GUARANTEEING YOUR PACK OF FRUIT

BY F. C. SEARS.

There is nothing that will inspire the confidence of the buying public in the quality of an article of commerce like the confidence of the producer that his product is a good one. "Your money back if you are not satisfied" carries weight with any purchaser. Nothing but a first-class article can be backed by such a proposition with safety.

And, of course, we fruit growers are no exception to this general rule. If we can guarantee that every apple in the package is just as represented it will certainly tend to popularize our output, but we must be sure of the output first. The rest can be made to follow.

There are about four essentials to the proposition as I see it if one is to make it a real success.

In the first place one must grow good fruit. We may perhaps take that for granted, though it is really the big end of the proposition. If every apples in an extra fancy there is mighty little difficulty in getting rid of the crop. And looking at it from the other angle one can, of course, guarantee the pack of a lot of poor stuff, but there is no money in it.

The second essential is to pack the fruit honestly. This ought to need no discussion. Hundreds of jokes have been made at the expense of the man who puts little apples in the middle of the barrel; and thousands of articles and speeches have been written and made about honesty in packing apples. Yet one has only to step into any fruit market and examine the packs which are there on sale to see that as yet we fruit growers, as a class, have not arrived.

Nothing would do more to put our fruit business on a sound footing than this single simple matter of honest packing.

The third point is that the fruit shall be so well packed that it will arrive at its destination in good condition. This requires real skill, and many a package of fruit leaves the home packing house honestly packed and in good condition, only to arrive at its destination so badly battered in transit that it is of little value.

TWO KINDS OF GROWERS.

The story is told of a Nova Scotia apple grower who wandered down to the docks in Halifax where a steamer was loading with apples for the English markets. He was accosted by the Dominion fruit inspector who was on the job and was examining a barrel of apples that he had opened.

"George, what do you think of a man who would put up such a barrel as that?" said the inspector. George looked in the barrel. "Why, he's a rascal," said he. And then the inspector turned over the head of the barrel and showed George his own name. That sounds too good to be true, but we have the papers to prove it; and there is no question that it would be a liberal education to most of us if we could see our own fruit opened up in the market.

We ought to take pains to do this occasionally. It would not only open our eyes to our own failings but would give us more charity for the commission man whom we are so fond of abusing.

And lastly, having done all this, we ought to get back of our pack and boost it. Here is another Nova Scotia story which enforces this point. A certain grower puts a printed slip into every barrel which he packs bearing this legend:

Notice—This fruit was packed at the Riverside Fruit Farm, Middleton, Annapolis County, Nova Scotia. Having large interests in growing orchards in the Annapolis Valley, I am desirous of having my brand known abroad for its invariable reliability, both as to quality of fruit and honesty of packing. To insure this object I hereby guarantee the contents of this package to be the same from head to head and to be fairly represented by the face; and I further authorize my consignees to refund the money paid for the fruit of my packing which is proved not to be according to brand.

That is the proper spirit and will revolutionize the fruit business. Why cannot more of us do the same thing?

Profitable Age and Weight of Cattle.

Dealing with the most profitable age and weight of cattle, the bulletin on "Beef Raising in Canada," published by the Dominion Dept. of Agriculture, remarks that the days of the heavy bullock are past and that the life of the steer is gradually shortening. Still the weighty ox will command a good price for the export trade, provided he is of good beef formation and well fatted. Finish is what is looked for in the market and is as much appreciated in the butchers' bullock of 1,100 pounds as in the exporter weighing 1,500 pounds. Apropos of this remark in a recent Live Stock Branch market report is worthy of observation. Packing houses are receiving large numbers of Western killers, it says, but are paying but little attention to any other than finished cattle. Most of the finished beeves marketed by up-to-date Ontario feeders are from twenty to thirty months old and weigh from 1,200 to 1,400 pounds.

Skim Milk and its Substitutes in Pig Feeding.

In order to determine the relative value of digester tankage, skim-milk, and a combination of equal parts of tankage and oilcake meal as supplements to a grain ration in feeding growing pigs, and in finishing pigs for the market, an experiment was conducted at the Experimental Farm at Rosthern, Saskatchewan. The lot fed skim-milk made the largest average daily gain during the period and gave an average profit of $5.39 per head over feed cost while the lots receiving tankage, and oil meal and tankage gave $4.53 and $4.60 respectively. The results of the experiment show that the addition of a protein supplement to the meal ration results both in greater daily and more economical gains. They also show that where skim-milk is not available throughout the year, tankage or a combination of oil meal and tankage make good substitutes.

