

buying a fruit farm, or to the farmer who wishes to plant an orchard, of knowing what varieties are really desirable; for it is evident that there are very many kinds which are only an encumbrance, and should be rooted out and burned.

It is with this end in view, to know desirable varieties and encourage the planting of them, that our fruit stations have been established; and if our readers will be advised by the reports of their work, as published by the Department of Agriculture, it will save many costly mistakes, and they will not be misled by the gaudy colored plates and glib tongue of the peripatetic tree agent.

#### GREAT MARKETS OPENING.

**T**HERE is no doubt whatever that the world is big enough to eat up all our fruit products, and rich enough to pay us good fair prices for them. Not only is Great Britain a grand distributing market for our products, but we have enquiries more or less direct from Germany, and South Africa for our fancy apples. It is reported that good apples are just now worth 12c. each in Capetown, and that a line of steamers, furnished with cold storage, will soon begin to run between Canada and South Africa. Why then should not we take advantage of such fine opportunities? Even Japan, China and Australia are opening up for us, and, with so many millions of mouths to satisfy, surely the time will never come when our good apples will go begging for buyers.

#### FANCY PRICES FOR FRUIT.

**W**HAT is a fruit tree worth any way? This question puzzles our great corporations when they come to buy land planted with an orchard, for there are as many different values set as there are men to make them. Some say an apple orchard is only an encumbrance, for it does not pay, and

must need be pulled out to make way for something more valuable. Others want fancy prices for each tree. "How many baskets of Flemish Beauty pears do you think I took off that tree this year?" said Mr. W. M. Orr, of Fruitland. Well, it was a stout stocky tree, not so very large, and we guessed about ten. "No," he said, "Twenty, and last year it gave me more than that." What then is that pear tree worth, would you take \$40 for it? "Perhaps I would, but I should hesitate." Well that would count up pretty fast per acre; for you would have perhaps 100 trees on it, and that would make the trees alone worth \$4000, aside from the land value!

"How many barrels of apples would you estimate in this apple orchard which I have recently purchased," said Mr. Orr. We walked through it; the ground was a stiff clay, the trees, though thirty years planted, were low headed, and very stocky, and every tree loaded with clean beautiful apples. We guessed an average of about two barrels per tree, or about 200 barrels from the 100 trees, as a very modest estimate. Now apples this year are valued at \$1.00 per barrel as they hang upon the tree, and the apple crop on this farm we estimated as being worth this year at least \$100 per acre. What then is such an orchard itself worth? Surely \$500 per acre is a very moderate estimate. But why should a man like Mr. Orr, who already has a large fruit farm, wish to add another ninety acres? "It was too good an offer to pass by," said Mr. Orr, "ninety acres, with fine buildings, for less than \$4000! How could I resist the temptation, if only for speculation?"

#### THE VALUE OF OLD TREES.

**T**HE above purchase was as signally low as another, along the same electric road, was high. Twelve acres about seven miles distant was sold in August last for \$10,000! The value was not in the