment stations in 1903, one in the Island of Montreal and one near Ingersoll, of about 2,000 trees each. On Mr. McKinnon's retirement Mr. McNeill continued the work in 1904. Mr. J. C. Harris, a practical orchardist, has conducted the spraying at the Ingersoll station both seasons. Mr. McNeill continuing, said that the idea had come to him not long ago, that it would be well to invite the public to examine with him the orchards treated, that the good results might be more widely made known. The apple scab was bad this season in this vicinity and it was a good time to see whether spraying was of any use. He believed they would find in the orchards treated from 80 to 90 per cent. of the fruit first-class, and in those unsprayed not more than 20 per cent. of that grade, and invited all to examine for themselves. His estimate of the sprayed fruit was found to be a little too favorable in some trees that were thick with brush, not more than sixty per cent. being without a spot, and about right where the trees were better pruned. In the unsprayed orchard that was examined scarcely any first quality fruit could be seen, Northern Spies being specially bad. On one tree not a single specimen that was full size or without scab was found. Snow apples were utterly worthless. For this orchard, whatever might have been seen in others, twenty per cent. of first-class fruit was far too liberal an estimate.



Rockwood Park, St. John, N. B.