For removing stains from table linen, or from fragile materials such as ninon and georgette, glycerine is unequalled, as it may be used without fear of injuring the fabric. The glycerine should be dripped on to the stain from a clean sponge, and after it has been allowed a minute or two to soak in, the mark should be rinsed in clear water. Do not rub. With an obstinate or old-standing stain it may be necessary to use warm glycerine.

Just Tight Enough.

"How'd you get Billie to spend so much money on you last night? I thought he was too tight for that."

"My dear, he was just tight enough."

Remodeling Henhouses.

There are certain principles of poultry-house construction that must be fairly closely followed for good results, but it is not always necessary to spend a lot of money in order to have a good chicken house. Remodeling at comparatively little expense is frequently practical.

On many farms it has been difficult to secure profitable winter-egg production because the chicken house was so narrow from front to back that it could not be opened for ventilation without making it much too cold for the hens when on the roosts at night.

Such houses are often high in front, with rather steep roofs, so it may be fairly easy to convert the high narrow shed into a house of the semi-monitor type.

A row of windows must be placed along the front wall of the shed, close to the top. A lean-to is then built on the front, or south, side so that it slopes to the south and makes the house deeper from front to back by the width of the lean-to.

A shed twelve feet deep may well have an additional eight feet of depth in the form of such a lean-to so that the hens will be roosting nearly twenty feet from the front of the house. Winter ventilation is accomplished by leaving most of the front of the new part open at all times.

The original front wall should be removed except for sufficient framing to support the roof and the row of windows at the top.—L. E. C.

Water for Dairy Cows.

I once had a fine herd of Guernsey cows that were not only heavy eaters but heavy drinkers as well. Knowing that a cow is not a good milker unless she is both a heavy eater and a heavy drinker, I made provision that this herd should get a plentiful supply of the best water.

I had a fine well, so I installed an air-pressure pumping outfit and piped the water to the barn.

In front of the cow stalls in the barn I constructed a cement feeding trough that would hold water, and left an opening at one end for the water to escape. Morning and evening the trough was swept clean and the water let in.

The cows seemed to delight in it. And it wasn't long before we noticed that they responded by giving an unhoped-for increase in yield of milk. —William C. Smith.

British Columbia Town Buys Graded Eggs.

Realizing that the marketing of eggs has arrived at the stage where the trading in of eggs at the local store no longer meets the economic requirements of the industry, merchants of the town of Chilliwack, B. C., have decided to refuse to accept eggs in trade and instead eggs are being sent to one dealer who is in the poultry and egg business. This dealer is accepting eggs for cash and pays on a graded basis. He and a feed merchant buy all the eggs in this district which are not shipped direct to Vancouver and both men maintain that the purchasing of eggs in this manner is much fairer to both the farmers and dealers.

STRAIGHT LINES FAVORED.

Two fine plaits at the front of the kimono shoulders give a well-cut line to this one-piece frock of striped flannel, with long or short sleeves. A harmonizing tone in plain flannel fashions the tailored collar and the long sleeves which are gathered into a fitted band at the wrist. The front opens at the neck under a flat plait, and patch pockets have the stripe running crosswise. The diagram pictures the simple design of the partly finished garment. No. 1197 is in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust. Size 36 bust requires 3¼ yards of 40-inch material. Price 20 cents.

Home sewing brings nice clothes within the reach of all, and to follow the mode is delightful when it can be done so easily and economically, by following the styles pictured in our new Fashion Book. A chart accompanying each pattern shows the material as it appears when cut out. Every detail is explained so that the inexperienced sewer can make without difficulty an attractive dress. Price of the book 10 cents the copy.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Pattern Dept., Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by return mail.

Marketing Unprofitable Apples.

We fruit growers too often put on the market fruit which actually nets us a loss, if we consider all the items of expense in placing it in the hands of the consumer.

Even for the grower who, as Dr. Bailey put it, "does not grow his crop, but discovers it," there is still left the cost of picking, packing, packages, transportation and selling.

It is, of course, understood just what kind of fruit we have in mind in this discussion.

We do not refer to really good stuff on which we are so unfortunate as to lose money. This is a misfortune which through a combination of circumstances may occasionally happen even to the best of us.

The mere fact that we are not making but losing money on the transaction of selling our fruit is bad enough in itself and ought to be sufficient to prevent our keeping up the practice. But this is not by any means the only objection to it. Every apple or peach or plum that is put on the market of course influences the price of that fruit and to a less extent of all fruits; and the type of fruit which we are discussing has more damaging influence that any other kind because it is poor stuff, and when a consumer gets any of it, his desire for fruit is thereby diminished.

