

failures of most of what have, at some time or other, been proposed as infallible remedies, Mr. Saunders remarks that "Mr. Charles Arnold, of Paris, has adopted a method which he finds to be successful. It is to make the soil quite smooth around the roots of the tree, and white-wash it with a thick coating of lime, which very soon forms a hard crust. Should any of the beetles remain in the chrysalis state during the winter (which is very doubtful), they cannot get through the crust, and when the stung fruit falls on the surface, it is not necessary to gather it, since the grub, when it comes out of the plum, will die, because it cannot penetrate into the ground. There may be also another reason why trees thus treated should be avoided by the curculio. It has often been remarked that trees overhanging streams of water usually have good crops, while others around them may fail; the instincts of the parent beetle teaching it to avoid depositing its eggs in a position where the future progeny will necessarily fall into the water and perish. Might not the glaring white surface of the lime have a similar influence in deterring the insect from operating in a quarter so unsafe?"

The report also contains some useful information in reference to the yield and quality of fruit of last year, which, on account of the severe drought and insect injuries, must be regarded as falling much below an average both as to quantity and quality. This information was chiefly derived from writers and observers resident in the older settled districts of the Province, and their communications contain much which the practical horticulturist will find interesting and valuable. The Fruit Growers' Association has commenced a valuable and much needed work, and its directors already show an earnestness of purpose, which, if continued, cannot fail to carry it onwards with success. What is now felt to be most urgent is a copious collection of well-ascertained facts, carefully collated and generalized. We are pleased to learn that the Commissioner of Agriculture, at the suggestion of the Directors, has issued an extensive series of interrogations relating to fruit culture in all its bearings, to the Horticultural and Agricultural Societies of the Province, in connection with his Department; and it is earnestly to be desired that all to whom applica-

tion for obtaining information is made, will spare neither time nor pains to render the returns as complete and accurate as possible. The public may therefore look forward to the next report for much more extended and minute information on this attractive and important pursuit.

WHY DO BOYS LEAVE THE FARM ?

A variety of answers may doubtless be given to the above question. Among them the following has more truth than poetry in it.

Country homes are, for the most part, unattractive; and endless toil along with meagre pay are the almost invariable characteristic of farming as a business for boys. The country lad of sixteen goes to the village or town, and sees neat, well-painted houses, pretty flower-gardens and ornamental shrubberies, finds that the lads of his own age who are at trades, begin work at seven, leave off at six, and in the evening can dress up and enjoy themselves out of doors, or sit down comfortably and read in doors; moreover they have wages or pocket money under their own control. On the contrary his home, so called, is devoid of beauty within and without. If there is a parlour in the house it is a cheerless place with old fashioned furniture in it, and no music or pictures to make it attractive; or if a little better furnished, it is shut up, and only used for a marriage or funeral, or some very unusual, unfrequent occasion. Outside there are no shade trees, flowers or shrubbery; no neatly kept door-yard, or spacious barn; but all is bare, naked and desolate. He rises at break of day, and work begins as soon as he is up. A variety of odd jobs keep him busy until breakfast time. When that meal is over the tug of the day's work must be encountered. It is on until sunset, with a very brief intermission for dinner, and possibly for tea, unless that meal becomes literally "supper," by being postponed until field work is over. Then there are the evening "chores" to do up. These finished, he is only too glad to creep away to his comfortless dormitory, in quest of sleep. He is clad in rough, slovenly garb, and even his Sunday attire does not encourage self-respect. To crown all, he is very seldom in possession of any money of which he is owner and master.