

ing orchards is not appreciated as it should be. Much of the land, especially along the banks of the St. John river, appears to be admirable in situation and soil for orcharding, but much of it requires very careful under draining before successful orchards can be obtained. There are so many springy places, even on high land, that uniformity in the orchard cannot be hoped for except by under draining.

The prospects for orcharding in New Brunswick appear to me to be good. There is, however, a lot of educational work to be done. There is scarcely a farm upon which

there is not at least five acres suitable for orchard purposes. Presuming that fifty trees were put upon an acre we should have 250 trees in each orchard of five acres. It would not be too much to say that at the age of eight years, when these trees are coming into bearing, each tree would be at least worth \$10.00, so that practically the value of the farm could be doubled in eight years by placing an orchard upon it. This orchard would furnish remunerative employment for a large number of people, and thus prove itself a benefit to every other industry in the country.

## PREPARING PLUMS FOR MARKET.

**I**N most cases experience has proven that plums, if shipped to market in ten-pound grape baskets, provided with handles, and put up in neat, presentable shape, will bring the producer a greater per cent. of profit than if shipped in half-bushel, or bushel crates, or packages. A careful picker can fill the basket direct from the tree; but the usual plan is to pick into large receptacles, then, carefully sorting the plums, to place them in packages ready for the market. This frequent handling removes a great deal of the bloom from the fruit, which removal should be avoided as much as possible. By the use of a single table, similar to the one shown in the engraving, from the *American Agriculturist*, plums and other

similar fruits are easily sorted. The top of the table should not be over three feet long and two and one-half feet wide. The sides and back, *r, r, r*, may be eight inches wide at the back, tapering to three inches in front; the front guards, *c, c*, should be less than three inches high, leaving a six-inch space between the inner ends; the slanting board, *g*, is six inches wide. To operate it, place the fruit carefully upon the table, the sorter occupying a chair in front of the table, with a basket on his lap. Both hands can then be used in removing the leaves, limbs, damaged or imperfect fruit, throwing the refuse into baskets; *m, m*, located upon the floor, at a convenient point upon each side. The perfect fruit or that intended for shipping, is rolled in front, and passes over the incline, *g*, into the basket. This table need cost but little, and may be made in as crude or elaborate a form as wished. In working, the elbows can rest upon the guards, *c, c*, which will make the operation much easier. An ordinary table can be fitted with these simple appliances, and quickly removed after the shipping season is passed.

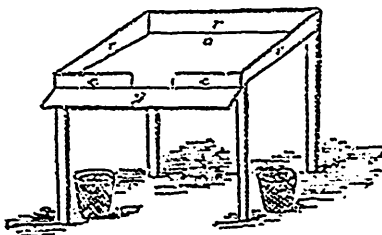


FIG 2603. FRUIT SORTING TABLE.