Just what can and ought to be done about the matter is a question. It is probably not a matter which laws can regulate. Education is probably the most hopeful line to work on, but the difficulty there is that the type of grower who produces and sells this sort of fruit is not the one who sits on the front seats at fruit growers' meetings or who studies his own and his neighbor's practices to see how he can improve.

One thing which we ought all of us to resolve firmly is that we ourselves will not offend in the matter. And then we should see to it that we carry out the resolve. And perhaps in time this may become a habit that will reach everybody.—F. C. S.

Handy Clothes Bag.

During my housecleaning I discovered that old negligee shirts make wonderful dust bags for the children's coats, the men's coats and women's waists. By replacing the neckband with a bias fold through which a tape may be run, and stitching up the tails you have a complete dust protector. The sleeves may be tied at the bottom.

An occasional application of furniture polish helps to keep the wooden back of clothes brush or hair brush in condition. The brush must be perfectly dry when this treatment is applied.

S.S. LESSON

October 4. Paul in Athens. Acts 17: 16-34. Golden Text—In him we live, and move, and have our being—Acts 17: 28.

ANALYSIS.

I. THE GREEK WORLD'S CONFESSED NEED OF GOD, 22-23.

II. GOD'S ANSWER IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, 24-34.

INTRODUCTION—In Athens, St. Paul was face to face with the world's highest traditions in art, literature, and philosophy. The political glory of Athens had long since faded, but its intellectual eminence remained.

But even the philosophical leaders were found by Paul to be unsympathetic. They regarded the missionary as a mere "picker up of straws," as an amateur in philosophy, that is, or as a dilettante. They scoffed at him as a sort of Oriental dervish announcing more "foreign demons."

One day, however, seeing an altar with the inscription "To An Unknown God," Paul felt that God had given him his point of contact and his message. He gathers an audience, and announces to them that the God of Israel, the God and Father of Jesus Christ, alone answers the pathetically confessed need of the Greek heart.

I. THE GREEK WORLD'S CONFESSED NEED OF GOD, 22-23.

V. 22. The sermon is preached by Paul standing on the Areopagus or Hill of Mars, the rocky eminence to the West of the city, from which in ancient times the Council of the areopagus dispensed laws to the Athenians. Paul begins by giving the Athenians credit for a deeply religious turn of mind which makes them more than usually respectful of divine things. The words of the Authorized Version, "Ye are too superstitious" should be rendered "You are more than others interested in things divine." St. Paul's attitude to the Athenian heart here is sympathetic, not condemnatory.

V. 23. The proof that the Athenians are more than usually religious has been found by Paul in the altar inscription To An Unknown God. No inscription bearing this title has been discovered at Athens, but we know for a fact that they had inscriptions bearing the plural dedication. To Unknown Gods. What Paul read in the inscription was not a mere polytheistic welcome to all gods that came, but a mute, pathetic confession that the heathen soul was not satisfied, but was stretching out its arms towards the true Father-God of whom they had never heard.

II. GOD'S ANSWER IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, 24-34.

St. Paul now has his text, and in the first part of the sermon he declares that the God, who has been hitherto unknown to the heathen heart, is spiritual and one, the Creator of the world, the Giver of life, the Lord of the nations, the kind, intimate Father of the souls of men (vs. 24-29). In the second part, which is the specifically Christian part, he declares that the God has revealed himself in Jesus, and calls men from sin and heathen darkness to receive eternal life, vs. 30-31. It is this second part of the message which arouses opposition, vs. 32-34.

V. 24. St. Paul points out that the Creator-Spirit, the God who made the world, is not to be thought of as locally fixed in any shrine or temple. He inhabits the whole world and there is no part of our life which is outside of his observation and interest. Polytheism did not put the whole of man's life under any of its deities, but assigned to each a small part of what concerns us. Hence, there was no dominant holy will to which man must make account for the whole of his actions and his life.

V. 25. St. Paul shows that for the same reason the heathen religious rites are meaningless. The true God does not need the offerings and libations which the heathen offer on their altars, for he is himself the Lord and Giver of Life.

V. 26. Moreover, it must not be thought that one nation has one set of gods, and another nation has another set. The one true God is Lord of all nations, and to him all peoples are responsible.

Vs. 27-29. And the existence of this one true God corresponds with the universal craving of the human heart for divine love. God has put an instinct in human hearts which makes us "restless until we find rest in him." We are all waiting and groping for something, and that something is God, who is our Father, and far nearer to us than we think. St. Paul appeals to the evidence of the Greek poets themselves. The poet Epimenides confesses that in God "we live and move and have our being." Another, the poet Aratus, says, "We, too, are his offspring." St. Paul quotes these sayings, and shows how foolish it is to mistake idolatry for a true worship of the divine being.

