



A Useful Branch of the Service in the British Columbia Fruit Industry

(Photo furnished by Mr Maxwell Smith, Dominion Fruit Inspector, Vancouver.)

The unsuitableness of the Climax basket for fancy packing is, probably, one of the reasons why peaches are usually packed on end. The sides and handles are not sufficiently rigid to admit of any pack other than what would be termed in Georgia or California a straight 4-4, three layer pack. This is the simplest of all the peach packs, and, apparently, is the only one known to many of the packers in the Niagara district. The cause is easily found.

While a score of different packs can be put in the Climax basket, the foregoing is the only one that can be reasonably expected to keep its place. The practice of spreading the handle when the cover is put on, loosens the fruit and, as a consequence, a fancy pack would be spoiled. Even the customary 4-4 pack often reaches its destination in a disordered state. The Climax basket is objectionable also, in the fact that the flimsy leno cover permits tampering with the fruit. It also allows dust and dirt to enter. Still, the Climax basket is the accepted package, and it rests with the fruit grower to make the best of it.

The time will come in Ontario, however, as it has in nearly all the States across the line, when better packing and a better package will be demanded for the best class of peach trade. Personally the writer would recommend the adoption of the six-basket carrier, shown in the accompanying illustration.

THE SIX BASKET CARRIER

It is light and strong, holds three-quarters of a bushel, gives good ventilation, is neat in appearance, and with the

divider, six baskets and cover, the cost is not great. It is put together with strong wire staples, well clinched on the inside. The panel heads afford a sure grip to the hands, and damage from breakages rarely occurs. When loaded in cars, the shape of the package permits a perfect fit; the tiers are separated for ventilation by means of inch slats tacked across the ends of the package. The HORTICULTURIST would like to hear the opinion of peach growers regarding this package as a substitute for the Climax basket.

Bud Orchard Trees in August

The usual time for budding is in August, although it may be done any time during the growing season, when the bark peels easily. Top budding is an important operation in the secondary cure of orchards. Varieties that have been planted and found not suited to local and climatic conditions, or to the demand of the market, may be worked over by means of budding with some variety of desired merits. It may be employed to reform the tops of trees that have been found not true to name.

The process is not a difficult one. Buds of the desired variety are taken from vigorous growing, healthy shoots of this season's growth. If selected from bearing trees of known worth, so much the better; there is less danger from degeneration—purity being ensured—as such a practice tends to breed up rather than down. The upper buds on the shoot usually are discarded, as are those at the lower end. The remaining portion of the shoot is termed

a "stick." The leaf blades on this stick are then removed, but the petioles are left to serve as a handle for the buds, which are located always in the axils of the leaves. When the sticks are thus prepared, they should be placed, butts down, in a bucket of water, and covered so as to keep them fresh. They should be used as soon as possible.

The budder takes a shield-shaped bud from the stick, and inserts it in a T-shaped incision which he has previously made on a limb of the tree that is to be budded. A ligature of string or raffia is then applied, with moderate pressure, to hold the bark firmly over the bud. In about two weeks the buds should be united, and the bandage may be removed. The buds should remain dormant over winter. In spring, as soon as the buds show signs of growth, the top of the stock must be cut back close to the bud. By this means, a new and profitable top may be secured in a comparatively short time.

Very few apples are being planted in this district. It is claimed that this section is better adapted to the more tender fruits, and that the apple section will be found more largely in the northern and eastern counties in the near future, if not already there.—W. H. Bunting, St. Catharines.

We have set out several acres of orchard during the past few years. In purchasing the stock we had nothing to do with agents, we found greater satisfaction from dealing direct with reliable nurserymen.—W. H. Crews, Trenton.