

fruit, which is of the greatest importance when the product is placed upon the market. Light is also one of the greatest factors in the production of uniformity in the size as well as the colour of fruit. Uniformity is of the greatest importance if the fruit is to be packed and marketed most successfully. The important role which light plays must always be borne in mind when pruning trees. Where the least sun and light strikes the trees is where trees should be kept the most open. The portion of the trees receiving the least amount of light is shown by the poorly coloured, small-sized fruit, and where long, weak, spindly fruit-spurs are found. This condition is generally found on the lower outside portion of the tree. Therefore, if the highest quality of fruit is to be produced, the outside of our trees *must be kept well pruned out* to allow plenty of light to penetrate right into the centre of the tree. This is one of the main reasons for favouring the semi-pyramidal tree. It is generally conceded that on young trees the main branches should not be allowed to grow one directly above the other, or should not be closer at the tips than 16 to 24 inches apart after pruning. This distance has to be regulated according to the amount of sunshine in the particular section; for example, branches might be kept a little closer in the Dry Belt sections than in the Lower Mainland or West Kootenay Districts.

THINNING FRUIT BY PRUNING.

If the characteristic growth of different varieties of fruits is known, a great deal of the work of thinning the fruit can be most economically done at the time of pruning. It is characteristic of many varieties to form too many fruit-spurs, as, for instance, such varieties as the Jonathan, Wealthy, etc. These spurs can be thinned out, or the fruit-spur branches cut back, thus lessening the number of fruit-spurs on the branch. By so doing, not only is the fruit thinned, but the excessive drain on the tree's vitality is prevented, and the production of higher-quality fruit from the remaining spurs is the result. This latter practice of cutting back fruit-spur branches is done *principally* on old bearing trees, where they will often attain 2 feet or more in length and have twenty to sixty fruit-spurs on each branch, when the branch is only capable of carrying and bringing to successful maturity about three to six fruits.

With young trees up to about the sixth year, pruning is practised to encourage the formation of fruit-spurs and fruit. When trees commence to bear well, the pruning is principally to thin the limbs, to strengthen the tree, and to keep the trees open enough to admit plenty of sun and light. In other words, endeavour to make the fruit regulate the growth as soon as possible. In old bearing trees winter pruning is practised principally to allow plenty of light and air to penetrate to all parts of the tree, to keep the tree balanced and shapely, and to cut back the fruit-spur branches and limbs to invigorate them, and to foster the production of the highest quality of fruit.

PROPER BALANCE ESSENTIAL.

It must be remembered that the development of the roots and the fruit must assume a balance. The roots might be called the boiler of the tree, the top the engine, and the fruit the load. If the boiler is very large and the load light, the engine will be forced, and a heavy growth of wood will be the result. If the boiler is weak and the engine strong, the engine cannot be worked to its full capacity; therefore the growth of wood and the load of fruit will be correspondingly small. If the load is heavier than the boiler