Vs. 30, 31. Then St. Paul applies the Christian message of the redeeming love of God in Christ. God pardons the past errors of heathenism, but now in Christ he calls for repentance, the changed heart and life, in view of coming judgment. All men must appear before the judgment-seat of Christ, whom God raised from the dead that he might give eternal life to all who turn to him.

Vs. 32-34. The announcement of the resurrection and of eternal life at once provokes scepticism and even ridicule. St. Paul had to turn sorrowfully away from Athens. But a number of Athenians became converts. St. Paul had not spoken altogether in vain.

If new silk stockings are washed in very hot water before being worn, they are less likely to ladder, for the washing toughens the silk.

When next making mustard, try adding a few drops of salad oil to it. You will find the flavor greatly improved.

TULIPS AND DAFFODILS

For a Constant Succession of Blooms Next Spring.

BY F. F. ROCKWELL.

Though winter comes, spring will not be far behind—if you plant bulbs!

The grace and the glory of spring gardens—"daffodils that come before the swallow dares, and take the winds of March with beauty"— and tulips that—"for their morning sup of heavenly vintage, from the soil look up"—are not new flowers. They date back far beyond the days of Will Shakespeare and even of old Omar.

Yet there are comparatively few people who seem to realize that, with our modern varieties, it is easy to have two solid months of bloom with these glorious flowers and nearly a month more a possibility. The consequence is that one seldom sees a spring garden in which the pageant of the most gorgeous of all spring flowers lasts more than a third or, at most, half as long as it should.

In the garden of my boyhood days there were but two varieties of narcissus, Double Van Sion and the Poet's narcissus. And each spring, in the same place, we had a long border of red and yellow Duc Van Thol single early tulips. The latter were always welcome, not for their beauty but for the sunny cheer which they brought in a flower-scant season.

The Van Sion "daffodils," as we called them, were a perennial disappointment, because they always opened unevenly and partly green—as they do in most parts of this country.

AN EVER-SATISFYING FLOWER.

But the Poet's narcissus was a bright spot in each spring's flower pageant. I thought then and still think that there is no flower more perpetually satisfying in its utter simplicity, perfect symmetry and wild gracefulness than the Poet's type of narcissus. It is one of the few flowers that is just as beautiful whether as a single specimen or by the thousand.

It is not my purpose, however, to extol any one flower, but rather to make as plain as possible how ten weeks or more of continuous beauty from bulbs may be enjoyed by selecting suitable varieties. So far as garden culture is concerned, all the Dutch bulbs are pretty much alike. They are called Dutch bulbs, despite the fact that none of them is native to Holland, but because of the great skill which the Hollanders have developed in growing them commercially.

The three essentials in achieving success with tulips and narcissus are: First, get sound bulbs; second, put the soil in good condition before planting; third, plant early.

You can easily judge the quality of your bulbs when you buy them. They should be heavy and plump, so that there is little or no "give" when you press one with the thumb. If you take a knife and cut a bulb in two vertically there should be no marked air spaces between the layers and a miniature flower bud, perfectly developed, should show in the heart of the bulb.

PLUMPING SHRUNKEN BULBS.

Occasionally the bulbs, while still appearing all right on the outside, have been so heated in curing or in transit that the flower is "blasted," and is easily perceived to be black and decayed. Such bulbs will not flower the first season after planting, although they may recover and be all right later on.

If your bulbs should appear to be slightly dried out or shrunken when you receive them, it is a good plan to plump them before planting, by covering them with moist soil or moist moss until you are ready to plant.

Both tulips and narcissi will bloom satisfactorily, if good bulbs are planted, in almost any soil, but a light, loamy soil is to be preferred. If your soil is either heavy clay or sandy, add a generous amount of commercial humus or florist's peat before planting. Wood ashes or even sifted coal ashes are also fine for either clay or sandy soils.

In addition, add plenty of coarse bone meal worked thoroughly into the soil. The soil where the bulbs are to go should be thoroughly forked up and pulverized so that it will fit snugly around them. Good drainage is essential.

Early planting—that is, several weeks before freezing weather—is desirable.

A misunderstanding seems to be general concerning the various types of narcissi.

All flowers of this type are narcissi, and daffodils, correctly speaking, is just as inclusive a term, being but a synonym for narcissi. The jonquils are a single type of narcissi, conspicuous because of their very sweet scent and bright yellow flowers.

