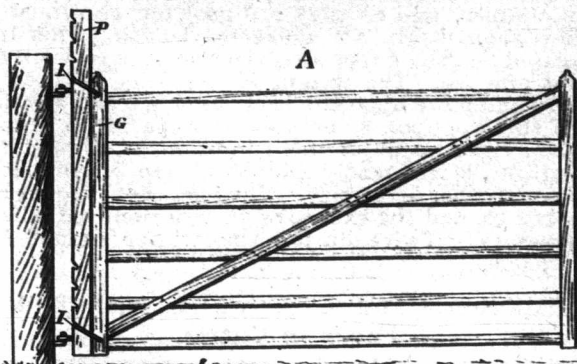


shipments, the best commanding several times the price of the culls. Collect eggs regularly, ship often, only those you know are strictly fresh. Try to get up a name for always sending out first-class stock; by doing so you will command the best prices, and always find a demand.

THE HELPING HAND.

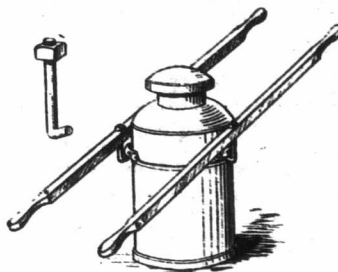
Adjustable Snow Gate.



F. W. C., Middlesex Co., Ont.:—"A represents a gate that may be hung at different heights from the ground. If it be raised slightly there will be a space between the upright (G) of gate and the notched upright which is hinged to the post. The gate is next pushed towards P, and the irons (I and I) are freed from notches. The gate may be raised to the required height to avoid the snow. The notched upright swings with the gate, and the irons (I and I) are only bolted to gate."

Easy Way to Carry Milk Can.

JAMES MAGEE, Grenville Co., Ont.:



Take two pieces of good wood 5½ feet long, 2 inches thick, and 2½ inches wide; bore a ½ inch hole through each in the center the wide way; get two ½ x 5½ inch bolts, get your blacksmith to pound the heads level with rest of bolt, then turn an inch of the head end a little more than square from shank of bolt, as seen at A. Put one in each piece of wood, and you have a pair of handles for the two bolts and the labor of turning the hooks. The ends of the handles should be dressed down to fit the hands. I have used a pair for three seasons, and find them very useful for carrying anything in a milk can. The advantage of these handles is that the persons carrying can use both hands at the same time. The hooks must turn to side of handles. Two men can carry twenty-five gallons of milk or water with ease."

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Gleanings from the 26th Annual Meeting of the Michigan State Horticultural Society at Grand Rapids, Dec. 1, 2 and 3, 1896.

BY PROF. JOHN CRAIG, DOMINION HORTICULTURIST.

The peach industry is of paramount importance to Michigan fruit-growers. Fully half of the programme was either given to discussing some of its phases or eventually drifted that way by the trend of the questions asked. The manner in which the meeting was conducted is most commendable. Strict attention to the subject under discussion was enforced. This, with businesslike promptness and a large attendance of fruit-growers, characterized the meeting throughout. President Morrell and Secretary Reid (re-elected) are splendid executive officers, and, without doing an undue amount of talking themselves, manage to keep an unflagging interest in the topics under discussion, and secure in each case a profitable interchange of views.

The package question gave rise to a great diversity of views. Many favored the bushel basket peculiar to the district of Grand Haven and used to some extent at Grand Rapids. The advocates of this package had much to say in its favor, cheapness and ease of handling being the principal planks in the platform. Some of the best growers, particularly those who catered to the demands of a fancy trade, said that a small package was indispensable. A crate holding four, six or eight five-pound packages had been used by some growers with good success. This is undoubtedly the best view to take. "The finer the goods the smaller the package."

Three interesting papers describing what becomes of the fruit after it reaches Chicago were read by representative commission men. One of these more than hinted at overproduction as a cause of the low prices, another said "under consumption," while both agreed that more attention should be given to grading fruits, especially peaches. Only about five per cent. of the fruit shipped to

Chicago commanded fancy prices, such as was paid for by the "upper ten." The middle grade of fruit was largely bought by jobbers and shipped by them to small points near Chicago, and also supplied retail grocers and fruit dealers in the city. The lowest grade was bought by hucksters and the poorer class of grocers. Growers were strongly advised against shipping poor fruit to distant markets. One hundred and eighty-five fruit trains carried fruit to or from Chicago each day during the fruit season. Think of the enormous consumption.

