

THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

VOL. XXII.

1899.

No. 11



THE SHELDON PEAR.

THIS pear is an American seedling. It was propagated accidentally, on the farm of Norman Sheldon, in the town of Huron, Wayne County, N. Y., and has borne several synonyms, as, for instance, Huron, and Wayne, from the places above mentioned; but, properly enough, the name Sheldon prevailed, as being the name of the originator.

With regard to its adaptability to the climate of Ontario, our reports show that it is perfectly hardy in the Counties of Lincoln, Brant, Essex, Kent, and even Huron, along the borders of the lake, but in the County of York it is not considered quite hardy. The conclusion, therefore, to be drawn is that this pear is not suitable for planting north of Toronto, except under some particularly favorable circumstances.

The pear ripens in October and November; but it must be gathered in good time, or a large portion of the crop will need to be gathered from the ground; and it must be used just at the

hour it becomes mellow, or it will be found too far gone for use. In this respect it bears a worse character than even the Bartlett. We esteem its quality very highly; and a writer in the *Country Gentleman* says that he thinks that, when well grown and properly ripened, it excels all other pears in deliciousness of quality. It is as melting as ice cream, and its flavor is superb. The pear, however, is variable in quality and sometimes, when badly grown and poorly ripened, might be called poor. As a market pear the Sheldon cannot be ranked high, first, because of its russet appearance, which, however, yellows up finely when ready for the table, and, second, because the tree is not sufficiently productive.

A tree at Maplehurst, about thirty years old, bears some years a few straggling specimens, and other years possibly a bushel or so; certainly far below the average yield of many other varieties, as, for instance, the Buffum, Tyson, Bartlett and Howell. But, whether