

Board of Works

NO. 32

An experienced orchardist recommends the following practice (which was published some few years ago in the *Canada Farmer*) as the best, preventative with which he is acquainted to prevent the falling of the fruit before reaching maturity. When the tree is in full bloom and in the morning while the dew is still on, I scatter several handfuls of unsieved hard wood ashes on the blossom, repeating it a day or two after. He says that for the last three or four years this has secured him an abundant crop. On examination of the stem of the fallen fruit it will be observed that it is almost eaten through and so blackened and decayed that it could not bear the weight of the fruit. The ashes are supposed to destroy the eggs of the insect, which does the mischief; but whatever may be the theory, the fact will prove of value all the same. Iron filings are also highly recommended in apple culture. They should be applied to the soil around the trees and worked in with a garden fork so that they will come in contact with the roots of the trees.

**Protection from Insects.**

As a protection against the fruit and bugs that are morally certain to give trouble and anxiety to farmers and gardeners during the approaching season, a gardener, in *Country Gentleman*, gives the following remedy:—

"Ask your Druggist for a pound of carbolic acid, No. 5, which will protect your fruit from all insects."

ing as to whether enough lychnis was left to grow for a wash for destroying insects on the trees. We wish to state that we have been working on this problem since the middle of May and that between the middle of May and the beginning of June we have accomplished the destruction of the lychnis on the trees. The lychnis is considered the finest collection of apple trees in the tower and the trees are healthy, bear every year and are well known for their fruit.

It has been a theory with fruit growers, and has generally been conceded, that apple orchards, even when planted in grass, are better off without manure. Grass, as a preventive of cultivation and is old enough to bear a good maulching in the fall or winter fall, in nine cases out of ten, results in a fair crop of apples the next season.

It has been calculated that a single grain of wheat produces fifty grains of wheat the next year, and if these are sowed and planted and yield properly, the produce of one grain of wheat would swell to complete a bushel in the fifth year of its lifetime. In the ten years the single grain will have multiplied itself 244, 140, 625,000 times—figures beyond the comprehension of the average mathematician.

The spring work now demands attention and he who would be successful

spiritual injunction of "Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven," especially applicable to the farmer and the man who works according to the plan will never be caught in the unpleasant fix of having his world for a month behind. Success always follows the one who does his work well and does it in season.

Look well to the compost heap. It comes in very opportunely in putting the manure and the garbage of the year up the refuse and shoveling it over. There, a large pile may be accumulated each year. This gives a banquet to the bacteria of putrefaction, the fertilizers, which in many cases may prove more reliable.

The exposure of cows, as is generally the practice, when in season, to cold and sucking young calves, is certainly injurious both to them and to their calves. At such times they need the care and protection from the cold storms of spring.

Many breeders thoughtlessly allow the droppings of their fowls to get so filthy that the broods become waste, and the birds are practically worthless. The best practice is to have which might with a little care, be easily composed with loam, and grow up into fine fruit-layers, free from grub, and right in the chicken yards. Try it.

An exchange says that glass that has been used in beehives and bee-houses, and which is very easily cleaned by soaking it a few days in a strong lye made from potash or wood-ashes, or in water filled with quick-lime.

Irrigation works are receiving great attention in France. The French are now so solid in their feeling for ease on foreign countries for grain, and this has given an impetus to agricultural improvements.

Trouble can always be borrowed at low rates.