

soils where such injury is generally most likely to occur. As to the remedies, but little can be done for trees affected in this way, except to cut away the damaged part and plant over.

F. C. SEARS.

A Tariff Suggestion to the Vegetable-growers.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

I see by a late issue of the "Farmer's Advocate" that the vegetable-growers of Ontario are organized, and intend to press their claims for an increase of duty before the Tariff Commission. With your permission, I would like to make a suggestion along a line which might be overlooked by them. It is that a good stiff duty be placed upon bananas imported from other countries. The use of this fruit has increased enormously, not only in cities, but by country people as well, and right here there is a source of wealth which might be enjoyed by Canadians, if only a duty high enough to be prohibitive were placed upon the foreign article. Imagine the amount of money which goes out of the country every year for this one article of diet alone, money which goes to enrich the foreigner, and which had much better be spent among our own people. Let no one suppose that bananas cannot be grown in our climate. Many who have visited the Agricultural College at Guelph will have noticed in the tropical greenhouse there a banana tree with a ripening bunch of fruit upon it. It is a question of expense merely. Let the price of the fruit be raised sufficiently high and it will be produced. An obstacle in the way will, perhaps, occur to some, in the unwillingness of the Government to impose such a duty, but surely a Government which, to benefit a single manufacturing concern in Montreal, made a substantial increase in the duty on dry white lead, and in consequence made painting dearer for everybody, would not deny the request of such a numerous and influential body as the Vegetable-growers, if such request were pressed with firmness and persistence. If such a thing could be brought about—and there is no reason to doubt that it could—what a change for the better would soon be seen in our country? Around our cities and towns tall chimneys would rise—tall enough to smoke at least—and acres and acres of glass would be added to those already in use. The increased population which would be necessary to run the new industry would provide an improved market for farm products, as well as for factory-made goods, and thus everybody would be benefited. A slight idea of the magnitude of the benefit that would accrue may be had by considering what we at present enjoy under a partial protective system. Thanks to our benevolent manufacturers, who are so solicitous for the general welfare, and our fatherly members of parliament, who have thus swelled the public revenue, and incidentally their own, our tariff, partial though it be, has been operative, and prices of all classes of goods—except, of course, the main products of the farm—have improved. What an added glory would be thrown on Canada's already fair fame should she become known throughout the world as a producer of tropical fruits?

The fruit trade, as is well known, is not in a satisfactory condition, prices being governed by competition often of a cut-throat character. With fruit and vegetable growers of various countries supplying our markets, it is impossible for them to unite and fix prices, but if the trade could be confined to our own producers, why then it is easy to be seen that by simply forming a trust among themselves, fair and profitable prices could be steadily maintained.

By and bye, when the modest needs of our own people had been exceeded, Canada might become an exporter of bananas, and compete in the world's markets with growers of the Southern States and the West Indies. But at this point some smart objector will be sure to say, how can you compete in an open market with those who can produce at one-tenth the cost? Quite easily; give an export bounty. In addition to the tariff on the imported article, a bounty is now paid by the Government on several classes of goods produced in Canada—as, for instance, on petroleum, on iron and steel—and why not also on home-grown bananas?

Middlesex Co. T. BATY.

[Note.—Our correspondent holds out a rosy tinted future for the hothouse banana industry, but he seems to have quite overlooked the real estate literature of the Northwest relative to the far-famed "banana belt" running athwart Saskatchewan and Alberta, where, under the salubrious Chinook wind, and fertilized by a 35-per-cent. tariff, the orange, the date, as well as the plebeian banana, might yet flourish in luxuriance.—Editor.]

A study of bees is worthy of the attention of everybody, and is full of surprises and interest. They are worthy of study from a utilitarian point of view. The fruit-grower cannot do without the beekeeper, and the beekeeper, although he can do without the fruit-grower, is a great deal better off because of him. The honey bee, which the fruit-grower is now beginning to keep in his orchard in a small way, is repaying him by fertilizing the flowers, thus increasing the yield of fruit, and the fruit-grower and beekeeper are no longer enemies, but friends, and are working together for the common good.—Dr. James Fletcher, before the Ontario Fruit-growers' Association.

Manitoba's Apple Crop.

Reports from all over the West go to show that in numerous districts gratifying crops of Transcendent crabs have been picked, and the incident is invariably cited as being evidence of what can be grown in a particular locality. This all creates interest in fruit-growing and redounds to the advantage of the country in general. But the potentialities of the West in large fruit growing are not limited to crab-apple culture. This year that benefactor of all Westerners and the successful pioneer in apple-growing, Mr. Alex. Stevenson, of Nelson, Man., picked at least sixty barrels of standard variety apples, as large in size, as delicious in flavor, and with as good keeping quality as those grown in any of the other Provinces.

