**Horticultural Notes (VIC) 1894**

**Australasian (Melbourne, Vic.: 1864 - 1946), Saturday 27 January 1894, page 11**

HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

The importance of correct naming of fruits is yearly more strongly impressed upon growers, whether the number of varieties they have under culture be large or small. Usually, one name is recognised as the original and therefore the proper name, but in different districts the same apple or pear is known by different names, and this is equally true of English, French, Russian, and American varieties. Reference to Hogg’s Fruit Manual or to Downing’s American work would teach some experienced growers an important lesson. Many a favourite apple has from six to double that number of recognised names. It has thus often happened that atter buying a new (so-called) variety of apple which has been accorded high praise, purchasers have discovered when it has fruited that they have only an old variety under a new name. Raisers of seedling apples appear to be very generally impressed with the notion that they have a right to christen each seedling of their own raising without troubling themselves to inquire whether or not the apple thus raised possesses characteristics that will enable it to be distinguished readily from pre-existing varieties. The task of eliminating from the list of varieties names that they have no claim to as representatives of new kinds is a never-ending one. This is part of the work of the fruit committee of the Royal Horticultural Society of England, and the trouble is evidently on the increase in this country. Its importance has been recognised by the Horticultural Board of Advice, in connection with the Department of Agriculture, and with the object of facilitating inquiries regarding the names the following circular has been issued to all societies: – “with a view to endeavouring to correct the fruit nomenclature of the colony, it has been decided to enlist the support of the different fruit-growing, &c., associations, by requesting them to send in samples of fruits from time to time, so that they may be compared and reported on by the Horticultural Board of Advice, whose report on the samples, and any other necessary information, will be forwarded you for your instruction and guidance. The samples to be forwarded should be addressed to the curator of the Royal Horticultural Gardens, Burnley railway station, and should be so sent that they might reach the gardens at least one day previous to the second Friday in any month. Each sample should be named or numbered, and carefully gathered and packed. It is also suggested that a public exhibition of a sample collection of green and dried fruits should be held during the month of March next, the display being for comparative and educational purposes only. By this means great benefit and instruction would be derived by those interested in fruit culture, and enormous advantages, would be gained by growers as to the culture of the different districts. Kindly inform me at an early date if your association would take part in this project,"

The crime of garden and orchard lobbing is annually assuming larger dimensions. To grow fruit within four or five miles of a town will soon be as unprofitable and useless as it now is to attempt to grow flowers and fruits in the metropolitan suburbs. This matter is becoming frequently referred to by our contemporaries. Only a few days ago the *Wimmera Star* mentioned that "numerous complaints had been made in Horsham lately about fruit-stealing. In several cases residents have had their trees stripped of fruit, even before it was ripe, and they have, naturally, been annoyed at the losses, after having given attention to the cultivation of their trees. It is said that the offenders are young boys, who, not content with pulling off fruit, also damage the trees. It would be well if an example were made of these young scapegraces."

In a North-eastern district, last year, a proposal was made to form an association for the protection of orchards and vineyards. All occupiers were to be members, and in the event of any thieving taking place, the prosecutions were to be conducted by the society's legal adviser; no member to be allowed to condone the offence. No reports of prosecutions in that quarter having come to our notice, we presume that, if the association was formed as proposed, the movement has resulted in a manner entirely satisfactory to its authors.

At a recent meeting of the Pomological Committee of the New South Wales Department of Agriculture a very simple and efficient codlin-moth trap was submitted by Mr. Morgan, of Goulburn, one of the members of the committee, and was very favourably commented upon.

Mr. Maher, a well-known orchardist in the Bendigo district (writes our correspondent), had some apples brought out to him from England in the ship Orient, which arrived on December 1. The apples had no special treatment, and were brought out by Mr. Maher's nephew in a trunk containing some clothes. The apples are of the Dumelow's Seedling (or Wellington) and Winter Peach varieties, and came from the orchard of Mr. Maher's brother, at Westbury, Berkshire. These apples are to-day as sound as possible, having lasted for seven weeks since their arrival in Victoria, despite the fact that the summer season was on. Surely in the face of this evidence the exportation of apples from Australia should largely increase.

