

OCTOBER 13, 1910

usually turned over to the evaporators, who practically use everything, the better grades of fruit being known as "peelers," and those that cannot be peeled go with the skins and cores to make "chop." "Chop," however, is not a high-priced article. In fact, in most years, the evaporator men assert that the only advantage in drying chop is that it saves them the expense of carting the skins and cores and small apples to the dump-heap.

In a few places, vinegar is manufactured from the low-grade apples and skins and cores. There appears to be no reason why a very large trade should not be done in this, if it were properly handled, and if the material could be handled in sufficient quantities.

The difficulties in the way of manufacturing cider are, first and foremost, lack of local markets. There is room for argument as to whether the use of cider is to be encouraged or not. As a matter of fact, the people of Canada are not cider-drinkers, and are not likely to be within the near future. The tendency appears to be the other way. There is, indeed, a market for a limited amount in the large towns and cities, but this market is scarcely sure enough to encourage any general ventures in cider-making. It would be difficult, therefore, to find any way of training cider-makers, with no local trade to depend upon.

The English market demands a properly-made cider, that will stand shipment without preservatives. It requires very great skill and good material to make such cider. It cannot be made upon every farm, and it is doubtful whether the skill is available in Canada at the present time to make any quantity of cider fit for export. Under the circumstances, it is not hard to see why we have no export trade with Great Britain. Perhaps one other reason might be mentioned. The demand from England is by no means regular. In years of scarcity of apples over there, the demand is urgent. When apples for cider are plentiful, there is comparatively little cider imported into England.

The cider that is required for export is an entirely different article from anything manufactured by the apple-growers of Eastern Canada. Our average hard cider would be classed as cider vinegar gone bad.

Good Prices for Fruit Lands.

Tired of city residence, three prominent officers of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, namely, P. W. Hodggets, Director of the Fruit Branch; A. P. Westervelt, Director of the Live-stock Branch, and his assistant, D. T. Elderkin, have purchased a 43-acre fruit farm at Clarkson, in Peel County, Ont., a section which has come into much prominence of late as a fruit-growing, and particularly as a strawberry district, over 1,225,000 quarts of the latter fruit having been shipped from Clarkson last year. The retiring proprietor of the 43-acre lot referred to shipped 57,300 boxes from six acres, of which one acre yielded only two or three pickings. This parcel of land was originally part of a 200-acre farm devoted to stock-raising, which has been divided up into fruit farms, till there are now seven farms growing fruit and making a good living. It is said that the land in this section was originally poor, but has been built up by manure purchased from Toronto, of which large quantities are used, one orchardist putting eight carloads a year on 17 acres devoted to apple production. Prices of land have been rising rapidly, \$400, \$500 and even \$700 per acre being common prices for land devoted to small fruit, cherries, cucumbers, and the like.

Quebec's Plum Possibilities.

Through the courtesy of J. I. Brown, of Gunn & Langlois, Montreal, our office has had the privilege recently of inspecting an excellent sample of plums brought from Quebec. So splendid was the lot that we measured and weighed one of them, and found it was 2½ inches long, a trifle over 2 inches in diameter, and 7 inches in circumference, and weighed nearly three ounces. The lot was picked on October 3rd at the farm of Hon. Mr. Gigault, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Province of Quebec. Such production speaks much of Quebec's horticultural possibilities, and if the Deputy Minister can bring the fruit-growing and other agricultural industries of Quebec up to this standard of production, we will all stand at salute.

New Brunswick Fruit Exhibition.

The sixth annual convention and Fruit Exhibition of the New Brunswick Fruit-growers' Association will be held in St. John, October 31st to November 3rd. Demonstrations and addresses on all phases of fruit-growing by leading horticulturists of the Dominion will be on the programme, and single-fare return trips on the Intercolonial and Canadian Pacific Railways will be available.

Conspicuous Benefit from Spraying.

