

Apples on Lake Ontario

Alex. McNeill, Chief Fruit Division, Ottawa

Everywhere there is evidence that, though orchards in the counties from Halton to Hastings bordering on Lake Ontario, as mentioned in the August issue of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST have been giving excellent returns, the orchardists are very poorly informed in their business. There is very great need for educational work throughout the whole of this district. By way of practical recommendation I would suggest:

1. That main tile drains, at least, be run through the depressions in the orchard. It would be much better if the whole ground were thoroughly under-drained, but if only the main drains were put in it would improve matters very much.

2. That cultivation be commenced as soon as the frost is out of the ground and the cover crop sown not later than the middle of July.

3. That all orchards, old and young, be sprayed at least three times with the poisoned Bordeaux mixture, the first spraying to be made as soon as the first green is seen; the second spraying as soon as the blossoms have fallen; and the third spraying ten days or two weeks later. Better still, spray first with lime and sulphur between March 20th and April 20th or not later than just before the buds swell, and then three times with the Bordeaux mixture as directed above. Either of these systems of spraying, even if followed mechanically, would hold in check nine-tenths of the insects and fungous diseases which infest the orchards.

4. That an improvement be made in the system of pruning which would keep the outside of the trees thinner and would grow

more new wood on the larger branches towards the centre of the tree.

5. That experiments be made in the low headed form of tree. This would have to be done consistently throughout the whole of one young orchard, and the implements of culture would have to correspond to the low-headed form.

6. Organization among the apple growers, not only for the purpose of selling their fruit, but for the purpose of buying supplies and for the purpose of rendering themselves in a measure independent of the itinerant apple buyer. The Inspection and Sale Act should be widely distributed and carefully read by every apple grower; otherwise a certain class of apple buyers are apt to make false representations to the financial loss of the growers. I was unable to find a single grower who had sold under a contract drawn up by himself. Where contracts were signed they were drawn up by the buyer and wholly in his interest. If a written contract accompanied every sale, with the stipulation that the grades No. 1 and No. 2 referred to in the contract would mean Grade No. 1 and Grade No. 2 as defined by the Inspection and Sale Act, much annoyance and serious financial loss would be avoided.

Apples Sold Privately

On another page of this issue may be seen the card of Mr. A. S. Chapin, 75 Yonge St., Toronto, one of our largest apple exporters whose firms a representative of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST had the pleasure of calling upon during a visit to the Motherland. In Liverpool, Mr. Chapin represents the firm of D. Crossley & Sons, who have been in business in that city over 50 years. This firm sells exclusively by private sale

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