

The League has an important part to play in other fields, where its value is not so easily computed in dollars and cents. For instance, in 1907 the white fly—the most dreaded pest of the orange in Florida—made its appearance in Marysville, in the northern part of California. This is a deciduous fruit center over 200 miles north of the commercial citrus orchards, and as the few orange trees in that district are grown more for ornament than use, the people and the State officials generally were apathetic on the matter of attempting to exterminate the pest before it spread, although urged to do so by the State entomologist. Funds were not available in the State treasury. However, the League was wide awake to the threatened danger, and at once made it possible for the State Commissioner of Horticulture to eradicate the white fly from the State by 1909, by paying the bills as they were incurred. The Legislature later reimbursed the League for the money so expended. This is the only extermination of an insect of importance that I know of.

The League uses every effort to improve packing-house methods, urging the importance of cleanliness, care in handling the fruit, standardization of grades, the value of pre-cooling, and such like. It induces the Federal and State Governments to send special investigators to study the diseases, the insects, the soil problems, and other cultural, fruit-handling and fruit-transportation problems that affect the industry. It is building up an extensive agricultural reference library for the use of the grower, and will develop a bureau of information showing the international movement of citrus fruits and other fruits that have a relation to the industry.

This League is unique in the agricultural industry of America, and probably in the world. Its organization and workings should be of interest to Ontario fruit-growers who have recently experienced a rude awakening from a peaceful slumber of contentment, and who will probably remember February 10th, last, when Sir Wilfrid Laurier told their deputation that they were "a little late in the day." I cannot imagine the Citrus League getting such a reply, as in all probability they would be up first. It is one of their duties to anticipate any movement unfavorable to the industry, and to fight it from the start—"to use every honorable means at their disposal to safeguard the common interests of the grower and shipper."

Every business interest of the present day, every corporation interest, has its expert counsel. Even the Governments, in sending eminent jurists to The Hague Tribunal to argue and plead their case, also send, as assistants, expert counsel in the various branches affected; for Justice, herself, must have both sides of a question to weigh. Why, then, should the fruit-grower allow his interests to go unwatched and uncared for? It is strictly a business question with him, and the old adage applies more strongly in these modern days of selfish money interests: "A man who is his own lawyer has a fool for a client."

Promoting Fruit Industry in British Columbia.

Recognizing the difficulties into which the fruit-growers of older Provinces and in parts of the United States have fallen through lack of proper attention to their orchards, the Provincial Government here has established laws and enforces them, which are doing much to enable the orchardists to eradicate and prevent orchard troubles which would, in time, as has been the case in other places, wipe out many of our orchards. It may be that some "Farmer's Advocate" readers are looking for some ideas which will help them to get the Governments in other Provinces to assist them to protect their interests against the diseases and pests which result and spread from the orchards of those who are careless and negligent in looking after the trees.

COMPULSORY SPRAYING.

Throughout each municipality and fruit district, in the months of February and March, the Government representative posted up durable notices, printed on cotton, so that they could not be easily torn off. These notices stated the Provincial Act relative to the spraying of orchards. This act is, in substance, that everyone owning or renting an orchard must see that it is sprayed with lime-sulphur or Bordeaux during the winter months, and that it is advisable, also, to follow this with a lime-sulphur spray when the blossoms of the apple have set. This precaution is to prevent the eggs of aphids and other insects from hatching, and also to eradicate the "black spot" and "apple scab."

Those who neglect to do this may expect to see the Government send in a sprayer and outfit to thoroughly clean up the orchard if the inspector should find it in bad shape or if there should be a complaint received from residents in that section, and then they may expect to have the Government send in the bill.

DISEASED ORCHARDS.

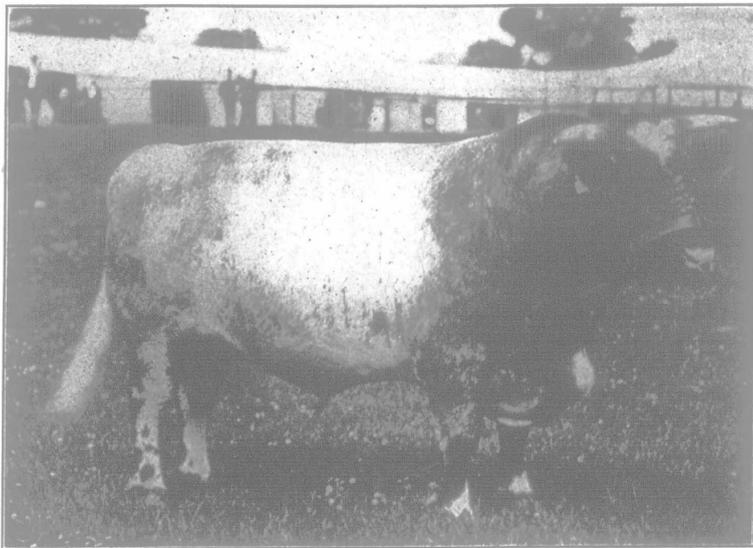
Many serious diseases have crept into our orchards across the line, in Eastern Provinces and in the older parts of British Columbia, which the orchardists in the newer districts of the Province are trying to keep out of their districts. We see the effects these diseases have had on these older orchards, and do not wish to have the same fate to share. The experience of our friends in these districts with such pests as San Jose scale and fire blight we do not wish to duplicate, and, to prevent it, the Government here has inspectors in the fruit districts inspecting all orchards and eradicating the evils, or at least doing all that is known to have proved effective in other cases, in cleaning up any disease they locate.

