THE PEACH INDUSTRY!

HOW IT CAN BE MADE TO PAY WELL.

How the Industry Suffers From Careless Methods of Handling and Cultivation—Thinning Fruit—The Ideal Soil.

The following we take from Prof. L. H. Bailey's exhaustive Bulletin, No, 74, Cornell University. Although written for conditions as they exist in Western N. Y., many of the points are applicable wherever peaches are grown; in fact, the Bulletin would do untold good were a copy of it in the hands of every owner and intending owner of a peach orchard.

After a careful study of the horticulture of N. Y., I am convinced that the peach industry suffers more from careless and unscientific methods than any other pomological interest. The greatest fault lies in the cultivation—or lack of cultivation. The second fault is inattention to borers and yellows; the third is neglect to thin the fruit; and the fourth is carelessness and untidiness in marketing. There are many orchards in western N. Y. which receive every care and attention, but by far the greater number are neglected in one or many respects.

Many of the peach orchards are planted upon land which is wholly unsuited to them, such as heavy clay soils, or low lands which have very imperfect drainage of both water and air. The ideal peach soil is a deep sand. Upon such lands the trees make a hard growth, the wood manures early, the trees bear young and the fruit is highly colored and flavored. Regions which have become most famous as peach growing centers are those of sandy formation. Some of the best orchards are upon lands once thought worthless; and the one shown in Fig. 3 stands on sand which, before the orchard was set, was so loose that it drifted in the wind. Warm sandy lands are giving best returns. Yet, peaches will thrive upon heavier lands, even upon clay; but they are rarely so productive upon heavy lands unless they are severely headed in.

Peach orchards should never be chopped after the third year; and if they are planted upon sandy lands, which are best adapted to them, and particularly if set less than 20 feet apart, they should never be chopped from the time they are set. The tillage described in Bulletin 72 is the only reasonable treatment for a peach orchard,—very frequent stirring of the surface soil from May until Aug., and thereafter, perhaps, a green crop, which shall be plowed under the next spring. Never, under any circumstances, seed down a peach! Never sow it to grain! Lack of tillage is ruinous, and I am astonished that farmers do not see this fact when bewailing the unprofitableness of their sod-bound, drouthsick and borer-cursed orchards!

But here comes a difficulty; it is easy to produce an overgrowth upon strong lands. The trees grow to a great size during the first few years, their tops are full of heavy leaves and the foliage holds very late in the fall. These trees generally bear tardily and in some cases are never very productive. They run to wood. The winds tear them to pieces. The first trouble lies in the land; it is too strong for the peach; the second may be the too free use of barn manures or other nitrogenous fertilizers, or too late cultivation in fall.

The key-note to fertilizing peach orchards is potash and phosphoric acid, and not nitrogen. Ashes, nuriate of potash, bone fertilizers,—these are some of the money-makers for peach trees.

A system of pruning which fits the slow growth and hard wood of sandy soils may be adapted to the rapid growth and heavier tops of trees on strong soils. Figs. 2 and 3 show what I believe to be, in general, the best method of pruning peach trees upon sandy or what may be called peach soils. This method is common in the Chesapeake peninsula and in the Mich. peach belt. It will be observed, also, that the pictures show trees with short trunks and forking branches. It is a prevalent opinion in this state that such trees are more likely to split down with loads of fruit than those which have more horizontal branches, but I think this an error. Of course, some care should be exercised to see that branches do not start off from the trunk at exactly the same height, thus making a true fork or Y. With this precaution, the crotchy trees are no more likely to split than others, while they allow of a much better form of top—unless the tree is to be headed in. I have taken particular pains this year to observe the breaking of loaded peach trees, and I find that the limbs much oftener break in two than they split at a crotch, and orchards in which the trees are pruned after the manner of Figs. 2 and 3 have in no case suffered more than others. In fact, the horizontal branches of the high-topped trees often appear to carry a load of fruit with less ease than the more upright branches of the other style of training. This danger of breaking is greatly lessened if the fruit is properly thinned.

There is almost universal neglect in this state. Every peach grower knows that good fruit cannot be grown upon overloaded trees, and yet he refuses to [illegible] forthwith blames the market! [illegible] a rule that no two peaches [illegible] closer together than five [illegible] another. No work [illegible] better than this [illegible] in the price [illegible] rings in [illegible] which is saved to the tree. Peach trees which are regularly thinned should bear every year, barring injuries from winter or spring frosts. Growers seem to forget that this fruit must all be picked sooner or later, and that the work is easier done in June or July than in Sept. The thinning should be delayed until the fruit is the size of the end of one's thumb.