If evidence were required to demonstrate the benefit of spraying, it has been abundantly furnished this present season. In many parts of Ontario, the only orchards that have a decent crop of fruit are those which have been sprayed and otherwise well cared for. In some districts, the repeated spring and early-summer frosts were so exceedingly adverse that even sprayed and cultivated orchards have little fruit, although, in sections where there is any at all, the sprayed orchards make a conspicuous showing both in yield and quality. We had the pleasure, lately, of a most agreeable surprise in the orchards of Jacob and David Bainard, in Westminster Township, Middlesex Co., Ont. In a county where apples are almost like angel-visits this summer, these two men and their sons, by spraying and cultivation, have succeeded in growing a considerable quantity of really fine fruit. Jacob Bainard's young four-acre orchard originally comprised 200 trees, consisting of 100 Baldwins, 50 Wealthies, and 50 Ben Davis, all but three or four of the latter having been afterwards grafted to Spy, which so far has done all right on this stock. Some of the trees have died, owing, presumably, to lack of drainage, which lack is to be remedied by tiling. Mr. Bainard had sprayed in former years, but appears to have discontinued the practice. This past spring he tried again, following instructions in "The Farmer's Advocate" as to material and method of application. The spraying commenced just after the blossoms fell, and continued, interruptedly, between showers, for two weeks. Each tree was sprayed four times with the wind, i. e., from north, south, east and west. As a tree is supposed to be sprayed from two sides at every application, Mr. Bainard might be said to have sprayed twice, though he thinks that the material covered the trees pretty well at each of the four times of spraying. Commercial lime-sulphur was used in strength of one to thirty-five or forty parts of water, along with two pounds arsenate of lead per barrel of dilute solution. The spraying was done from a platform 11 or 12 feet from the ground. In all, about 35 gallons of the concentrated commercial solution was used on the apple orchard, the rest of the barrel being applied to some pear trees.

The results have been wonderful. Flemish Beauty pears, which of late years had been knarled, runted and cracked with scab, were this year well developed, and many of them quite clean. From the apple orchard, a beautiful crop of Wealthies was harvested, there being many choice exhibition specimens. One man who met Mr. Bainard taking a load of them to market, expressed surprise to find that many apples in the whole township. Upon the occasion of our visit, in the latter part of September, the winter varieties looked good for two hundred barrels of marketable fruit. There were very few worms and little scab. Truly, this orchard was a feast for sore eyes.

David Bainard's orchard, in the same neighborhood, is only about an acre or so in extent, but the trees are larger. It was cultivated in spring, and sown quite early to clover, which made a fine growth and had to be clipped back. The clover is to be plowed under next spring. An out-apiary of Mr. Bainard's son is situated here, which may account partially for the liberal set of fruit. This orchard was also sprayed with lime-sulphur and arsenate of lead, but not so often as the other. The fruit, while not so good, was surprisingly nice and clean, considering the season, and was purchased for \$175, after allowance had been made for the apples expected to be required for home use.

Fruit-crop Report for September.

The condition of the apple crop is now practically determined. Speaking generally, the quality is very uneven, probably due to the difference in the treatment of the orchards. A much larger proportion of the orchards this year have been well cared for, and in most cases where the trees have been properly looked after, a good crop of clean fruit is the result. Southern Ontario has a very light crop of early apples. The winter fall apples are somewhat better. The winter varieties are scarce. To this, exceptions can be noted. The Norfolk Co-operative Fruit-growers' Association orchards, producing about 30,000 barrels, have been for a number of years well cultivated and sprayed; these orchards have a medium to full crop following a good crop last year. Western Ontario is almost without winter apples. Some well-cared-for orchards have no fruit this year.

The north shore of Lake Ontario and the Georgian Bay district will have a light to medium crop of winter apples. In this section the Spy is showing up particularly well this year. The Baldwin, also, is maintaining its record as a crop-producer. The King, however, is light, and there are many failures in Golden and Roxbury Russets and Pewaukee. The Fameuse is a medium crop; many full crops are reported. All fruit is well colored.

In Eastern Ontario, the St. Lawrence Valley, and the eastern townships of Quebec, winter apples will be very light. The Duchess gave a full crop; the Wealthy was a medium to full crop. The Fameuse is below the average, and is not only light, but of poor quality, both with reference to soundness and size. The McIntosh Red, generally speaking, is light, but well-sprayed orchards show good crops.

New Brunswick and North-eastern Quebec will not have apples enough for home consumption. A few orchards in the St. John Valley, of New Brunswick, report a light to medium crop. Elsewhere apples are almost a failure. Almost a total failure is reported in the central part of the Annapolis Valley, and but a lightly better crop on the slopes of the North and South Mountains. The crop for the whole Valley, however, will be very light, and the quality poor. Prince Edward Island has the poorest crop of years, even



A Well-loaded Tree in Jacob Bainard's Orchard.