Many different established varieties are grown at Nelson, as well as several others which have been grown from seed and are as yet on probation. It is a long task to develop or discover a new variety of fruit. First, the bloom of some hardy kind, such as the Siberian crab, or some hardy standard variety, is fertilized with the pollen of a variety which possesses some commendable characteristic which it is desired to propagate, and by this means it is sought to blend different traits to produce a fruit having the many desirable features of a good apple. The seed produced from the flower so treated is then sown, the tree carefully nurtured until it bears and the fruit tested, for the fruit produce from the seed of an apple never exactly resembles the apple from which the seed is taken. Needless to say, only a



Group of Southdowns.

Property of Sir Geo. Drummond, Huntlywood, Que.; winners of three first prizes at Toronto Exhibition, as well as ram and ewe championships, the latter honor won by the shearing ewe in the centre, which was also sweepstakes lamb and junior champion at St. Louis World's Fair and Chicago International, 1901.

very few trees out of the many thousands so produced are possessed of sufficiently improved characteristics to make them valuable. At other times the seeds of apples are simply sown without the preliminary trouble of blending the blossoms and the trees selected, as previously described.

So far Mr. Stevenson has several outstanding varieties in his orchard: The Hybernal, a large long-keeping sort; the Antonofka, a late good keeper; the Wealthy, an early winter apple; the Simbrisk, for fall use; the Anniset, a good yielder; the Volga Anis, which is fit for use about August 15th, and the Blush Calvil, another early variety. Some of the yielders this year were seven barrels of Blush Calvil off three trees; Simbrisk, over a barrel to the tree; Anniset, seven barrels off four trees. It must be remembered that nearly all the trees are young and small. Besides apples, a large crop of plums was also grown this year.

Through the kindness of Mrs. Stevenson, who, by the way, is probably as much of a horticulturist as is her husband, and to whose constant care much of their success in fruit-growing is due, we were permitted to sample the different varieties of fruit grown, and whether it was because this is a country where one seldom has the privilege of eating apples direct from the tree or because the fruit was exceptionally fine, certain it is that apples and plums never grew that tasted better than those produced this year down at that historic old village of Nelson.

POULTRY.

Use Common Sense in Housing Poultry.

For a great many years authorities on poultry-keeping have advocated warm, tightly-built houses, and the reproduction, as far as possible, of spring conditions. In a degree this reproduction has been successful, so far as the temperature is concerned, but temperature is but a part of spring conditions, and in keeping it up other things have been sacrificed—notably ventilation—and, with the close confinement of the fowls, this has brought sickness and impairment of vitality in many instances. The general poor results obtained under such conditions led Mr. John H. Robinson, author of the book Poultry Craft, to look into the question of housing, and to experiment with houses built on a very different plan. The first of these houses he describes in an article on Poultry Housing in the August Crop Report of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture:

The house was a mere shell or shed; the walls of common hemlock boards, laid perpendicularly on a light frame, and the joints between the boards covered at the back and ends of the house with common battens; the joints on the front being left open. The roof was of shingles, laid on strips of furring placed three inches apart. The house was not tight anywhere; it was built on wet ground, and was cold, the temperature in it being but little higher at any time than that out of doors. Mr. Robinson goes on to describe his houses and methods in detail, giving results obtained and the inferences drawn from them, concluding with an enumeration of the advantages of "cold" houses as follows: "Economy of construction, economy of time, and relief from close attention to ventilation, healthier fowls. As to results: As a rule the production of eggs will not

be so good as in warm houses that are carefully operated, but will be better than in warm houses as commonly operated. Whether the difference in egg production in warm houses can be made enough greater to pay for better attention and the greater risks of disease is a question for each individual to determine for himself. Most farmers would determine in favor of the cold house, because it leaves them more free to look after other work."

A word of caution should be added, lest some adopt too rashly the cold-house method that is being advocated in various quarters nowadays. A reasonable degree of warmth is just as desirable in a poultry-house as it ever was. The trouble in the past has been that too often in seeking after heat the greater essentials of

light, exercise and dryness were neglected, while the fowls, being rendered delicate by hothouse treatment in unsanitary environment, were unduly susceptible to the inevitable extremes of a northern winter climate, and to the rigors to which they were perforce subjected at times when allowed to range. Hothouse conditions are not adapted to maintain animal vigor through successive generations in a northern climate, and it is well that poultrymen are awakening to the fact. In seeking to adopt the rational method, however, care should be observed to avoid the opposite extreme. The construction of a poultry-house and its winter attention demand, above all things, the exercise of common sense.

Skim Milk for Laying Hens.

In order that hens may lay well, their food must contain all the elements which go into the construction of an egg. The one thing which they are most likely to fail of finding is supplied by animal food. We have been in the habit of furnishing this by feeding cut bone. This summer we have been unable to procure it. As a substitute we have used skimmed milk. The hens have laid well. To make sure that the milk had an influence upon the egg yield, we discontinued it for a time, and the eggs began to drop off. When the milk was resumed again the number of eggs increased at once. We have found that it must be fed always sweet or always sour, and must be begun gradually—a little