

Mistletoe on the Stem of an Apple Tree—  
A Cluster with Half-formed Fruit.

# Mistletoe and Roses

*Pleasing Incongruities of a Christmas Garden*

By E. T. COOK

THERE is something strangely attractive about the Mistletoe, something that arouses the imagination. It is attractive and yet, at the same time, slightly repellant, for it has somewhat of a vampire nature in that it sucks out and lives upon the life-blood of some honest tree. Moreover, it is both ugly and pleasant to see, for it hangs in rather ungainly bunches and masses, and yet it is beautiful in detail. In form it is so simply constructed that it gives one the impression of being low in the scale of vegetable creation. It is built almost as scantily as a scant weed, but there is a rare and strange kind of beauty in the individual twigs, and especially in the relation of colour between the golden green leaf and the pearl white berry. The trees it most frequents are Apple, Poplar, Thorn and Mountain Ash. The seed can be sown by fixing the berry either in an artificial slit, or a crack in the bark of any likely

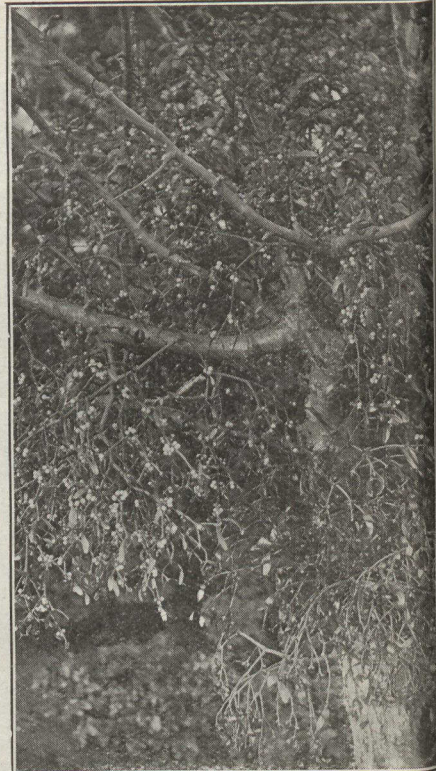
tree, preferably on the underside of a branch, and place a little strip of linen over for a time to prevent birds eating the seeds. The seed must not be used before it is ripe, which will not be until quite the spring. The writer would

value some information about the Mistletoe in this land. The thickly berried twigs seen in the markets at Christmas come for the most part from California.

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The Christmas Rose or *Helleborus niger*, to give its botanical name, is not grown so much as its beautiful white flowers warrant; it is the flower pearl of winter, and is acceptable at the great festival of the year for the adornment for the church and for the home. A form of it named *altifolius* is the most satisfactory in all ways; the flowers have the advantage of size without coarseness and their pure colouring has a tinge of soft rose, with big, thick, leathery leaves mottled with shades of purple and green. The Christmas rose may be grown very readily in pots, filled with mellow soil after they have been crocked, that is, pieces of broken pot placed in the bottom to act as drainage. This prevents a sour condition of

the soil, which means decay of the roots and of course complete failure. A few weeks before flowering or just as the buds are appearing, place the pots in gentle warmth to encourage a free and full development.



Mistletoe on an Apple Tree—A Profusion of  
Pearly White Berries.

## The Work of P. W. Hodgetts

THE recent exhibition of fruits and other products in Toronto served to show the rapid strides that this important industry is making in the Dominion, and the associations founded for the purpose of spreading a knowledge of the many points in the culture of the trees are responsible for the praiseworthy results already achieved.

Much of the burden of the work falls upon Mr. P. W. Hodgetts, who is Director of the fruit branch in the Department of Agriculture, and Secretary of the Fruit Growers' Association, a position he has held for the past ten years, and Secretary of the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition.

Mr. Hodgetts was born in Collingwood, and speaks enthusiastically of the future of the fruit industry. He is a farmer himself, and on his many acres at Oakville superb specimens of the leading apples are produced, the outcome of tilling the land and treating the trees on the most approved scientific principles. Spys, Baldwins, Russets, Fameuse or the delicious "Snow," are a few of the most favoured kinds, and it would be well if all engaged in educational work were to live as much as possible upon the land. Theory and practice should go hand in hand, the two combined creating the most satisfactory results.

