

flavor. Its size is medium and its color is yellowish with beautiful red stripes. It should be in every orchard and if one can have only two or three trees in a back yard, one of them should be of this variety.

The pears, peaches and plums have also been abundantly in evidence. The severe cold of last winter destroyed a large part of the buds that should have produced peaches this year, but in a few sections the crop has been fair. California has shown many excellent peaches and the same is true of the states of Utah, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. It seems strange, but it is nevertheless a fact, that the Okanagan country, which is in Washington, next to British Columbia has a better peach crop than the regions further south. There has been more and larger peaches from Astoria county than any other section, because the fruit has been fairly abundant and those who have been making the fruit show have not failed to send an abundant supply to the exposition. Many specimens from there have weighed a pound each and one turned the scales at 20 ounces. Plums and prunes of many varieties have been shown. From several sections there have been specimens so large that four weighed a pound. This might almost seem incredible but it is nevertheless true.

One of the most remarkable things about the fruits of the Pacific Coast is the fact that there are no worms in any of the peaches, plums, apricots or cherries and one can eat them with perfect confidence and no fear whatever of finding anything of the kind. This is not only very desirable to those who consume the fruits at home but it is a great advantage when it comes to marketing the fruit, because there is no loss whatever from this cause and there can be no complaints from either the dealer or consumer. There are troubles enough with wormy apples and pears and the growers have to fight the codling moth about the same as in the eastern states, but the bright color of the apples and pears is greatly in their favor.

On the whole, the fruit show at this exposition has been a constant delight to both exhibitors and visitors.



SPOKANE BUILDING, A-Y-P. EXPOSITION.

APPLE TREE PRUNING

By T. W. Stirling, Kelowna, B. C.

ANY fruit grower on being pointed out an apple tree can say at once whether it is well shaped or badly shaped. The general characteristics of such trees as would be called well shaped by an experienced fruit grower are found to be somewhat as follows:

The main branches spring from the trunk at a good broad angle. They do not spring opposite to each other but are distributed up and down the trunk. They are evenly placed around the tree and do not interfere with each other. There is a definite centre stem from which they spring and which extends above the main side branches.

Such a tree is of the strongest possible frame. It will carry its proper load of fruit without propping. There is no fear of it being split down to the ground and ruined by an over weight of fruit or by wet snow or any other cause. The greatest damage that will be likely to happen to it will be the breaking of a bough, an injury which can easily be repaired and the loss replaced within a short time. If any main branch is over laden and breaks off, the injury to the trunk will be comparatively light; there will be splitting. Always

fresh shoots can be grown from the centre to replace broken branches. After all the main stem of the tree is the tree; keep that intact and the tree is still there to grow any branches from that are required.

To illustrate the advantages of this form it is only necessary to think of another form which is very common. That is the tree where the centre has been cut out and never replaced, where the branches all spring from about the same point as the fingers grow from the palm of the hand. Such a tree, when the day of trial comes, either from an overload of fruit or from a fall of wet snow, yes, and sometimes by reason of its own weight, will get tired and lie down, splitting right to the ground so that there is nothing left from which a new tree can be grown.

Now, shaping a tree is not the whole art of pruning, and by shaping a tree is meant that treatment of the tree in its earlier years which definitely determines its general form; a tree may be well shaped in this sense yet at the same time woefully in need of cutting and clearing out, but this latter branch of the pruner's art cannot be dealt with adequately in a paper, and it is the first only which is the subject of this present effort.

The object of this paper then is to outline a method, and to state a few short rules, which if followed will ensure every tree growing up in a correct form.

The rules are three in number, viz.:

- (1) Keep the leader.
- (2) Have but one leader.
- (3) Make the leader lead.

The explanation of these and method of carrying them out in practice is as follows:

The tree is planted as a yearling whip and cut back to about three feet, or a little less, from the ground with the object of forcing buds into decided growth so that there may be something to work on the next spring. The first real step towards shaping the tree is taken the



ALASKA BUILDING, A-Y-P. EXPOSITION.