



The Home of W. W. Pineo, one of the Extensive Fruit Growers of the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia, at Waterville, in Kings County.

The Methods of a Veteran Fruit Grower

Dairy Cows and Potatoes Also Add to the Revenues of W. W. Pineo, Kings Co., N.S.



W. W. Pineo.

ONE of the most pleasant places in Canada is the village of Waterville, in King's County, Nova Scotia. Everybody there grows apples. The eye of the visitor is gladdened at this season with rich foliage and a profusion of bloom. Among the prosperous residents is Mr. W. W. Pineo, one of the veteran orchardists of Canada. Mr. Pineo began to plant an orchard 40 years ago, and has planted a few acres every spring since that time. He now has 180 acres under apple trees, of which about 20 acres are in full bearing. His orchard contains 9,500 trees.

The varieties represented in his orchard include Gravensteins, Kings, Blenheims, Northern Spies, Baldwins, Ben Davis and Starks. He finds Kings and Ben Davis to be the most profitable varieties. "The Tompkins King" he said to a representative of Farm and Dairy, "is perhaps the quickest selling of any of the standard varieties grown in this province. It is in strong demand in the English market around Christmas. It was introduced into this country about 60 years ago, and owing to its size and beauty became rapidly popular. The King is fond of a warm soil, well drained, and likes early cultivation. The claims of the Ben Davis to popularity are based on its long-keeping qualities combined with its excellent yields, and the demand that exists for it among the English costermongers in March and April. Moreover, it blooms

late, and that is an advantage in this climate."

Gravelly Soil Preferred.

The soil of a part of Mr. Pineo's orchard is a sandy loam, and part is a gravelly loam, with a clay subsoil. Mr. Pineo obtains the best results from a gravelly soil. He thinks this is due as much to the depth and natural drainage in such soil as to any other cause. "In Nova Scotia," continued Mr. Pineo, "apples are successfully grown on nearly all kinds of soil from light sand to heavy clay. The sandy soils, when supplied with plant food and humus, become useful for orchard purposes. It is, however, on some kind of loam that most of the orchards in this province are grown. Personally, I prefer a northern slope for apple trees and a site if possible somewhat higher than the adjoining land. On such a situation there is, of course, less chance of injury from frosts, owing to the drainage of the cold air to lower levels. Moreover, I find that a northern slope

tends to retard blossoming until after the period of late spring frosts."

Mr. Pineo claims that young trees from a local nursery, if well grown, are preferable to imported ones. The purchaser has the advantage of inspection before buying, gets stock with roots subjected to a minimum amount of exposure, and local stock is less apt to introduce insect pests and diseases. He uses both two-year-old and three-year-old trees, paying from 20 to 30 cents for them.

Preparing for the Trees.

He prepares the soil thoroughly before setting out the trees. This preparation is begun at least one season ahead. A root crop is generally grown, to which is applied a liberal supply of barnyard manure. He has never utilized sod land for orchard purposes. The land is always plowed and harrowed in the fall, and again in the spring before the trees are planted.

The trees are set out as early as possible in the spring, as Mr. Pineo has found that early planting allows the roots to develop ahead of the buds, so that later on the roots are able to supply the moisture evaporated from the leaves. He sets out the trees 30 feet apart each way and does not use fillers. In digging the hole the top soil and subsoil are often placed in separate piles. In replacing this material, a shovelful of the surface soil is put in first, the tree placed in position, and the remaining top soil filled in around the roots. The subsoil is placed on top. The earth is worked in well around the tree. As soon as the trees are set the land is given a most thorough cultivation by both plowing and harrowing. Until the trees begin to bear, the intervening ground is planted to potatoes, corn or roots. When the trees come into bearing, the land is cultivated with the harrow or cultivator every week, and after every rain, until the first



Spraying is one of the Operations Never Neglected in the Pineo Orchards.