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March 3, 1910.

## FARM AND DAIRY

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## First-class Nursery Stock

R. C. Treherne, Lincoln Co., Ont.

In selecting nursery trees to set out for a fruit plantation, it is of prime importance to possess an idea of what is and what can be considered to be first-class stock. Various conceptions on this point are held by the very best fruit-growers, but the consensus of opinion resolves itself to somewhat of this description. Stock, of first-class must be thrifty, clean, of good growth and of a character and shape true to the variety.

It would be impossible to lay down a hard and fast rule as regards the shape of a tree that would be broad enough to cover all varieties of nursery stock. Some of our best varieties are naturally, if grown on their own stock, crooked, gnarled and ugly. But what matters that, if while corresponding to characteristics the tree is thrifty and of a definite weight, the bark is clean, of good color and devoid of insect injury, and the twigs are full of vitality and life? The shape as to the actual shape. While it is desirable to have a tree with a central leader and three or four side branches symmetrically arranged on a straight growing trunk, it is not always possible and should not always be expected.

Two points can now be deducted. First, it is more important to pay attention to vigor than to shape; and secondly, select your varieties from the market qualities of the fruit that the tree will in time produce, being there will not be deluded by the seemingly appearance of a tree growing in the nursery row. It is well to remember, in this latter connection, that it is the fruit-grower and not the nurseryman who should set the demand.

Furthermore, a tree to be first-class should be of one of medium size. The majority of two-year-old apple or plum trees, for instance, should go about three-quarters of an inch, four inches above the bud. Quite a number of the sweet cherries should run about the same. No definite rule again can be given but it would be well to mention that it appears that the prevailing opinion decides in favor of trees rather under the average in diameter in preference to trees above the average in diameter. Possibly if the trees did not have to be transplanted from the nursery row, the larger size would be in favor.

At the present time it is found that the planting of one-year-old stock is yearly gaining ground. It would ap-

pear that the tenderer the tree the younger is it purchased, so that it can become established quicker; for example, peaches and sweet cherries.

One point further might be mentioned. If our tree is all that can be desired as regards shape and thrift, it might be a little closer to perfection if the bud or scion from which the tree has grown had been taken direct from a bearing tree. While it is unreasonable to suppose any difference between a normal mature leaf had taken from a nursery tree and a similar bud taken from a bearing tree, yet yearly taking scions from



One of the Big Fellows

A fine large green squash grown last year in the garden of Mr. Fred A. Hodge, Collingwood, Ont., by his gardener, Mr. O. S. Hyde. It weighed 266 pounds, and won first prize at the Great Northern Exhibition in that town.

A number of nursery trees naturally allows of a system of interbreeding which might result in slight harm. Nurserymen are in the habit of renewing their buds from bearing trees every so many years, so that the possibility of deterioration is reduced. The elements of heredity are presumably present in every bud and a type once established naturally breeds true, so that if there is a falling off it must be due to adverse selection, accidental or otherwise.

## Orchard and Garden in March

"Prune fruit trees, shrubs and hardy roses. Great fruit trees with better varieties. Prepare for spraying. Sow seeds of tomatoes, cauliflowers, etc., in the hotbed. Start flower seeds in boxes in the house. Re-pot geraniums, ferns and other plants for summer decoration." These are some of the things that gardeners and fruit growers can do this month, according to the March issue of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

Other topics discussed in this issue of that magazine are lime-sulphur vs. Bordeaux for spraying, low-headed peach trees, kind of apple trees to plant, raspberry culture and the growing of tomatoes, onions, potatoes and cauliflower. The leading article tells how fruit growers may make the commercial lime-sulphur wash at home.

Amateur gardeners will find much to interest them in articles on pruning rose bushes, sowing garden seeds, hardy shrubs, ponies, annuals, tree planting, polyanthus and many others. The issue is well illustrated. Samples of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST may be had on request. It is published at Peterboro, Ont.

## More County Exhibits Wanted

Fruit growers in all parts of Ontario should get their county councils interested in the fact that the directors of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association have decided to offer to

duplicate the amount voted by a county council up to the extent of \$50 for special county exhibits at the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition, such as have been shown in the past by Norfolk, Huron and Northumberland and Durham. The only saving clause is that they must put up at least 20 boxes or barrels of fruit packed in a commercial way.

This should encourage some of those counties that have in the past only been able to get \$25 from their councils and which they considered not enough to make a special exhibit. Under the above arrangement such counties would now have \$50 for an exhibit. Further information may be had from P. W. Hodgetts, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, who is the secretary both of this exhibition and of the association.

## Fruit Packers Fined

Since the end of December 32 persons have been fined under the fruit marks act for illegal marking and packing of apples. Informations had been laid by the inspectors of the Department of Agriculture. Of the persons fined, 25 were from the province of Ontario, four from the province of Nova Scotia and three from the province of Quebec. The list of the Ontario culprits is as follows:—

Alfred Baeker, Brussels (four charges); Charles Baynton, Bothwell; Jas. Blackstock, Collingwood; A. C. Caldwell, Dundas; Thos. Conlin, Whitby; Adam Cook, Acton; S. Cowan, Palmerston; John Bierwirth, Elmwood; Ernest Elliott, Harley; R. Elliott, Goderich; W. Grierison, Thornbury; Chas. Hunt, Thornbury; W. R. Kent, Delhi; Lemon Bros., Owen Sound.

(three charges); C. W. Matthews, Kerwood; Mitchell & Auld, Watford; Perrin & Company, London; George Smith, Delhi; J. M. Steel, Clarksburg; A. J. Stephenson, Glen Oak, (two charges); Stewart Bros., Kincardine (two charges); Andrew Vandewater, Chisholm; Arthur Weaver, Squires; W. H. Whitesides, Ravenna; C. A. Watts, Thamesville.

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