What varieties of peaches shall we plant? is a question that always elicits answers nearly as varied in character as are the number of districts represented by those who respond. Several varieties of peaches seemed to be growing in favor. *Elberta*.—While the consensus of opinion seemed to be that it was best to consider this variety as yet on trial, a few prominent growers were attesting their faith as to its ultimate value by planting it quite heavily. One or two expressed doubt regarding its productiveness. It is also said to be affected by curl leaf quite badly. On the market it outsells anything of the same season. *Wager* received good words; it was recommended to be sold in one-fifth baskets instead of bushel baskets. It is sensitive to drought. *Kalamazoo* peach was highly spoken of by President Morrell, who said it was a medium sized yellow free stone peach of good quality, about ten days later than *Crawford*; the trees are very hardy. *Garfield* was recommended as a moderate but regular bearer. Mr. J. H. Hale, of Connecticut, described *Triumph* as a moderate grower, bearing medium to large, early, yellow fruit; a cling, but ripening evenly to the pit. He has faith in it. *Reeve's Favorite* was praised by all on account of its fine quality and appearance, but was thought to belong, on account of softness of texture, rather to the amateur class than the professional; said to do best on clay loam.

Orchard Cover Crops brought out a lively discussion, a remarkable feature of which lying in the fact that a number of growers did not seem particularly anxious about securing to peach orchards the nitrogen obtained by growing a clover crop. They seemed to be able to secure the necessary growth by good cultivation, supplemented by fertilizers containing potash and phosphoric acid. Oats, with crimson clover, one-half bushel of the former to eight or ten pounds of the latter per acre, is a combination producing a cover crop said to be giving satisfactory results in the southern and western part of the State. The seed is put in after cultivation ceases in that part, about August 20th. This mixture is also recommended by Prof. Taft, of the Agricultural College.

Speaking of the future of peach culture in the United States, Mr. Hale pointed out, that the area devoted to the culture of this fruit was being enormously enlarged each year. Georgia, Missouri, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Colorado, and Texas were among the foremost States in developing the industry. He was of the opinion that it would only be a short time before there would be more peaches produced than could be consumed by the markets that could be reached. It would undoubtedly be a struggle for the "survival of the fittest." He regarded the future as hopeful to the man who went into the work imbued with a love for it and having plenty of ambition, perseverance, and brains.

The discussion upon apples brought out the interesting fact that Ontario apples were largely supplying the demands for this fruit in the Chicago market, to the partial exclusion of Michigan-grown fruit. This speaks well for the quality of Canadian Spys, Kings, Greenings, Baldwins, and Snows, as compared with those grown across the line. Among highly commended varieties were *Sutton's Beauty*, *McIntosh Red*, *Salome*, and *Hurlbut*. As exhibited, *Sutton's Beauty* is of medium size, yellow with reddish flush on one side, tough skin; firm but melting, yellow flesh; quality good; season early winter, perhaps later; tree said to be very hardy.

Canadian Apple Shipments to Australia.

BY J. S. LARKE, CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE.

I had been advised that a shipment of apples might be forwarded from Ontario as was done last year. If a large quantity were sent, I deemed it advisable that they should be placed in cool storage, and placed gradually on the market only as fast as it could take them at good prices, and had arranged for securing the storage in case it were required. None came to my order, but two parcels were sent out by the last steamer. One of nine cases were sent to Mr. F. Winter, who sold those forwarded me last year. They were sent by friends, as a gift rather than as a business venture, but Mr. Winter treated them as a regular consignment. They were a varied lot, consisting of Spys, Snowapples, Baldwins, Russets, and a few "Seek-no-Furtherers." Three cases had been nicely assorted, but the other six had been more hurriedly gotten together and packed. They were wrapped half in Manila wrapping paper; the balance in pieces of newspapers. They were shipped from Preston, Ont., on the 21st of October; left Vancouver on the 10th of November, and arrived here on the evening of December 4th. They were stowed below decks, as was the case last year. The nine cases yielded six of good fruit and

three of defective. The Snows carried better than any other variety, there being but thirty-seven defective apples—eleven decayed, and twenty-six with some spots—in two hundred and sixty-six apples. The Northern Spys were in the worst condition, and decayed more rapidly after being picked over. Owing to the consignment being so small, and Mr. Winter being too busy to devote much time to their sale, in order to make full cases had to mix the varieties and sell as quickly as possible. Five cases he sold at 17s. 6d. per case; a sixth of equal value he retained or gave to friends. The results were as follows:—

