

1. The importance of cleanliness and care of the orchard.

2. The necessity of thinning, if best fruit is to be obtained. This point was well illustrated at Mr. John Laird's orchard, Picton. Mr. Laird thinned Duchess some weeks before, and a very great improvement in size could be noticed.

3. The desirability of whole sections devoting their energies along certain lines, such as apple growing, dairying, etc., was clearly brought out.

4. The necessity of spraying if scab is to

be overcome, was never so clearly shown than in the case of Albert MacDonald, Con-secon, who said: "I have lost \$1,000 by not spraying."

The question of insects was handled by Prof. Lochhead in a very helpful way. The Fruit Marks Act and packing of apples for sale was of great interest at nearly every meeting. Many expressions of regret that farmers could not attend were heard and universal approval of this practical way of reaching the fruit growers.

FRUIT GROWING ON ST. JOSEPH AND MANITOULIN ISLANDS

BY PROF. W. LOCHHEAD, AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, GUELPH.

PROF. LOCHHEAD having been sent out by the Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes to meetings at Manitoulin and St. Joseph Islands, writes to Mr. Creelman a newsy letter in reference to the agricultural and horticultural conditions of these islands. Mr. Creelman sends us an extract from that portion of Prof. Lochhead's letter dealing with fruit growing particularly.

"I have been making this hotel my headquarters for three days. Ever since coming from Manitawaning, I have been making excursions to various parts to get information regarding the capabilities of St. Joseph's Island. My opinion of St. Joe has to a large extent changed since I came here. I had the idea that the soil and rock were very much like those of the Grand Manitoulin, but such is not the case. Although the underlying rocks are probably the same—Silurian limestone—yet the soil and sub-soil have great depth. In fact, I have nowhere seen an exposure thus far in my travels. In Manitoulin the great fires had burnt away everything of a vegetable nature in the soil, and left it blue or white. Here,

however, there is as a rule much humus in the soil. In many places and on large areas, too, the clay is cold and heavy, and in other places the soil is quite sandy.

"I visited several farms. I saw splendid crops of peas, although they tell me this is an off year on clay land for peas, an account of the wet May and April. Oats, wheat and barley look well and give evidence of an abundant crop.

"From what I can gather this island is quite suitable for fruit growing. I saw admirable yields of apples, Duchess and Alexander among the early varieties, and Longfield, Yellow Transparent and Wealthy as early winter apples. The Japan plums, Burbank and Abundance and Ogon, are quite hardy and are great bearers, with Mr. Chas. Young, of Richards Landing. To show how fruit growing may be made lucrative Mr. Young tells me that he got \$65 for the strawberries he sold from a patch not one-fifth acre in extent (after taking all he wanted for his own use). He got 10 cents a box at the 'Soo'. The 'Soo' is the ready market for all produce grown in St. Joe."