

THE MARITIME AGRICULTURIST.

Devoted to the Interests of the Farmers, Stock Breeders and Horsemen of the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

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Notice.

Since our last issue we regret to announce to our readers that Mr. B. Eaton Paterson has retired from the editorial department of this journal. He has assumed the management of the *Chignecto Post*; Sackville, and we wish him every success in his journalistic career.

Planting an Orchard.

The great, and we trust permanent, impetus given to our apple growing industry during the past few years by the favor in which our fruit is held in the British markets, has been the cause of awakening an interest in orchards in different parts of the provinces, and has induced many to go into apple raising on a larger scale. In the counties of Kings, Hants and Annapolis in Nova Scotia, Kings and Carleton in New Brunswick, and in various parts of Prince Edward Island extensive areas have been devoted to growing apples and the indications are that in the near future, the maritime provinces will make a strong bid for the position of the apple growing section of the world.

The selection of varieties is probably the most important operation of the fruit grower. The market should be studied; the soil, climate, and general nature of the tree as regards hardiness, are considerations of importance. Some trees favor moist soil more and others a dry one. A Bishop Pippin would be certain of failure if planted where the drainage is imperfect, while some of the Russets do equally well in a heavy soil. The locality has something to do with the selection of varieties. If high and windy with little snow fall to protect the roots in the winter from frost and from the sun in early spring, trees of the hardiest kinds are best adapted. No fixed rules for selection can of course be laid down, and the planter must use his judgement and the experience of others in making his choice. Another consideration is that of the demands of the market. There is a long list of popular kinds which will never become unpopular and will always find a favorable sale in any market. Such as the Bishop Pippin, Gravenstein, Red Astrachan, American Russet and Baldwin, one is safe in

planting. The general experience is that many trees of the early popular sorts are not profitable as the market is so easily glutted and the fruit has poor keeping qualities. As the tendency in other lines of business is to run to specialities so in apple growing. It is better to plant a limited number of varieties. It will be found more profitable in selling where a large lot of one or two hardy varieties can be sent in one shipment. The buyer is saved the trouble of collecting the fruit and is willing to pay for the convenience. The most successful orchardists recommend a large area but with few kinds.

It is impossible to name certain varieties and say they are the best adapted for our conditions and avoid others. The following sorts will be found to suit the general conditions and are well and favorably known in the markets:

The Red Astrachan is a paying kind and always in favor with the consumers. As a tree it is hardy, bears heavily and early and is a rapid grower. It is not a good keeper as the flavor soon changes and it becomes insipid.

The Gravenstein comes in as a late fall apple. There is probably no apple in the market that is so popular as this one. Although ripening when other sorts are at their best it everywhere takes the precedent as a table and fancy apple. The tree is hardy, is not particular about the soil so long as it is rich, stands the winters well, bears heavy crops and always brings the top price.

Duchess of Oldenburgh is another fall variety which has settled itself firmly in the estimation of orchardists. It is hardy and a good bearer, and while in its season, which is not very long it brings a good price. This is one of the principal apples grown in New Brunswick.

King of Tompkins County is another hardy and very satisfactory apple. The quality is not so good as some others, yet its large yield in moderately favorable seasons wins it a place in the favored list.

Among others which are worthy of encouragement are the Golden Russet, St. Lawrence, Wealthy, Baldwin and Talman Sweet.