

old trees in the dooryards of the older homesteads, many of which are still bearing good crops in spite of neglect. Naturally the tree is very hardy and exceedingly long-lived. Historically, it is one of the oldest fruits, having been grown in Europe for over three centuries. It is believed that the original trees came from Southern Persia, but it is due to the improvement work of the last two centuries in Europe that we have so many excellent varieties at the present time.

Several good varieties have been originated in the United States and a few have been originated in Canada. It may be interesting also to know that of the many hundreds of named and described varieties known to-day, by far the greater number belong to England, France, Belgium and Germany. Possibly more work has been done on improvement and propagation in Belgium than in any other country.

In the experimental orchard at Vineland upwards of one hundred and fifty varieties including all the common ones and many French and other European varieties are under test.

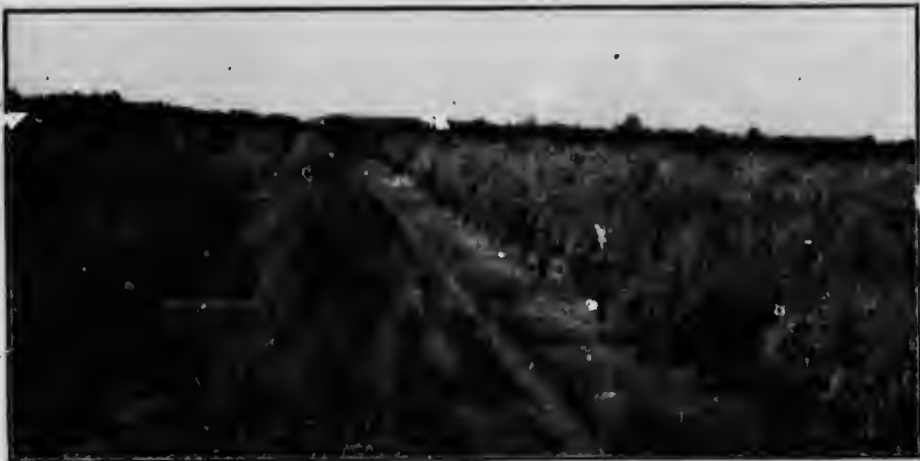


Fig. 3. Dwarf Duchess orchard. This orchard is clean cultivated.

The pear has nearly as wide a range of culture in the Province as the apple. It is grown to some extent at Ottawa and all along the upper St. Lawrence River, and it succeeds as far north as Manitoulin Island, but is not found inland or on the higher lands which are not nearly as far north as Manitoulin Island. In these northern sections it is limited to one or two of the hardiest varieties. Possibly the range of commercial culture might be said to follow the line of commercial apple culture with a slightly shorter range extending along the upper St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario and west to Georgian Bay, including a small section south of Lake Simcoe, also in many sections within these limits only the most favorable sites should be chosen.

Of the dozen or more common varieties grown in the Province the following are recommended for the respective districts: