

experts. In washing dairy utensils, too, authorities advise rinsing with cold water prior to using hot water.—Editor.]

Fewer Cows and More Feed.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The Central Smith Cow-testing Association had twenty members to start with in 1907, and it is running about the same this year. One of the advantages I have been most interested in is the record my cow Blacky has made. Her record for last year for eleven months was close up to fourteen thousand, and this year her record now in seven months and a week is eleven thousand. I have other cows giving between seven and eight thousand pounds in the same time.

The movement seems popular with those who have tried it, and as far as I am concerned I would like to see it continued. I cannot say it has stimulated interest in the cow question very much. I do not think that it has had the desired effect of inducing the farmer to sell inferior cows as yet. This is just the second year, and a very dry one in this district. Some cows do better one year than another.

My theory for getting more milk is to try to persuade the farmer to keep half the number, or feed what he has better. Half of the cows through the country just get enough to keep them alive, without producing milk. J. GORDON MANN, Peterboro Co., Ont.

For cleaning milk or whey cans, nothing can beat quicksand. Simply dip a wet rag in the sand and rub the can well. I always rinse with cold water as soon as possible after the cans come home, and leave them standing mouth down on the grass until time can be found to wash thoroughly.—W. C. Shearer, Oxford Co.

GARDEN & ORCHARD.

Fruit-growers at Middleton.

President R. W. Starr opened the annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Fruit-growers' Association with a few general expressions of greeting, explaining that lack of time had made it impossible to prepare a finished address, but promised to have it ready for the printed report.

We were glad to again have Horticulturist Macoun with us, with one of his instructive addresses. He dealt largely with the experiments in cross-breeding carried on at the Experimental Farm for the purpose of obtaining apples combining more of the required good qualities than at present could be found in any one variety. The results were satisfactory, inasmuch as at least 25 per cent. of those under experiment were turning out promising varieties. They were making observations, also, on the factors affecting crop production. This he considered one of the most important objects of the fruit-growers. The selection of stocks for top-working had something to do with the increase of crops. It had been noticed that scions placed in some stocks produce better than those in others. Also, that it is well to select scions from trees producing good crops.

There is also a fear that cultivation may be carried on too long or late in the summer, especially in moist seasons. It is a well-known principle that if we get great growth of wood in the tree, it is generally at the expense of production. Following this principle, it is well to stop cultivation early in the summer to check this growth and allow the fruit buds to form for the next year. It had been noticed that an exceptionally dry summer was followed by a large crop of fruit. It had also been noticed that anything checking the downward flow of sap in a limb or top of a tree increased the bearing. This may be done by the checking of the sap at the union of the graft with a tree, or a partial girdling or break in the limb. He strongly advocated the keeping of bees in the orchard, since the search for honey was sure to result in a distribution of pollen and increased fertilization.

Prof. Percy Shaw gave an interesting account of the model orchards that had been and were being planted in the different counties of Nova Scotia, outside of the fruit belt. The first orchards have been planted about eight years, and some have begun bearing, those bearing earliest being Stark, Ontario, and Fallawater.

These model orchards, so-called, were planted with the object of determining whether or not orcharding could be successfully carried on in other parts of the Province, aside from the Annapolis Valley. The terms of planting were that the Government furnished the trees, spray outfit, and helped plant them, the farmer on whose land the orchard was planted agreeing to take care of it for ten years, under the supervision of the Government, and also carrying out the instructions given. After ten years, the orchard was the property of the farmer.

The question was raised of the desirability of

a longer supervision by the Government, since ten years only brought the trees to bearing age, and it was deemed advisable to ask the Government to extend the period and furnish an annual report of what these orchards are doing after becoming of full bearing age.

CULTURE, PICKING AND PACKING, AND STORAGE.

R. J. Graham, of Belleville, Ont., gave a very instructive address on the needs of the apple trade. He said we wanted:

1. Good apples; and to get these we must spray, cultivate, thin.
2. Good picking. Do not pick apples too green; let them mature and color. By doing so, they gain in appearance, flavor and value. Pick carefully, and give the minimum amount of time and handling between orchard and storage.
3. Proper packing. Nova Scotia can grow good apples, but her men can pack them much better than they are now packed. Too many No. 2's in No. 1 barrels, and too many No. 3's in No. 2 barrels. The Province, in his opinion, was losing \$140,000 on a crop of 600,000 barrels because of the want of uniformity in the size of the barrel in Canada. If Nova Scotia would use the 112-quart barrel of Ontario, they would get a larger price, and pay less freight, since the larger barrel would go for the same freight as the smaller barrel, and save in number of barrels to be made, etc. This brought out a very spirited discussion, which left the feeling that the smaller barrel of 96 quarts, as defined by the Federal statute, was the better size to use.
4. Proper storage. Apples should be placed in cold storage as soon as possible after being picked.

VALUE OF THINNING.

R. S. Eaton, in a very forceful address, summed up the advantages of thinning fruit during the summer, in July, as conserving the vitality of the tree, saving time in picking and packing, giving fewer No. 2's, and bringing better prices. Prof. H. W. Smith, in a talk on fungicides, very logically and clearly evolved the history of Bordeaux.

TRANSPORTATION.

