

will revive the apple industry. The article in question contains the most important admission of the failure of an important industry ever made by a person connected with a government. Now in the name of common sense, either put the business on a paying basis and stop the decline or stop all promotion of the industry, for if it is a legitimate decline, there is no use throwing good money after bad. If, on the other hand, the business is worth saving, there is no use letting things drift. Instead, we should all work together to revive it, and in this effort the government should lead.

A LARGE REVENUE

There are estimated to be seven million bearing trees in Ontario. A good authority, Mr. E. D. Smith, puts the yield at a half a barrel a tree, which at two dollars a barrel would be just seven million dollars.

In New York State they estimate the net returns of a bearing tree at \$5 to \$10.00 a year. If we take a middle course and say \$7.50 we would have the enormous sum of \$52,500,000—\$45,500,000 more than the present return. Surely the possibility of a yearly increase of \$45,500,000 or half that should lead us to strive to renovate our orchards, and be a safe business investment for the expenditure of public money.

WHAT MIGHT BE DONE

The Ontario Government, if it sincerely desires to bring about an improvement in existing conditions, should find it a simple matter to devise methods of doing so. Among others I might suggest the following: First, increase the number of demonstration orchards.

The present system of giving practical demonstrations of pruning, spraying and cultivation as it has been conducted this year in the Georgian Bay District is good, but there is not a sufficient number of these orchards. One or two will not do for a fruit county. There should be one in every township in the main apple growing districts.

The system of supervised orchards, as conducted in Pennsylvania, might be introduced under which the department would send a man free of cost to any farmer who made application, to show him how to spray, prune and cultivate. The same man could call again at the orchard two or three times or oftener during the season. This is a thoroughly practical method of aiding the fruit grower, and as the expense is light, there is no limit to the number of orchards that might then be assisted. Owners of neighboring orchards would receive an indirect benefit from the object lessons afforded by the supervised orchards. This has been the case in Pennsylvania.

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

We could follow the example of Cornell University and the New York De-

partment of Agriculture and have a number of men, not only at the leading exhibitions but also at small local fairs with a full exhibit of specimens of injurious insects, fungous diseases, samples of spray materials and sprayed and unsprayed fruit which would show the profit to be derived from this work. These men should be able to give advice on all questions in fruit growing, both practical and technical.

ORCHARD SURVEYS

There should be a soil and orchard survey made so that we would know just which varieties are adapted to certain soils, and where these soils are situated. Records of temperature and loss from frost for periods of years should be started and maintained. Thus a man wishing to plant an orchard would have definite information of great value and thus would not have to go into the business blindly as at present.

We cannot do anything to change the climate and to prevent winter injury, but on occasion we might do as they have in the west, where fires and smudge pots have been used very satisfactorily to prevent loss from early frosts.

EDUCATION NEEDED

Much could be done by proper education to show the danger of stimulating a rank growth of wood by stable manure or other nitrogenous fertilizers without balancing it up with mineral matter to ripen the wood. The value of cover crops could be shown. Had the peach growers in Essex and Kent had a proper understanding of this point they could

have prevented the disastrous losses of a few years ago.

All tree salesmen might be compelled to show that they were working for a reliable firm and if necessary be licensed. One of the chief causes of discouragement among fruit growers has been the travelling agent, who picked his stock up wherever he could get it the cheapest, and then labeled the trees with the names of standard hardy varieties and sold them to the confiding public. Instead of leaving each farmer to take action in such cases the government might well accept the responsibility. Were salesmen licensed this would be a comparatively simple matter.

AID THE ASSOCIATIONS

The department should increase its aid to cooperative fruit shipping associations. It could keep the fruit growers informed as to the prices of fruit. At fairs, conventions and fruit meetings practical demonstrations in packing and grading fruit might be given.

The department should compel apple dealers to put up a reasonable guarantee that the apples purchased would be paid for..

The duty of the fruit department has not been fulfilled until it can no longer be said that the grower with a small quantity of good fruit finds it impossible to market his fruit to advantage.

Some may contend that the plans outlined would take an enormous amount of money. Well, what if they would? Would not the produce of seven million bearing apple trees and seven million more which would soon be bearing,



A Portion of the Ontario Fruit Exhibit at the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, Ont.