At present, in one of the old orchards in Summerland that was planted here before there was the attention which is now given to fruit-growing, there broke out some time ago on some of the old trees a little fire blight, and the Government Inspector, in his rounds, located it. For some time he has had the orchard in his hands, treating it with the intention of eradicating the trouble. Some valuable trees had to be sacrificed, but the protection to the district and the other trees of the orchard fully warranted the methods used to stamp out completely this dreaded enemy of the orchardists.

PACKING SCHOOLS.

At a number of places in British Columbia the Department of Agriculture has established each winter a packing school. The purpose of these schools is to give opportunity to those who wish to learn how to pack apples for commercial purposes in boxes. These schools are in session for two weeks at each place in which they are established.

A competent instructor is sent, and a class arranged for. The date upon which the class is to start is announced in the local paper, and those who wish to attend may do so upon payment of \$1.00. The entrance fee is put on simply to keep out those who might wish to join simply for fun. Most of those who join are young folks who intend to pack at home or in the public packing-houses.



Village Diamond, Champion Shorthorn bull, Royal Show, 1911.

The room for the packing-class is equipped with a bench about four feet wide, and as long as the room. The bench has a cloth bottom to hold the apples so that they will not be bruised any more than can be avoided. Along each side are placed "box supports" to hold the boxes for the students.

Boxes and apples and all other supplies needed for the classes are supplied by the Department, and those attending are given every opportunity to learn the work from actual practice.

Some instructors start the students to learn the various packs first, such as the 2-2 or the 3-2, packing without wrapping; others prefer to start off making the students wrap the apples in paper from the start.

These schools are of great value, as it is practically impossible to get enough packers who know how to work when the packing season is on, and as the British Columbia law now demands that apples must be packed in boxes and wrapped, we must get our packers ready for their work before the rush season is on. The instructors are thoroughly competent men, who make a business of packing, and who fully understand the practical, as well as the theoretical side of packing. Thus the success of the school is assured, and the results have been very satisfactory, indeed.

In order to encourage a good attendance at

the classes, and to get those who attend to make use of their knowledge, the Department gives very substantial prizes for exhibits from those who receive a standing at the class, at the fall fairs. In these competitions, there is ample opportunity for the students to show their ability to handle the various sizes of apples, and the various packs, to the best advantage.

These means of assistance which the Department of Agriculture is giving to the orchardists of British Columbia are certainly worth much to us. It may be that our Eastern friends could use some of them to advantage. We are watching with interest the great advance which is being made in the methods of the fruit men in the East, and we still have some things to learn from them, and to some extent we are adopting them. We sincerely hope our methods may be of value to them.

One thing we need here which our Eastern friends have already secured, and which would do more for us than anything else at the present time, is co-operation in marketing our fruit. If there is one thing that is holding down the Western fruit-growers more than another, it is their present method of disposing of their fruit, and the unreasonable freight rates which are charged on their produce. We feel it had enough to be imposed on with the rates on the stuff we are compelled to buy, but we would willingly let that go by if, when we have goods to place on the market, we could place them there without having to pay the unreasonable rates charged for transportation. But we shall have them some time, and we hope that it may be in the near future.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

Our Scottish Letter.

The event which has attracted most attention during the past four weeks is, of course, the Coronation. This great national event has attracted world-wide notice, and in its train has brought a large accession of visitors from all parts of the

British domains beyond the seas. Many of these visitors have come on business, as well as pleasure, and not a few have invested in Clydesdale horses and other classes of British stock. New Zealand and Australian buyers have been amongst us, and the general tendency has been to extend business and bring about a good demand for stock. Unfortunately, we have this week the report of another outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, and as the seat of the disorder is that same eastern region of England in which former outbreaks have been recorded, the situation becomes suspicious. Many believe that these outbreaks are due to contagion in hay

and straw, and possibly other things imported from the Continent. It is not denied that the disease is always to be found on the Continent, and it is almost pardonable to believe that its presence in the parts of England most adjacent to the Continent may be due to the cause indicated. Certainly, it is not satisfactory that the source of the outbreak in so many cases remains unknown. The total prevention of the disease would be more hopeful were the sources traced with some degree of certainty. These outbreaks have one disastrous, indirect effect. They invariably lead to the closing and the keeping closed of the ports of South America, and this means a period to our trade in Shorthorns with these parts. This reflex influence was easily seen at work at the sales in the Royal show-yard at Norwich, where trade was barely normal, and nothing notable in the way of prices for anything was recorded.

The Royal Agricultural Society's Show, at Norwich, was one of the best of a long series. It closed its gates on the last day of June, and the results will be such as to gratify the promoters. It was a really fine agricultural display, held in a genuinely agricultural area, and attended by nearly 122,000 persons, all of whom were identified more or less closely with the cultivation of the soil. The show-yard, at a place