



HINTS FOR FRUIT GROWERS—II.

SMALL VS. LARGE FRUIT FARMS.

FRUIT farming in Ontario is certainly a delightful occupation, and no wonder so many people of other callings are anxious to enter upon it. But the most pleasant line is not always the most profitable, as many persons have found to their cost.

The reason why many fail in this promising industry is because they attempt too much for their means, "they bite off more than they can chew," as the proverb has it. The ordinary grain farm comprises about 100 acres, and is counted rather small, if only fifty acres in extent; and a common, but mistaken, idea is that the fruit farm should be as large; and we find men without knowledge or experience buying farms of that size for fruit growing, and after years of wasted energy finding themselves still striving for a competence. They spread out their little money and little work so thin upon so large an acreage that it never can pay if they work till doomsday.

Fruit growing is horticulture, that is, garden culture, and not agriculture; it is the highest cultivation upon a small area of ground—it is intensive and not extensive.

Five acres will furnish work for one man and one horse, and ten acres for two, and pay far better than the work of the same men on one hundred acres.

Ten or fifteen acres makes a good fruit farm, and twenty-five quite a large fruit farm. The owner can then cultivate, prune, spray, gather the fruit and handle it as it should be done, and every year save some money for capital account.

THE SPECIAL FERTILIZER.

Of late years the fertilizer men have visited the fruit grower most persistently. We have nothing to say against fertilizers, and everything for them, because we must fertilize our orchards much more liberally if we are to receive good returns. But it has been urged that you should use a special fertilizer for grapes, another for berries, another for corn, etc., and that led Dr. Jordan, of Geneva, N. Y., to make the statement recently that "the day the special fertilizer is gone."

Greiner says in *Farm and Fireside*: "I have come to the conclusion long ago that the whole idea of making and using special fertilizers for special crops rests on an entirely wrong principle. The claims of