Under the heading "Pity the Sorrows of an Orchardist" a very old and respected correspondent has stated his own experiences as a fruitgrower during the last 26 years in one of the most fertile portions of the north-eastern district. The trees grew well and bore heavily, but nature had not been interfered with otherwise than by his farm and orchard. He was the first to bring vines to the district, and in doing so he greatly augmented his managerial difficulties. In turn he had to combat opossums, leatherheads, wattle birds, blue birds, and parrots of various hues and dimensions, and so the worry went on increasing until, six or seven years ago, small green, red, and yellow parrots appeared in crowds, and now not a cherry in the orchard can ripen; the birds are dead upon cherry plums. Early Rivers plum, early pears, and the soft apple known as Irish Peach; now, also, neither mulberry nor peach can be got. His record this year is - "Small parrots cleared out January 9, to worry, I suppose, some orchardist in another country." He subsequently mentions "black rooks" as large birds which break down the branches of plums looking splendid, like ropes of fruit, many of the plums being six inches in circumference; half a dozen of the birds will sit upon a branch. " The worry is incessant, and often spoils our complacency," writes our deeply-troubled correspondent, while endorsing the feelings of the farmer who said "he was a happy man until he planted an orchard." Oranges have done grandly, but they are already in over-supply in those parts. His experiences have led him to the logical conclusion that "the only chance for success in fruit-culture is to establish “fruit colonies' like Mildura. Small, isolated orchards are sure to break down. Communities and co-operation can alone have any chance of success, as everything being disposed of to a company who have proper appliances for tinning, drying, and preserving by experts, they alone have a chance of competing successfully in the world's market. Thus only (he says) could the troubles of an orchardist, as portrayed above, be made to cease or be minimised. This is also when capital and labour should and must shake bands. "Why has not our correspondent invited and induced many orchardists to settle in his fertile district during his 26 years residence therein?

Whilst the codlin moth has betimes given great annoyance to the Castlemaine district orchardists, fewer complaints regarding the ravages of the pest are now heard. This is due largely to the systematic method of treatment adopted by several fruit-growers as set forth in Mr. French's entomological work on the *Destruction of Insects*.

Signor Bragato, who is inspecting the vineyards of the St. Arnaud district, has already examined about thirty vineyards without finding any trace of phylloxera. In the vineyard of Mr. J, T. Hayes, at Stuart Mill, he found that cuttings had been planted from the infected vineyard of Mr, Grosse, at Emu Creek, Bendigo, and he therefore made a most careful examination of the vines, but reports that they are perfectly clean and healthy. He states that it is very difficult to find many of the smaller vineyards, as the names and

addresses of the proprietors do not appear in the last list published by the Board of Viticulture, and suggests the advisability of every vine-grower having to forward his name and address to the police and shire authorities.

At the annual meeting of the Rutherglen Vinegrowers' Association, Mr. Gow stated that he had recently interviewed Mr. McAlpine with reference to visiting the district, and he informed him that he could not see his way clear to do so, stating, as his reason, that he

was not engaged permanently by the Government as pathologist, but only gave his spare time to the department. Mr. Gow remarked that the question of fungoid diseases was becoming very serious to the colony, and it was time that a pathologist was appointed. Mr. Gow therefore moved "that the Minister of Agriculture be written to, asking that a permanent Government pathologist for fungus diseases be appointed, one whose time can be devoted to the demands of the colony, and also who could be called away at any time to go into the country and enter into practical experiments in connection with the treatment of such diseases." The motion was seconded by Mr. Kilborn, and carried unanimously. The statement made by Mr. McAlpine to Mr. Gow will be news to many.

A viticultural society is to be formed at Balmoral as a means of starting vine-growing in the district; the climate and soil being both adapted for the vine. As a first result of this movement, it has been resolved that a company be formed having a capital of 2,000 shares of 5s. each to establish a vineyard and winery at Balmoral. Applications for 300 shares were made in the room. A committee was appointed, and Mr. Hayman was appointed secretary pro tem.

Much of the criticism passed on the conduct of the Agricultural department in connection with the outbreak of phylloxera at Bendigo is attributed by the authorities to a want of knowledge on the part of the critics. It has been complained, for instance, that the proclamation forbidding the removal of grapes or cuttings from infected vineyards should have been issued long ago, as there is danger of the disease being spread. The proclamation has been prepared and is now awaiting the authority of the Executive Council; but the department explains that there was no need for hasty action, as cuttings, to be of any value, could not be removed from the vineyards so early in the season. The department anticipated the proclamation by obtaining authority to carry on the work of eradicating infected vines. Parties of men have been employed for some days past destroying diseased vines in Bendigo under the supervision of the inspector. The secretary for Agriculture reports that everything has been done by the department to expedite the eradication of vines attacked by the phylloxera, that the vignerons of Bendigo appear to be thoroughly satisfied, and that whilst the work is being done efficiently the state will not be called on to pay any compensation for the destruction oi vines. Some years ago, when the phylloxera made its appearance in Geelong, healthy and unhealthy vines were destroyed indiscriminately, and the state was consequently involved in considerable expenditure in the shape of compensation; but as diseased vines alone are now being destroyed, the department takes the view that it is doing a good work for the proprietor of the infected vineyard, and therefore no compensation will be paid.