

should be cut down, to give the apple trees a proper chance, while, if they are planted on separate ground, they will be good, with proper care, for from 30 to 50 years. It is too much trouble and expense to grow plum trees to five or six years old, and then cut them out, and, in addition, the plum trees at that age are too valuable to be cut out. You would be losing at least \$10 per tree, and probably twice that, by planting the plums between the apple trees.

A. McNEILL, Chief Fruit Division.

A P. E. I. Experiment in Co-operative Marketing of Apples.

On account of the difficulty experienced by our Prince Edward Island apple-growers in placing their fruit on the market in the best condition, so as to obtain profitable prices, they decided, about two years ago, to organize a co-operative company, in hope that they would be able to overcome the difficulties, by having their shipments graded and packed by experts, and thus establish a name for Prince Edward Island apples in both home and foreign markets. A company was, accordingly, formed, and a small amount of stock subscribed by some of our leading orchardists. After incorporation was secured, A. E. Dewar, Charlottetown, was elected president, and Theodore Ross, Secretary of Agriculture, appointed secretary. The first move was to import stock for barrels and boxes, and have them put up on the Island; in doing this, there was a large saving, by working co-operatively. When the crop was ready to market, they collected the apples at warehouses at central points, so as to have them handled by expert packers, and have them properly graded, and shipped at the least cost for freight to the best markets.

Right here the company met their first serious trouble. Growers who had the skill and education to produce the very best quality of fruit did not seem to know how to transport it properly to the packing stations, and the result was that their excellent samples of fruit was received by the packers in such bruised and battered condition that very little of it would grade No. 1. This seems to be the weak point in co-operative marketing here, but another year the company propose only to accept at their packing stations fruit that is delivered in proper condition. This matter will soon right itself, as the returns from these shipments were so small that the growers will see the necessity of care in handling on their part.

True co-operation must take into consideration the benefit of each and all, and this can only be accomplished by each individual supplying produce of the very best quality. Co-operation will be a success just in so far as selfishness and carelessness can be eliminated.

Trial shipments were made, with more or less success, to Manchester, England; Sydney, Cape Breton; and Newfoundland. The principal varieties handled were Alexanders, Wealthies and Ben Davis, some in barrels, and others in boxes.

It was found that Wealthy apples, shipped in boxes to Manchester, arrived in much better condition, and at much less cost for freight, than those shipped in barrels. Those were shipped from Charlottetown in steamer direct to Manchester. The managers of the company agree that all fall apples would realize more profit if marketed in boxes, and, after being packed, put in cold storage, and cooled down before shipment.

As an instance of what can be done in shipping apples from Prince Edward Island, when they were carefully handled from the tree to market, Mr. Dewar informed us that his Wealthies averaged \$1.35 per box and \$3.50 a barrel in Newfoundland—just about double what the mixed lots averaged that were gathered from different growers. This difference resulted from these lots being free from scab and bruises.

Cooperation is the slogan of agricultural progress to-day, and has succeeded where it has been given a fair chance; but, in its application to any new phase of business, it often meets with difficulties at first, which are easily overcome by a little study and patience; and we look forward hopefully to the future, when this co-operative movement—which has already made so much progress and been of such great benefit to the farmer in his calling—will go even further, and be the means of waking up farmers to demand their right to a larger share in modelling the fiscal policy of the country on the broad basis of justice to all, favors to none.

Queen's Co., P. E. I.

Not child time, but child energy, must be conserved. The child which spends one hour a day at interesting work in a school-garden may quite conceivably have more mental energy to devote to lessons and classes than the tot which gets away all the day long at words, figures, and similar abstractions.

Persistence Wins in Fruit Culture.

The story of A. P. Stevenson, a Perthshire Scotman, who, after a preliminary experience there, spent two years pioneering at Scarborough, York Co., Ont., and landed in Manitoba in 1874, is one that should enhearten men everywhere who would wrest a living from the soil and make a success of horticulture. Reaching Winnipeg by barge and tug on the Red River, he started for the Pembina Mountains over the ox-trail, wading swamps of water two and three feet deep; then, nearly perished with thirst, tramping with blis-

in 1909, some trees bearing several barrels each. Thousands of dollars were spent in quest of suitable varieties and learning successful methods of cultivation. For one variety that would stand the frost, hundreds were frozen during the winters, and went to the burning brush-pile. Finally he undertook nursery work on his own account, and for ten years has been a tree-planting inspector for the Dominion Forestry Department. One great secret of his success in raising trees and shrubs has been the shelter provided, and hence, in the West, before any attempts at orcharding are undertaken, he lays it down that wind-breaks and shelter-belts of trees must be provided. The accompanying photogravures afford an idea of what he has been able to accomplish, and should surely encourage those who, in the midst of the favorable conditions of Eastern Canada, would make a specialty of fruit culture, fast coming to the front as one of the most profitable branches of modern agriculture.

