

utmost perfection, and here apple-growing is studied as a science, practised as an art. Here the value of a farm is estimated by its orchards and its dyke-land. Here the upland pastures and grain fields are being rapidly converted into orchards; and it is no uncommon sight to see raw clearings, fresh from the axe, and yet littered with *débris*, set with orderly rows of young apple trees just from the nursery. In such case, the great thing is to get the young orchard under way as soon as possible. The final clearing and subjection of the land to tillage is then completed at the farmer's leisure.

There is, perhaps, no more delightful way of getting one's living from the soil than by means of apple-growing. There are few more secure investments than a young orchard approaching its prime. If one would lay up an inheritance for his children, let him plant orchards in the Acadian land—but let him make careful choice of soil and situation. The soil which is best loved by the apple tree is a deep red loam with porous sub-soil, which keeps always moist, yet never holds enough water to sour or to chill the roots of the trees. On such soil the crops are reliable, year in and year out, in rainy years and in dry; and the apples are of even quality. Next in favor is a light, sandy loam, with a hard sub-soil not too deep down for the roots to reach it in dry weather. Then comes the strong, clayey loam, which gives good results provided the drainage is well attended to. Without careful drainage it is no use trying to grow apples on a clay soil.

In setting out an orchard, the young trees are usually placed from thirty-three to forty feet apart—from forty to fifty trees on each acre. These are the distances for standard varieties. Some kinds of apples come into bearing very early, and never attain large growth. Such varieties are often set within twenty-five feet of each other. When an orchardist desires standard trees, yet is anxious for prompt returns, he sets the more important varieties fifty feet apart, and plants the early-bearing trees midway between. After these latter have been in bearing for a few years they are

cut out, to leave room for their slower-growing, but more profitable, neighbors.

When the young orchard is set out, then there is nothing to do but cultivate—cultivate both patience and your trees. It will be ten years before the trees begin to make you tangible returns. Then, if all has been well done, each year will bring a gratifying increase. If the soil is sandy and hot, the orchard may be expected to reach its prime in about twenty-five years from the planting. On the deeper loams, which prevail generally throughout the Cornwallis Valley, the trees mature more slowly; and in the well-drained clay loams of Windsor and Falmouth an orchard will be, perhaps, forty years old before it attains its prime. But the slow-growing orchards last the longest. On the sandy soils some of the best varieties die out before the age of eighty. On stronger soil an apple tree may go on producing for over a hundred years. Indeed, some varieties have a much longer space of usefulness than that.

There are old trees around Grand Pré, gnarled and crooked but still green and productive, which were planted by the French before the great banishment of 1755. Some of these trees were in full bearing in 1760, when English immigration began to flow in upon the depopulated fields of Minas, Grand Pré, and Annapolis. As a rule, however, an orchard is kept at its prime by the prompt substitution of young trees for those which begin to show signs of approaching decrepitude. Sometimes the stock is of a hardy, long-enduring kind, while the engrafted variety is more ephemeral. In such cases the top is cut away and some other kind is grafted in its place. It is not well to have all your eggs in one basket, but there is nothing to prevent your having all your varieties of apples on one tree. You may graft a different variety on to each limb, and in future autumns see the yellow Belle Fleur, the crimson Astrakan, the pink-and-gold Gravenstein, the sombre Greening, the brown-coated Russet, all ripening amicably on one parent stock.

When the happy Acadian sees his orchard nearing its prime, he has reason to congratulate himself on the foresight