The question of transportation, dealt with by F. C. Whitman, of Annapolis, brought out some decidedly and unorthodox new views. He had found that as long as apples in a car or on a train were kept moving that they would stand cold almost to zero without freezing; that the motion seemed to ward off frost. Also, in hot weather, he had found it very beneficial in reducing temperature and keeping apples in good shape to throw water over them in a hot car or hold of steamer. He also advanced the idea that the rise in temperature in a vessel's hold, after she had been on the voyage four or five days, was due to the friction of the barrels against one another, from the rolling and pitching of the steamer.

FOREIGN MARKETS.

Howard Bligh, in dealing with foreign markets, prophesied that in a few years it would be almost useless to send apples to Liverpool and London, since the strong combination of buyers and brokers placed shippers practically at the mercy of these men. They controlled prices to such an extent that in many cases it was his opinion that cargoes of apples were sold practically before the steamer arrived. He regretted that the present heavy tax practically kept apples out of Germany, and assured the audience that it only needed the consent of our Government to remove this tax, since Germany had intimated willingness to re-establish the old trade relations.

OFFICERS AND RESOLUTIONS.

The evening meeting of the 15th was a joyous season of Provincial inter-congratulation. After the various speakers had finished, it would be difficult to decide whether we lived in Nova Scotia or Paradise.

The session of Wednesday morning, the 16th, was opened with an address by Prof. Macoun on the judging of plate apples at exhibitions. The gentleman would place the awards according to score-cards, giving so many points for each of the elements of uniformity, color, size, typical shape, and freedom from blemishes.

An address by J. N. Chute, of Berwick, on Co-operation, showed how successfully the co-operative society at Berwick was being carried on.

The meeting closed with a demonstration on apple-packing in boxes.

The officers for the ensuing year were: President, F. M. Chapman; Vice-President, E. E. Archibald; Secretary, S. C. Parker. Executive—A. C. Starr, R. J. Messenger, G. C. Miller, P. Innis.

The following resolutions were passed: Resolved,—That the Government be asked to continue their supervision of the model orchards for a longer period than ten years;

That an expression of sorrow and sympathy for the family of the late Dr. Fletcher be sent to

his friends, and be placed on the records of the Association;

That the Federal Government be again urged to pass such legislation as will lead to the adoption, all over Canada, of the 96-quart barrel;

That pressure be brought to bear leading to better trade relations with Germany.

R. J. MESSENGER.

Apple Trade with England.

Writing to the Trade and Commerce Department, J. B. Jackson, Trade Commissioner at Leeds, Eng., in discussing Canada's growing trade with England, says that the fruit trade, in particular, has made rapid strides. Numerous salesmen, who previously dealt almost exclusively in American fruit (under which name Canadian apples were invariably bought and sold when they did perchance obtain them) have been induced to open up correspondence with Canadian shippers and growers, and are now disposing of regular shipments of fruit week after week during the season.

Some idea of the progress made in this direction can be gathered from the business done by one importing firm alone, who, so far this season, has sold upwards of 43,000 barrels of Canadian-grown apples received by them direct from Canada. Other instances could also be cited where trade has greatly advanced, but sufficient illustration of this is shown by the fact that there are, at least, three firms dealing in this district in Canadian apples to-day where there was only one before the Trade Commissioner's office was established for the promotion of trade in Dominion products. A few local merchants, too, have been induced to visit the chief fruit-growing districts in Canada, where arrangements were successfully made for future shipments.

Mr. Jackson further says: "Very large direct shipments of Canadian apples are arriving in this district every week, and I am pleased to say that the importers here are unanimous in their opinion that the shipments surpass in quality any Canadian apples ever seen in this district. The packing is also all that could be desired. The early shipments were rather wormy and somewhat inferior, but this defect has disappeared, and Canadian apples, both from Ontario and Nova Scotia, now stand without a rival in the estimation of the consuming public here. The market in Leeds has been exceedingly strong, and excellent prices are being obtained; in Sheffield, owing to the extreme depression in the iron and steel trades, and the scarcity of money amongst the large operative population, the market has been rather weak, and much smaller prices have been realized than in either Leeds or Hull."

Commissioner Ray, of Birmingham, Eng., writes under date of Nov. 27: "For the guidance of apple exporters, I may say that the Birmingham market is well stocked at the present time, consequently rather low prices are ruling. It would be judicious if Canadian apple-exporters would retain their stocks until after the Christmas holidays. The market is always glutted at Christmas time, and apparently this year will be no exception."

"I went through Smithfield market yesterday and inspected barrel after barrel of apples from British Columbia and Nova Scotia. The fruit from both Provinces was exceedingly fine, but much that came from Ontario was not up to the anticipated standard. Barrows' stores devoted a large window to a display of British Columbian apples, which were the delight of crowds of spectators. The apples were a magnificent color, large in size, and solid in flesh, and Birmingham, I feel sure, will look forward to these British Columbian shipments year by year, if the quality is maintained."

"Pears are commanding a capital price, as doctors are now recommending them to invalids, instead of grapes. The retail price in Birmingham for good varieties is 6d. (12 cents) per pound."

Work of Art.

Enclosed find a postal note for fifty cents, and would like you to send a copy of the Christmas Numbers to the following addresses: ————. I would like to express my hearty appreciation of "The Farmer's Advocate." Its pages are just packed to the brim with information for the farmer, the farmer's wife, and all who peruse its contents. The Christmas Number certainly is a work of art. FRED HYDE.

Toronto.

The summer meeting of the Pomological and Fruit-growing Society of Quebec will be held at La Trappe, Oka, on August 24th and 25th, 1909.