But if growers are negligent in thinning the fruit, they are too often positively careless in marketing it. Even in this year of low prices, fancily or nicely packed fruit has brought good prices, wholly independent of its quality. The handsome boxes of Cal. peaches, containing 60 wrapped fruits, have sold from $2 to $3, and yet they are generally very inferior in quality when they reach our markets. Alongside these peaches, shipped several thousand miles, our peaches have sold for 25 to 75 cents a half bushel.

There are several faults with our method of handling. Packages are too large. Fruit is not graded and selected; in fact, is not well grown. There are often no wooden covers on baskets, and, as a consequence, that part of package which should look the best is usually the most jammed and crushed. In observing the markets this summer, I found that quite half the packages were not full when they reached the salesmen and the peaches comprising the two or three top layers had chased each other around the basket until they were scarcely recognizable. The peaches had evidently been dumped into the basket and they settled as soon as placed upon the cars. Our method of handling peaches is the very best advertisement of the handsome Pacific coast fruit, every individual peach is sound and perfect; in eastern fruit, the peaches often run through the packages and are sold in the liquid state!

Among varieties, the Melocoton family is still most prominent is Western N. Y. The old Red-Creek Melocoton, from which the family sprung, is occasionally seen, but it is doubtful if the original form of it is now known. This important family of peaches is known by a firm yellow flesh, free stone, red-splashed cheek, and a prominent tip-like projection at the apex. Its chief representatives now-a-days are the Early and Late Crawfords. Some orchards are composed almost entirely of these varieties, although there are several somewhat differing forms or strains under each name. I am inclined to think that the Crawfords are planted too exclusively and that the time has come for the freer introduction of other sorts. Although the white-fleshed peaches, as a class, are superior in quality to the yellow-fleshed, yet consummers demand the yellow varieties almost exclusively.

Courtship and Marriage.

An English writer has recently been giving some thoughts on what he calls "new light on love, courtship and marriage" that is worth considering. Anybody, he says, who has not yet fallen in love can readily raise the vision of the subsequent dear one by looking at himself in the glass. If he be stout, the girl will probably be thin; if he has a snub nose, his love will centre about the Roman one; if he be dark, ten to one a blond ultimately captures him. Thus nature corrects defects and strives to realize her ideal. The same holds good in a measure of the mental qualities. A fool should make it his business to fall in love with a clever woman, and conversely, a wise man should marry a fool if he has any respect for nature. Note, further, that girls with Roman noses are, as a rule, good house managers, but against this amiable quality must be set the fact that your Roman nose is essentially managing in every direction and is not content with domestic duties alone.

Your Roman nose, in fact, requires a complete surrender and is rarely happy till she gets it. Noses, he thinks, are a leading index to character. Avoid a sharp nose. If, besides being sharp, it is tinted with varying shades of red or blue or is blue pointed, there is an asperity of temper which it would not be well for you to encounter. Let your converse with "blue points" be confined to the oyster bar, then. Avoid the blue nosed maiden as you would the blue nosed orang otang—both are capable of infinite mischief. He also cautions us against red hair and bushy eyebrows. In selecting a husband "choose a sensible man, one of solid, mature judgment. A broad, perpendicular forehead, with the upper part somewhat projecting over horizontal eyebrows, and vivacious, deep set eyes are said to denote practical common sense and mature judgment." Excellent advice, only a bit too general as is his infallible receipt for winning his love. To do so a woman must possess womanly graces, the power of setting out her qualities so as to inspire the tender passion and a gift of fascination. That is the whole secret.

A MEDICAL AUTHORITY suggests that those who kiss should first sponge the lips with diluted carbolic acid. But where is the girl who would be willing to be caught with a bottle of carbolic acid in her pocket?

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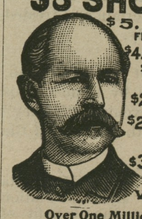

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Leave. A. M. 6.50	CHESTERTOWN	Arrive. P. M. 12.05
7.05	WORTON	A. M. 11.50
7.10	LYNCH'S	11.45
7.15	HEPBRON	11.40
7.28	KENNEDYVILLE	11.27
7.41	BLACK'S	11.14
7.54	LAMBSON'S	11.01
8.08	MASSEYS	10.47
8.22	DELANEY'S	10.32
8.30	BINGHAM'S	10.25
Arrive. 8.40	CLAYTON	Leave. 10.15

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versus
James N. Scoone and Augusta Scoone.

In the Circuit Court for Kent Co., in Equity.

ORDERED, this 21st day of February, 1895, that the Sale of the Real Estate mentioned in these proceedings, and reported by JAS. A. PEARCE, Attorney named in mortgage under which the sale reported was made be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the 23d day of April next:—Provided a copy of this order be inserted in some newspaper printed and published in Kent County once in each of three successive weeks before the 22d day of March, next.

The report states the amount of sales to be $485

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True copy, Test:
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Feb. 23, '95-4t.

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