

Sell Cull Apples to Evaporator.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

We who sell our cull apples to the evaporator, and receive our checks after throwing the fruit into a bin at the evaporator, or into a freight car at our station, will remember that we have saved ourselves a lot of work and money on one of the many small side-branches that all work together to make farming one of the best-paying professions a man can follow.

Fifteen or twenty years ago the evaporator was unknown, but the twentieth century has found a brisk demand for factory-dried apples. The majority of Ontario farmers sell their cull apples to the evaporator; a few still cling to the old method of storing them for marketing, but those who have been selling to the evaporator have found it much more profitable than storing for marketing.

Those who cling to the old method of storing, do so with great labor. They first gather together all the old barrels and boxes available and put them in the cellar; then, with the aid of a couple of bins, they are able to store 50 per cent. of the culls of the orchard. The remaining 50 per cent. (the sweet ones and the smaller ones) are left in the orchard to house the worms which they are full of, and to injure the stock which may be turned in to eat them, no matter if they may be frozen.

When winter comes, you cull the smaller apples from those you have stored, to the extent of about 20 per cent. These are, with hard work and great inconvenience, peeled and dried. You then have the remaining 30 per cent. for marketing. You perhaps take a few bags to market in the early part of the winter, and find the price very low; you then determine to wait till spring, till the price gets higher. True, it does get higher in the spring, and you begin to sell, but 15 per cent. of your apples have rotted during the winter. You then realize on only 35 per cent., or one-third of your cull apples. Has not this been the experience of many farmers who have stored their culls?

When you sell to an evaporator you get pay for three-thirds of your apples, instead of one-third, and, although you get a higher rate per cwt. for stored apples, you do not realize any more, because of the extra expense in handling them.

Here (in Oxford Co.) our cull apples are put up in two grades, peeling apples larger than two inches in diameter, and chopping apples two inches and smaller in diameter. We receive 40 cents per cwt. all round.

These two grades cover every cull apple in the orchard. There are no worms housed in decaying apples to destroy next year's crop, no apples are left to be frozen for your stock to eat and injure themselves in so doing; it is much more profitable and labor-saving. Is there a cull-apple agency at your station? J. G. S.
Oxford Co., Ont.

Dundas County Apples Complimented.

During the last week of September, A. McNeill, Chief of the Fruit Division, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, visited the section about Morrisburg, Ont., and purchased sixty boxes of McIntosh Red apples, to be sent to the World's Fair at Brussels, Belgium; the Festival of the Empire Exhibition, to be held at London, Eng., next summer, and to the National Apple Show at New Westminster, B. C., in November this year. This fruit was produced on H. D. Willard's farm, and the orchard, which has long been known as one of the best in that entire section, was pruned and sprayed under the direction of A. D. Campbell, the District Representative of the Ontario Dept. of Agriculture. Such success under the conditions prevailing this year must be most encouraging to the representative of the Department, and it is to be hoped that, when the orchardists of that section have learned their lesson sufficiently well, equal success on a generous scale may be attained by the Government's agent in advancing other farm practices.

The Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway Commission did an excellent thing for the North country when it established at Englehart a greenhouse to grow flowers and shrubs to decorate the line. This greenhouse, with the flower-beds and grass plots surrounding it, is already a beautiful spot, and an inspiration in home adornment to settlers, whose attention is liable to be engrossed with clearing and money-making. Pansies were observed here on October 5th, uninjured by frost; and some of the most beautiful specimens of potatoes that one could wish to see were exhibited by Mr. Kerrigan, the superintendent in charge. The varieties were Early Rose, Early Ohio, Beauty of Hebron and White Star, the first named variety having done rather the best this year. They were all planted, we understand, about the middle of May.

Ontario Peach Shipments to Britain.

The trial shipment of Ontario peaches to the Old Country is a departure into new trade channels worthy of the fullest encouragement. Some have been rather skeptically inclined regarding the advisability of such an adventure, but when it is remembered that, for the best English hothouse peaches the consumers readily pay sixty cents apiece, one must admit that Canadian shippers can accept prices far below that, and still enjoy a profitable trade.

Several shipments have been made from the Niagara Peninsula this season under the direction of the Fruit Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. Up to a fortnight since, 1,500 packages had been shipped from Mr. Dobson's peach ranch at Jordan Harbor, and about 1,400 for the St. Catharines Cold-storage Co., in addition to several smaller private shipments.

For this trade, the fruit is specially packed in a box about 17 inches long, 11½ wide, and 3½ deep. No blemished, fully ripe or uneven fruit is packed. A layer of wood wool is placed in the bottom of the box, each peach is wrapped in tissue paper, then individually nested in wood wool, and finally a layer of wood wool is placed on top. Thus, about twenty peaches in a single layer is put in one package. As soon as possible after coming from the tree, the fruit is cooled in cold storage, then expressed to Montreal, and shipped in cold storage. The cost of a box is between 4c. and 6c.; wood wool laid down costs about 8½c. per pound, the cost being partly due to the lack of a sufficiently fine grade in Canada. Another method of packing is being tried, wherein the peaches are all nested together in the center, with wood wool on all six sides of them.

Reports of the marketing had not yet been received, save on Mr. Dobson's first lot. These sold at five shillings per case of Crawford peaches, or about \$1.23, which, after all expenses, would leave a very nice profit.

