

Garden and Orchard.

Apples for Export to Europe.

[A paper read by President Leitch before the Middlesex Agricultural Council.]

Amongst the many products that Canada exports to Europe, perhaps the orchard points to a greater want of reflection and foresight on the part of the cultivator than any other product of the farm. The buyer, in going to an orchard to purchase apples for export, is painfully impressed with the want of care in the selection of proper varieties suitable for export; in many orchards of forty and fifty trees laden with fruit, not more than one-third, or one-fourth, are fit to barrel, the rest being fit only for use on the farm are of little value, unless the orchard happens to be near some large city, where the fruit can be sold or converted into cider, vinegar, or dried.

It is only a few years since apples began to be exported from this section of Canada, yet the owners of orchards are already beginning to be aware that they made a great mistake in the varieties. They planted in order to realize any profit from them, and are now beginning to enquire what varieties to plant in order to realize the greatest profit. The varieties in favor of buyers at present are the American Golden Russett, Baldwin, King of Tomkins County, Eosopus Spitzenburg, Northern Spy, R. I. Greening, Seeks, and Ben Davis.

Now it is not necessary to plant many varieties for export in one orchard for various reasons, among which may be mentioned: In a lot of ten varieties sent to market mixed, the buyer must open a sample of each kind before he buys, consequently some are eaten, some are wasted, and the barrels that are opened in this way cannot be sold for the same price as those that are not opened, hence the buyer wants as few lots mixed as possible in a car lot of 160 barrels.

The farmer who intends to plant trees to raise apples for export, should not grow more than three varieties. Now what these varieties should be is a delicate matter to advise, as some kinds grow on some soils better than others. I would have no hesitation, after a good many years experience in growing and shipping apples, if planting another orchard, to plant the following varieties for export:—American Golden Russett, Ben Davis and Baldwin. These are all old varieties, well tested from Maine to Michigan, and will grow and yield more profit than any other three varieties that I am acquainted with. But the Baldwin must be top-grafted on some other stock, as the wood of this tree is soft and brash, rots and splits at the crotches, which causes the tree, if root-grafted, to be short-lived and unprofitable, hence the necessity of finding a proper stock to graft on, and for this purpose fortunately the tree is at hand in the snow apple—a thrifty, hardy tree, with limbs and crotches as tough as whalebone, with a neat, compact head, very suitable for this purpose. The trees should be grafted the third or fourth year after being planted in the orchard and growing thriftily.

One hundred trees of Baldwins grafted in this way and occupying about three acres, after being ten years planted, should be worth to the cultivator \$300 per year for the next thirty

years, if properly attended to. I have this year filled eight barrels from medium sized trees of this variety, and ten barrels are not uncommon from large trees, which are worth in the orchard \$1 per barrel, the empty barrel being paid for by the buyer.

Another very important matter in connection with profit from the orchard is: Picking the fruit off the trees, in order to realize the highest price, must be carefully done by hand, and carefully laid by to sweat for a few days, and for this purpose there should be built in every orchard a shed or house of some kind suitable to the size of the orchard, furnished with boxes or bins sufficient in number to keep separate the different varieties; also room to keep the barrels dry before and after they are packed, and it is also necessary that the fruit should be dry before it is packed, which cannot be done if the fruit is laid on the ground in heaps under the trees. It also saves time, as in the month of October may days are wet and cloudy. If fruit is left out in the orchard, it must be slow work, and a great deal of it must be packed in a wretched condition.

Whoever handles fruit must observe some or all of the above rules in order to realize from his orchard any profit.

As few people have any idea of our trade in apples, I may say that from one station in Middlesex no less than 15,000 barrels were exported last fall, all grown within ten miles of Strathroy Station, distributing no less than \$22,000 among farmers and laborers. This year it is expected that not less than half a million of barrels will be exported to Europe from America.

Papers for Amateur Fruit Growers.

BY L. WOOLVERTON, GRIMSEY, ONT.

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THE APPLE.

(Concluded.)

Of winter apples the Baldwin is generally acknowledged to be the most profitable that can be grown for market. Under good cultivation it reaches a large and sometimes a very large size, which with its deep red color, makes it very saleable. It is usually a very abundant bearer every alternate year; but for three or four years past this apple has not kept up its reputation with us in this latter respect. Large orchards of Baldwins have been almost barren for several years, and the fruit small and scaly. Probably this failure is only temporary, and will pass away when the trees gather fresh vigor.

The Northern Spy, with some growers, is the great favorite. Its delicious flavor, its purplish red color, half obscured by a thin pale bloom, its fine size and great productiveness every other year, justly claim for it a most prominent place. But it is not always satisfactory. Some seasons it spots; grown in unfavorable soil it is poor, and the tree dies young; and when improperly pruned, and left without cultivation or manure, the fruit is small and uncolored.

The American Golden Russett is almost without a fault, unless it be that it is below medium size. No apple in our whole orchard makes so few seconds in packing time, almost every specimen being perfect and free from worms.

The King of Tompkins County is one of the most valuable apples. Its magnificent size and deep red color in favorable seasons, give it the precedence in all markets; and these qualities are well supplemented by its rich vinous flavor. One might discern a barrel of Kings if opened in the dark by the delightful aroma arising from the fruit. And when cooked, no apple presents such an attractively colored flesh, or makes up into such delicious pies. But, unfortunately, the tree is a scant bearer, and herein consists its chief drawback.

The Roxbury Russet is the best keeping apple. No other will open up in May or June in such an excellent state of preservation, or command such ready sale in the spring. It is also an excellent bearer every alternate year; but for two years past it has been more or less blemished in the county of Lincoln.

This closes our list of most desirable apples for cultivation in Southern Ontario, although there are many others well worthy of notice.

We have entirely discarded the Eosopus Spitzenburg, because it has apparently run out. The twigs blight very badly, the tree is very unproductive, and the fruit is small and scabby. We hesitate to condemn this fine old variety, but sad experience compels.

The Greening, too, has long held the first place in many orchards, but of late we can scarcely rely upon it, except as an admirable cooking apple for home use. The terrible spot has attacked it quite seriously, especially in old orchards, so that some seasons we, at Grimsby, have had to make culls of two-thirds of our Greenings.

For stock feeding no apple is so good as the Tolman Sweet. It is a good bearer and a good keeper, and might in many cases be grown as a substitute for carrots to feed horses, but it is not generally profitable as a market apple.

I may perhaps be pardoned for mentioning my new seedling the Princess Louise, so highly praised in the reports of the Fruit Grower's Association. It promises *par excellence* as a Christmas dessert apple, combining the beauty of the Maiden's Blush with the delicious flavor and melting flesh of its parent, the Fameuse.

It seems scarcely necessary to add anything concerning the apple markets.

Summer apples need to be carefully gathered as soon as they attain full color, and taken to the nearest market in a spring wagon; or, if too far away for this, they should be shipped to some reliable commission house. For some years there have been numerous houses in Montreal soliciting consignments of fruit, from most of which satisfactory returns may be expected. Of late the same business has grown up in Toronto, and very often the shipper will find the latter as good a market for his early apples as any he can find. Ottawa, Kingston, London, St. Catharines, and indeed all our cities will take more or less, but the latter are very easily glutted. Indeed our very largest markets may be very easily overstocked with summer and fall fruit, unless it is the very best and put up with the greatest care.

Our winter apples must usually be exported, except in seasons of great scarcity at home. Of course a large quantity will always be bought up by Montreal and Quebec buyers for use in that Province; while a yearly increasing quantity will go to our great Northwest. Nova Scotia, too, although exporting a large quan-