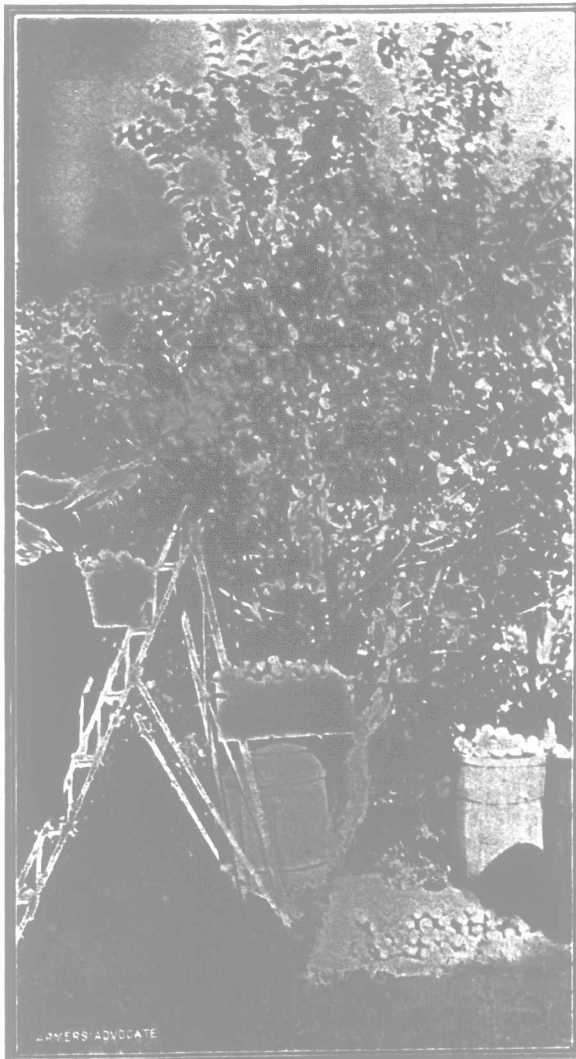
Mr. Stevenson's two sons are both engaged in farming, encouraged largely through the enlightened and successful methods of their father. Mr. Stevenson justly attributes a great deal of his success to the industry and co-operation of his life-partner, who is an enthusiastic horticulturist. In his general farming operations, Mr. Stevenson has fed the soil with vegetable matter by seeding down, and added greatly to his income by rearing cattle and hogs, thus sustaining the fertility of the land. To newcomers in the prairie country, he says: "Use oxen for three years; keep out of debt by buying only what you need and what you cannot do without."

Montreal Nutmeg Melon.

Montreal Island has long been noted for its large, green-fleshed melons of fine quality. They grow to great size, running from 8 to 12 pounds each. These are shipped principally to the large cities of the United States, largely to New York, the usual price being about \$12 per dozen. The quality of this melon, as grown around Montreal, is without doubt superior to the quality attained in this variety by growers in other localities. It may be due somewhat to soil, but undoubtedly the warm, bright days, with not too high night temperatures, gives the quality. Those grown and ripened during July and August are superior in quality to those of later growth. The climatic conditions during the months of July and August on the sunny slopes of Mount Royal is largely responsible for the quality of this melon.

There are two types of this melon, they having been developed by selection, from the original Montreal melon, which was medium in type between these two, by Mr. Decarie and Mr. Gorman, both of whom were extensive growers. The Gorman is more oval than the original melon, while the Decarie type is more flattened at the end, and more ribbed. The Decarie type, as a usual thing, gives a more uniform lot of large melons. The Gorman melons are uniform, but do not run so large, as a usual thing.

The Gorman melon has advantages over the other, inasmuch as being more oval, it stands shipment better. The Decarie type has been developed into too flat a type, and, after maturing, the blossom end gets soft quickly. The tendency now with growers is to get back more to the



Mrs. A. P. Stevenson Harvested Many Barrels of Apples in 1909.

tered feet thirty miles under a hot June sun. On one July day the same year he saw the grasshopper plague fall like a blighting cloud over the land, devouring grain and vegetables to the very roots.

A great lover of fruit, he determined to grow it on his farm, near Morden, despite the obstacles to be overcome. He has now a thrifty apple orchard, as well as plums, cherries and small fruits. His apples netted him nearly \$500



Corner in Orchard of Manitoba's "Apple King," A. P. Stevenson.