

Orchard of W. Palmer, near Victoria, B. C., in 1903

The trees are such more whips as to be practically indistinguishable.

Where growth is liable to be too rank, and thus reduce color, as it usual on low or damp ground, or where dormant pruning has been too severe, manuring too heavy, or cultivation too long continued, better color for any one season may be obtained by summer pruning.

**SECURE PROPER SIZE**

Obtain size by those methods that give strong leaf and twig growth, and by thinning: but, in so doing, avoid producing that extreme rankness of growth which detracts from color of fruit. Do

this by (a) securing a fertile soil, (b) by retaining moisture by mulching or by cultivation and cover crops, (c) by replacing removed fertility and organic matter by commercial fertilizers, manure and cover crops, especially the legumes, (d) by stimulating growth when needed by dormant pruning, and (e) by thinning early and vigorously, and (f) by keeping the leaves healthy through spraying with proper insecticides and fungicides. Healthy leaves mean large, healthy, late fruit.

**Pears and Pear Culture**

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IF one were to listen to a fruit grower giving his experiences with twig or pear blight, the sad experiences that had spelled disaster, one would naturally be under the impression that there was not the least chance to make pear growing profitable. The writer remembers very clearly listening to such an experience. The grower said: "Why, do you know, the thing kills them in a night," and it does as far as their knowledge is concerned. The truth, however, is that pear blight can be controlled, and is being kept in check to-day. Those who contemplate growing pears should not start unless they do so with a thorough knowledge of this bacterial disease, and a strong determination to control it. If one does this, there is money to be made in pears.

The pear situation is taking on brighter prospects. In the past fifteen years pear growing has been a doubtful business for many an average grower, simply because of their neglect to give proper attention to the work. We do not hear of pear orchards being planted to such a large extent as some of the other fruits that are not nearly so popular with the consumer. This is on account of

there having been a very suspicious sentiment held against this industry because of a few negligent fruit growers. This condition is diminishing. Fruit growers have begun to awaken to the fact that there is money in pears when judicious care, systematic pruning and thinning, and the proper food elements are given to the producing tree.

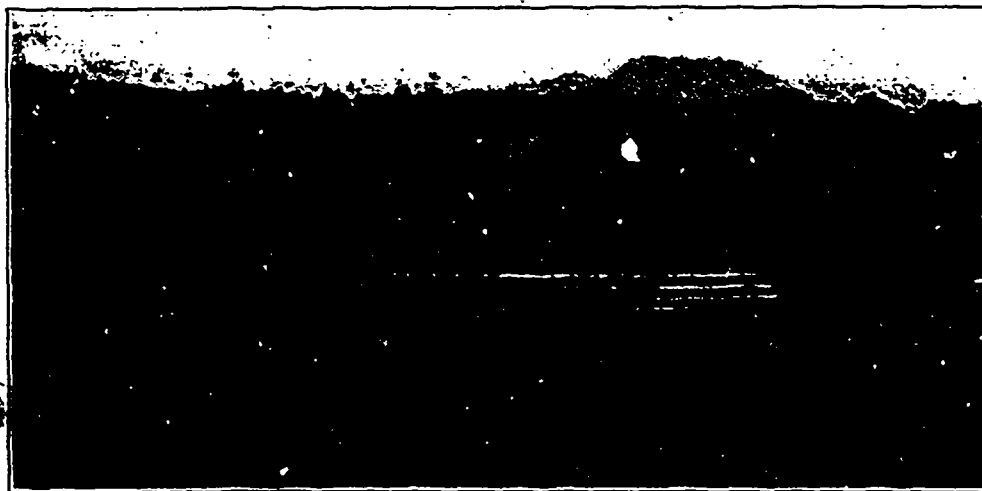
The pear is a fruit that will grow in a

large geographical area. In Ontario there is hardly a section in the older portion of the province where the pear will not thrive. I cannot vouch for the ability of this fruit to withstand the severe low temperature of the northern parts.

There is nothing to be gained by planting a large number of varieties of pears. The consumer should be encouraged to purchase nothing but the best, and the grower should strive to produce a high class article. There is a steadily growing demand for the very best, and it should be the ideal of every grower to produce this grade and place on sale this grade only. There is nothing to be gained by the man who tries to undersell a man who has a good uniform article, no matter what the competition may be. The best article will always command the very highest price, and sell first.

Plant just a few, well selected varieties, that are strong, hardy trees and which bear uniformly every year. The best to plant would include pears that would bear one after the other, so that all the crop would not have to be harvested at once. Among the varieties that are seemingly the best, judging from the experience of various growers, are such varieties as Bartlett, Kieffer, Anjou, Duchess, Bosc and Clapp's Favorite.

Like many other lines of agriculture, the pear should be chosen to suit the market, location, and the demand from outside sources. Some markets have very little use for certain varieties, while for export or canning purposes there is a steady demand for such varieties as the Kieffer. For the city trade there is some demand for an early fruit, which would naturally be the Clapp's Favorite. If one wants a good all-round pear that is a universal favorite with the purchasing public and a profit producer for the grower, there is nothing like the Bartlett. It has one strong characteristic that distin-



The Orchard of Mr. W. Palmer in 1913

Note the difference in ten years in the growth of the trees.