Regarding this fruit, the London Daily Telegram said:

"Taking into consideration that the shipment under notice is an early one, the quality of the peaches is quite satisfactory. The variety is the Early Crawford, and most of the specimens are good and juicy. To compare the fruit with the finest grown in English hothouses is not only unfair, but it is absurd. In the first place, there is a vast difference in price, best English peaches being worth 2s. 6d. each, whereas the Canadians can be bought for 6d. Ontario shippers have made a good start by sending 'free-stone' fruit, the only kind for which there is a demand in this country. Peaches with stones adhering firmly to the flesh are quite useless on our market. Very soon there will be available the Elberta, which is superior in quality and shape to the Crawford."

What the Canadian National Exhibition is to stockmen, the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition is to the growers of fruit, vegetables, flowers, and to apiarists. The annual show this year is to be held a week later than usual, on Nov. 15th to 19th. The management promise more and better fruit than ever before, and special low rates will obtain on all the railways. There is much to see and hear. The show, with the conventions held in connection, is an education of a rare order. Be in Toronto the third week in November.

A ten-acre vegetable garden, in the pink of condition, was one of the sights which greeted the agricultural press excursionists to New Ontario, this month, on entering the town of Liskeard. A thriving horticultural society, with about one hundred and fifty members, is supported by the neighboring town of Haileybury, on Lake Temiskaming, where attractive flower-gardens were noticed, uninjured by frost, on October 5th, having been protected, no doubt, by canvas or other means.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

Dragged Roads in Manitoba.

In those sections where earth roads are maintained, the value of the split-log drag as an economic and efficient road-making instrument has been many times demonstrated. It is especially adapted to the conditions of Western Canada, and, to encourage farmers to become familiar with this valuable implement, "The Farmer's Advocate," of Winnipeg, donated \$100 for prizes for a road-dragging competition. This sum was duplicated by Wm. Harvey, of Winnipeg, thus making a substantial sum for the purpose. Sixteen miles of road have been dragged during this last summer under the conditions of the competition. Every mile of these competitive stretches stands out conspicuously from the rest of the road as a striking object-lesson in good road-making. In some cases, roads that were almost impassable were made to approximate city streets by the use of this simple instrument. This implement is cheap, being homemade; it is easily operated, and

works rapidly; it is highly efficient on earth roads, and it is simple of construction and easy to operate. All these are characteristics which should lead councillors and road supervisors to become enthusiastic devotees of the drag wherever there are earth roads to be maintained.

P. E. Island Letter.

Harvest is now all finished; even the latest patches of grain are housed. It has been the best harvest here for many years. All kinds of grain were above an average, and the weather was ideal for saving the crop in the best condition. Considerable threshing has been already done, and the yield from the straw and weight of the grain is all that could be expected. Considerable of oats is going forward to market at from 36 to 40 cents per bushel. The potato and root crop is not so good as last year. The exceedingly dry weather of the latter part of August and all of September will lower the average of these crops very considerably. Still, the recent rains since October came in will help the root crop very materially. Grass is short now on account of the drouth, but the barns are full of clover hay, so that there will be no trouble to keep the stock thriving right along. We had the first frost that was heavy enough to wilt the corn on October 3rd. Potato-digging is now the order of the day, and we have noticed quite a little dry-rot showing up in the tubers. Very little spraying is yet done here to prevent the blight.

Dr. McPhail, a native of Prince Edward Island, now a citizen of Montreal, and one of the literary lights of Canada, is giving Islanders an object-lesson in the cultivation of the potato. He has seventeen acres of the tubers on his farm at Orwell this year. He has a number of the best varieties that are in great demand in Montreal and other large cities, and he expects big returns in cash from his venture, as he will cater to a class of customers who will demand the very best in their table potatoes. The Doctor, we understand, uses only commercial manures, and follows the most up-to-date system of cultivation, and expects to prevent the blight by spraying with the Bordeaux mixture. His venture will be closely watched by farmers here, and if he succeeds in getting the big crops and high prices he expects, he will find plenty of farmers to follow his lead, as our soil and climate here are specially suited to the production of potatoes.

The dairy season here has been quite successful, and the output of the factories will be the largest since the beginning of co-operative dairying.

Lambs are selling here for shipment to the United States at 5 cents per pound, live weight. Evidently, the "sheep has a golden foot" just now.

At a meeting of representatives from the Farmers' Institutes, held in Charlottetown during Exhibition week, a beginning was made to organize a "Central Institute Convention" for the whole Island. A provisional directorate was appointed to draw up a constitution and have the Legislature amend the "Institute Act," so as to give the new society a legal standing. The need of such a society has been felt here, in order that farmers as a whole could make their agricultural wants known to the Local Government. This society will be constituted of delegates from each of the local Institutes, who will meet from time to time and discuss and give expression to the authorities of the pressing needs of our greatest of all industries, Agriculture. W. S.

To Increase Grain Production.

An organized effort on the part of the National Association of North American Grain Exchanges was made at their recent convention in Chicago, to ultimately increase the yields of grain in this country. A committee on seed improvement was appointed by the Association to confer with allied interests in an endeavor to encourage the production of pure seed grain, and devise plans for locating and distributing same. Among the interests which promised to support the movement were representatives of all the leading grain exchanges on the continent, representatives from the principal railroads, the United States Department of Agriculture, the agricultural press, State Experiment Stations, seedsmen, millers, farmers' organizations, bankers' associations, private enterprises, such as International Harvester Co., and others of similar importance.

Each of the above-mentioned interests had delegates present who pledged their support in a manner which left no doubt as to their intention of doing everything in their power to insure the success of the new organization.

Aside from the magnitude of the benefits involved, the meeting was of special interest from the fact that it is the first time any organized effort of the kind has been made. It was also unique from the fact that Mr. Business Man was seen voluntarily playing the role of leader in an undertaking which, in the usual course of events is created and sustained only by loosening the purse strings of the Government treasury.

H. H. MILLER.