

his trees. He (the lecturer) was not preaching one method and practising another; he was simply advising others to do exactly what he was doing himself, and unless he was perfectly satisfied that what he was doing was right, he would not waste his time and money on the pursuit. Moreover, it was just as much to the interest of dwellers in the cities to do all they could to encourage fruit growing, as there could be no doubt that every extra orchard meant an additional family, and every extra family in the neighborhood meant more money circulating. Referring to the exhibits, he had never seen finer apples grown anywhere, and if they were typical specimens of N.B. grown apples, no grower in the province need have the least fear as to getting rid, at very remunerative prices, of as many as he could produce.

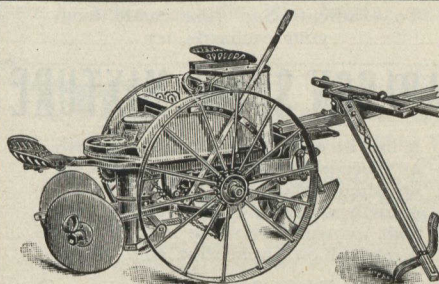
Prof. Sears, of the Agri. College, Truro, then gave an address upon the "Care and Cultivation of an Orchard." He thought that those who had heard Mr. McNeill could hardly come to any other conclusion than that an orchard was a paying concern. He fully agreed with him that it was useless to embark in the apple growing business on a small scale. The 5 acre orchard was as small as could be made profitable; but properly attended to there was no branch of farming that paid like it. His own idea was that 10 acres was as small an area as it was advisable to plant, and in an orchard of this size a grower should have at least 6 different varieties, as in the case of the failure of any one or more variety, the others were there to fall back on. The cream of varieties to his mind were the Duchess, Wealthy, Alexander, Wolfe River, Fameuse, Mackintosh, Dudley or North Star, and the Baxter. He would pick 6 out of this lot and plant his 10 acre orchard with them.

In embarking on apple growing, the 1st consideration should be the site of the orchard. There were 3 points to be considered in doing this, and these were soil, slope and shelter.

The question of soil was perhaps the least, and shelter the most, important. Apples, if properly looked after, usually will grow on any kind of soil, but they do best on a good clay loam, if such was to be had. As to slope, it was better to have the slope from the sun rather than towards it, as a northward slope would guard against the heaviest winds which usually came from the south-west. The other important matter was that of shelter. If a site could be obtained which was sheltered by woods or any large growth of natural timber, it was astonishing how an orchard would thrive under such circumstances. In planting, he thought the proper system to adopt was to plant strong, vigorous trees of a hardy variety and, when they were fairly started in growth, then re-top them with scions of the particular variety it was desired to grow. This would result in hardier trees than if the tree of the desired variety had been planted at first. It was most essential to plant only the very best stock of the kind, and if it was to be got, get it from a local grower, as for various reasons, it would not pay the latter to sell rubbish to be planted in his own district, and, besides,

trees bought locally need not be out of the ground for anything like so long a time as would be the case if bought from a distance.

Laying off the orchard required the greatest care, particularly in the matter of laying out the trees to see that they were in straight lines. This might seem an easy matter, but it was surprising what a difference in the appearance of the rows a few inches out of the straight would make. He feared Mr. McNeill's estimate of \$3 an acre would have to be considerably increased unless labor could be obtained for very much less wages than he had been accustomed to pay. In planting, too, never put manure of any kind near the roots. If the ground is such as to require some manure, then simply spread it lightly on the top of the soil when the roots were filled in. It was a good plan, also, to wrap the stems of the trees with some sort of covering in the fall; newspapers would do, but building paper was better. These saved the stems from being knocked about, from the attacks of mice and from sun-scalds. It should be continued each year until the tree was 5 or 6 years old. He had no hesitation in saying that if any one went to



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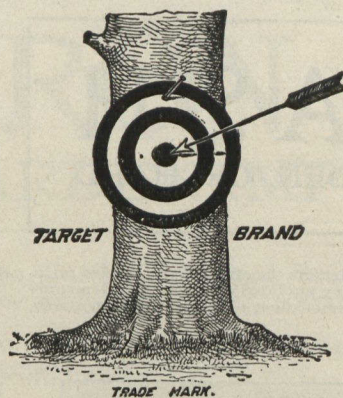
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