The other narcissi, or daffodils, are classified as trumpet daffodils, in which the trumpet or crown is as long or longer than the petals; the incomparabilis daffodils, in which the trumpet is shorter than the petals, but at least a third as long; and the barrii and leedsii daffodils, in which the trumpet is less than one-third as long as the petals or becomes merely a cup.

The poet's daffodils have pure glistening white petals and a shallow crown or cup, margined or colored scarlet or crimson.

The poetaz daffodils differ from all the above by bearing their flowers in a cluster or bunch, several on each stem.

It is in the trumpet-flowered class that the greatest improvement has been made during the past few years.

Golden Spur has long been the most popular yellow trumpet, but the splendid flowers of King Alfred, borne on strong stems well above the foliage, make it the one best deep-yellow trumpet for the garden.

A SUCCESSION OF COLOR.

While the narcissi are still at their height, the multicolored procession of the tulips begins. The early singles and early doubles open the show.

Some of the best of the doubles are: Boule de Neige, white; Mr. Van der Hoef, pure yellow; Murillo, blush pink; Salvator Rosa, deep rose; Tea Rose, a unique yellow apricot; and Vuurbaak, a bright scarlet.

With the last of the early tulips come on the cottage or May-flowering tulips. Moonlight, a wonderful, long, yellow flower is one of the earliest. Mrs. Moon, of deeper color, follows close after with Inglescombe Pink.

The Darwins and breeders, which close the tulip season, are the finest of all.

One of the earliest Darwins is Wm. Copland or Sweet Lavender, a rosy lavender. Another early is Pride of Haarlem, immense in size and a brilliant rosy scarlet, slightly scented. William Pitt, deep crimson; the Rev. H. Ewbank, soft lavender; Madame Krelage, a deep pink with a silvery edge, the buds looking like roses; Princess Elizabeth, a wonderful, clear deep pink; and Farncombe Sanders, bright scarlet, comes next.

Among the latest bloomers are some of the finest, such as Afterglow, an indescribable saffron orange shading into salmon at the edges of the petals; Clara Butt, a distinct clear salmon pink, old but unsurpassed; and Baron de la Tonnaye, another rose-like deep pink, with lighter pink at the edges.

The following breeders are as fine as the best Darwins: Panorama, an orange mahogany and a great bloomer, Yellow Perfection, and Dom Pedro, rich brown.

The Health School.

"What good is an 'Open Air School' to country children? They have fresh air all the time."

The question is put to me in all seriousness by a school nurse who has been asked about open air schools in rural districts. I will agree with her statement if she says, "They may have fresh air all the time." As a matter of fact, some country children spend many a winter day shut up in an overheated house which they change only for an underheated schoolroom. But I will agree that country children should not need open air schools in order to get fresh air.

The great obstacle to open air schools in rural districts is that the percentage of the school population needing them is not large enough to warrant the expense. Yet I do crave the advantages of the open air school for the country child of sub-standard health and I think they may be had with a little planning. Everyone who has studied the open air school knows that "fresh air" is but one of its advantages. So far as that feature is concerned the school that is well ventilated and does not raise its temperature artificially above sixty-eight degrees is doing well. The other important things that make weak children do so well in open air schools are:

1. Rest, lying down, at intervals during the day.

2. Extra nourishment, composed chiefly of milk.

3. Freedom from all mental competition or strain.

My opinion is that this freedom from strain is as important as any. All of these features can be arranged by a sympathetic, intelligent teacher, and they are worth while, even though no more than two or three pupils in the group need such care. An alcove or a small class room will do for a rest room, and failing in any other arrangement a place screened off from the one-room school and used at the noon intermission would help. Open air schools are very helpful to sub-standard children. If you cannot have them in the country try to include their advantages in the regular school.—Dr. C. H. Lerrigo.

Snow-White Linen.

I like snow-white linen, but I abhor commercial bleaching compounds, having been told time and again, at home in France, where the love of fine linen amounts almost to reverence, that bleaches will only whiten the threads to their detriment.

So, according to old-time rules, whenever white garments or clothes become yellowed, or whenever they are recalcitrant spots that one would imagine nothing but bleaching powders or liquids could remove, I hang the washed garments to dry in the sun.

There, all day, they remain, and in the evening, when dry, I soak them again very thoroughly in plain cold water.

I do not wring them at all, but hang them up again, all dripping with water, leaving them overnight.

It is truly amazing how white they thus become—really snow-white. —H. S. M.

Before applying polish to range or cooker remove all grease spots with a rag dipped in turpentine, or a pad of old cloth dipped in soot.