

Causes of Failures in Apple Growing in Quebec*

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ONE of the principal causes of failure in apple growing is the want of thought,—not studying the various conditions concerned, but taking things for granted and doing these in the same way that our fathers and grandfathers did. Before the Central Experimental Farm was started in Ottawa, it was taken for granted that apple orchards could not be grown for profit in that vicinity, but after years of selection and experimenting with varieties, they have an orchard to be proud of.

PLANTING TENDER VARIETIES.

Losses have been made in setting out tender varieties, not suited to our climate, while profits could be made out of those that succeed well. At the present time, nurserymen in the more favored regions are better educated in the needs of our northern climate than they were, but purchasers need to watch the tree agent with colored pictures of fruit, pleasing manner and high prices. That delicious winter apple, Northern Spy, is counted a hard variety in western New York, recommended there to top-graft tender varieties, but in the province of Quebec, it is not hardy. A sure way of losing money is to plant tender and half hardy varieties.

UNDRAINED SOILS.

Losses are made in setting out trees in soils that are not well drained. A good deal of the bark bursting and winter-killing of trees is caused by the effects of heavy autumn rains, followed by severe winters in undrained soils.

ORCHARDS IN SOD AND PASTURED.

It is admitted that, to grow apple trees successfully, it is best to cultivate, especially for the first ten years. If you want to destroy trees while young, sow grain and seed down to grass. The trees will be stunted in growth, but in all likelihood there will be a good crop of after-grass and clover. At that time of the year the cow pasture is generally bare. You will say, "It is too bad having this grass go to waste, while if I turn in the cows it will increase the flow of milk. There is such a lot of grass the cows won't hurt the trees." What will be the result? Probably half of the trees will be destroyed.

A TRANSPORTATION FACTOR.

Another cause that makes apple growing not so profitable as it might be is the long distance the apples have to be hauled to the nearest railway station or steamboat landing. No matter how much a fruit section is advertised and boomed, if it is far from a shipping point, it will take away most of the profit. In the province of Quebec, the time

to dispose of the apples is before navigation closes.

THE LABOR QUESTION.

The labor question at the time of the apple harvest has a great deal to do with the profits out of an orchard. On the Island of Montreal, thousands of barrels of apples are shaken off the trees and filled loosely into waggons that hold about ten barrels, the purchasers coming for them in the orchards and giving on an average of \$1.00 a barrel for them. I have heard of box cars being filled up in bulk with Fameuse apples shaken from the trees in other parts of the pro-

sions, while many of the boys that remain on the farm cannot sign their names. The boys should have the advantage of a good education.

Blackberry Root Cuttings

John Ferguson, Murches', N. B.

The process of making root cuttings is to dig up the entire plant, securing all the roots possible over one-eighth of an inch in diameter. These should be cut into pieces, two or three inches long, and should be planted in broad rows, somewhat as peas are planted, covering about two inches deep. Before severe freezing



A Part of the Great Fruit Show Held at St. Catharines Last Month

The extensive display of the St. Catharines Cold Storage and Forwarding Co. may be seen at right background; general display of fruits from farm of Mr. Albert Pay, St. Catharines, at left background; collection of peaches by Wm. Armstrong, Queenston, at end of second table (baskets reclining). These three exhibits won Wilder medals. See page 227.

vince. It is too bad that this should happen so near a shipping port.

To make a success of packing and marketing apples, we need co-operative associations with central packing houses like they have in some parts of Ontario. The farmers in Quebec co-operate in the manufacture of butter and cheese; why not in the grading and packing of fruit?

HORTICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Last but not least.—Give the boys the advantage of a good horticultural education, either at the Oka Agricultural Institute, at La Trappe, or at the Macdonald College. There is a prejudice among a few farmers against education in connection with farming. Money is spent lavishly for those studying for profes-

weather sets in, the bed should be covered with five or six inches of straw or stable manure to prevent deep freezing. In the spring the covering is raked off, and by the middle of June the rows will be studded over with buds coming from every piece of root planted. These plants are much better than the "sucker" plants because they have large numbers of fine fibrous roots and are much more sure to live and make stronger canes.

Apply a dressing of barnyard manure to the patch in late fall or very early in the spring. If no disease attacks them, blackberry plants will, with good treatment, live and bear fruit for ten or fifteen years, much of course depending upon soil and cultivation.

*Extracts from an address given at Summer meeting of Quebec Pomological Society at La Trappe.