The Fruit Growers' Association is one of the

most active in the province, and comes into direct touch with the farmers, and when it is mentioned that last year there were 303,188 acres of orchards in Ontario, it is not necessary to emphasize the immense importance of such an educational body as this. Twenty-five thousand three hundred and sixty acres were given up to small fruits, 11,586 to vineyards, and 58,748 to gardens.

During last year, as recorded in the Canadian annual report, 10,121 persons attended meetings of Fruit Institutes, 38,850 short courses in seed and stock judging, 13,606 dairy meetings, while a train equipped with various agricultural exhibits, was for the first time sent through certain counties, and in eight days about 8,000 people were given new views of agricultural possibilities. Including these meetings and those of the Farmers' and Women's Institutes, 328,307 persons received agricultural instruction of some kind during the year.

Every branch of agriculture has a direct bearing upon the welfare of the community, and the fruit section is not the least remunerative and important. Demonstration orchards have been established all over the Province, and the fruit industry gives a tremendous lift up with the natural sequence, a decided increase in the value of the land.

But, as Mr. Hodgetts pointed out, there is much

yet to accomplish. Evidences of neglect and ignorant methods of cultivation are to be seen in many counties, and splendid orchards rapidly deteriorating through want of nourishment, attacks of insect and fungoid pests, and proper pruning. Indifferent farming can never pay. There is no excuse for ignorant methods when the means of enlightenment are within easy reach.

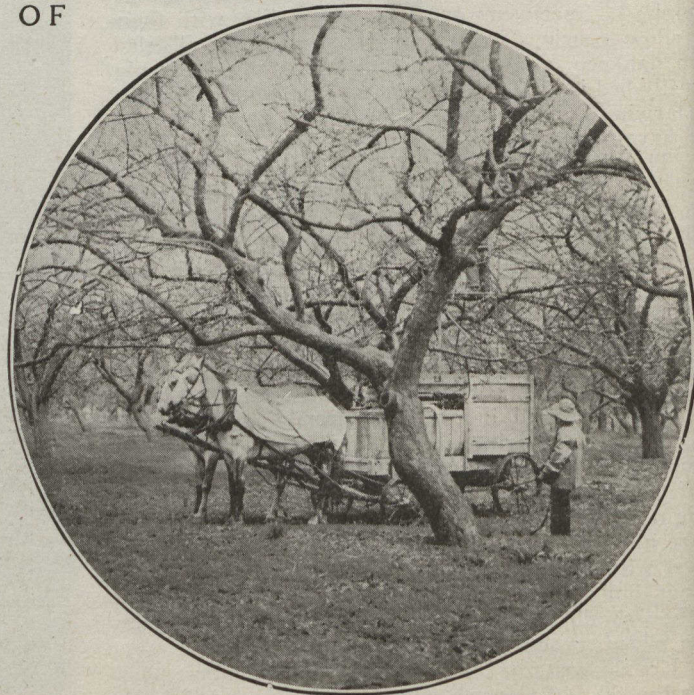
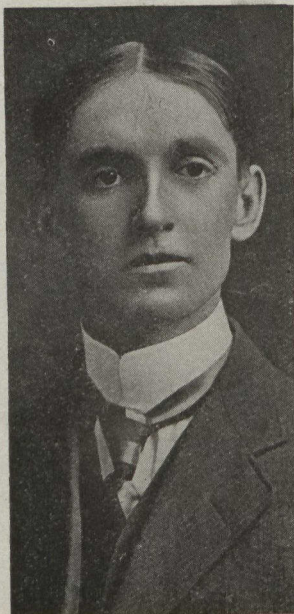
One of the most striking features of the great work undertaken by the Association is the success that has been achieved in reaching sections far removed from the busy haunts of men. It is a work that brings the farmer within touch of great central influences and in no small degree makes the farm a living reality. It is not so much the man, within a few miles of large centres, upon whom all thought is centred, but the workers away, workers accomplishing under sometimes immense difficulties the great questions of growing and shipping fruit for market under discouraging circumstances. Such work is far-reaching and has a direct bearing upon the prosperity of the Dominion. The Association and the farmer are brought into close contact, with the most satisfying results.

One phase of fruit culture should not be lost sight of, that is the raising of new varieties with a view to flavour, apart from mere size.

### VIEWS ON THE FARM OF P. W. HODGETTS



Willow Creek on Mr. Hodgett's Farm at Clarkson's Crossing.



Fruit-Sprayer at Work on the Apple-Trees.