6 cases, at 17s. 6d.	£5 5s. 0d.
3 cases, at 1s.	3 0
	£5 8s. 0d.
Expenditure.	
Freight, at 4s. 1d. per case.	£1 16s. 9d.
Wharfage.	9
Cartage.	8 0
Picking over.	5 0
Commission.	7 6
	£2 18s. 0d.
Balance.	£2 10s. 0d.

This netted the Canadian shipper \$1.35 per case in Preston. The expenses were higher than they would have been in a commercial shipment. The cartage would have been 1s. 6d., instead of 8s. In such case the net yield to the shipper would have been \$1.55 per bushel. Five dollars were offered for the Snows, unmixed with the other varieties, and probably eighteen shillings could have been got for the Baldwins. A consignment of Snowapples arriving in as good condition as did these would have netted the Canadian shipper \$2.85 per bushel case.

The second was a larger consignment sent to Mr. Duffy, a successful commission-man. A statement of its financial result cannot be yet given, but it will be an unfavorable one. In the first place, it appears it should have been shipped a month earlier, but was delayed by the strike on the C. P. R. They were in such a condition when shipped that they had to be picked over on the wharf. Though provision had been made for ventilating the cases, this was neutralized by lining the cases with paper and failure to put slats on the cases. The apples were not a selected lot, some being very good and properly wrapped, and others being not so good, nor properly assorted. It is no marvel that they arrived in a very bad condition, and it is probable that not one-third will be really fairly good fruit. Mr. Duffy's opinion is that if they had arrived in fairly good condition a month ago, he could have got from sixteen to twenty shillings per case. He sold California apples at eighteen, not nearly so well flavored as these are. He thinks he will get fairly good prices for the marketable fruit in this lot. Medium sized fruit is worth two shillings per case more than the largest. The retailer does not care to ask more than fifty cents per dozen, though he gets proportionately higher for a single apple, hence he requires a considerable number in a case to net him the profit his business requires.

These statements warrant the conclusion that if properly picked, cased, and handled on rail and steamers, Canadian apples can be handled here in good condition. It is just as important to see that they reach Vancouver in good condition as it is to have them cared for on the sea voyage. California apples arrive in so good state that in many cases it is not necessary to pick them over.

If the proper varieties are sent, at the present rates of freight, it would appear that Canadian apples arriving here about the last of October, November, and December will bring better net prices than when sent to any other market. I have nothing to add to the recommendations made in my report on the shipment of last year. If followed, they will, I think, insure a profitable export trade of some dimensions.

Small Fruit Growing for Farmers.

BY B. GOTT, MIDDLESEX CO., ONT.

I believe it to be the duty of every farmer who has the control of a large or small plot of choice Canadian soil, in our conditions, to make good and liberal provision to supply himself and family with a plentiful supply of health-giving, beautiful fruits in their season. Under our conditions of climate and soil the expenditure in doing this is reduced to a minimum. It is, therefore, a crying shame to our country that so many of our farmers and their growing families of young children do not properly know the taste of good fruit grown upon their farms. Every child should know and readily identify all the various forms of our fruit products, their flavors and qualities.

The Fruit Plot.—The plot on the farm devoted to the culture of small fruits should be well selected, and nicely fenced if possible. It may be large or small as required, but it must receive careful attention, and be kept thoroughly neat and clean. (Small fruits are so called to distinguish them from the larger or tree fruits.) The soil should be well drained, of rich, mellow loam to give ease in working. It must be annually thoroughly and deeply worked, and well enriched with good composted vegetable matter. In this secure plot of choice soil may be successfully grown at least the four following standard fruits, viz.: Strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, and currants, in all their varieties and perfection.

Strawberries.—The successful growth of strawberries is simple and easy, providing the essential conditions are complied with. The soil, as before, must be deep and moist and well tilled. The culture