

# DOLLARS IN THE BIG RED APPLE

(Continued from Page 6)



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Trees are sometimes whitewashed to retard bud development, which helps to the extent of a few days. Proximity to large bodies of water is of value, because the water throws off warmth.

Many times, unfortunately, it is not possible to select just the location one would prefer. Then, he seeks artificial means of evening up matters. If his orchard is often endangered by early frosts, he invests in a smudge outfit and keeps his trees enveloped in a thick blanket of smoke on nights when the temperature runs dangerously low. It is only of recent years that orchard heating has come into common practice; but it has saved many thousands of dollars worth of apples. The mercury has dropped as low as twenty degrees, and yet crops have not been lost.

There are numerous and various kinds of pots, or heaters, on the market, many of which use petroleum, as the latter burns regularly and can be ignited quickly. Thermometers are distributed about the orchard and a watchman employed to note the temperature, at stated intervals. When it drops to the danger point, the fires are lighted. All this adds to the expense, however. It will cost \$500, or more, to install and operate for one season a complete equipment of heaters for ten acres.

In many orchards, smudging is necessary only occasionally, and then wet straw or some other material making a dense smoke may be resorted to. When an emergency of this kind comes, it is well if the fruit grower is a man of resource and quick action. Working all night several times a season is something the orchard grower in many sections of the country must be prepared for.

Dynamite has proved a great boon to fruit growers on rough hillside lands, and where the hardpan is not far below the surface. Dynamite is used not only for planting trees, but for cultivating them afterward. Sometimes it will induce fertility in trees that have resisted all other expedients.

The dynamite charge is not expected to blow out the holes, but to loosen up the ground so that the shovel can be sunk to the proper depth without difficulty. In addition to loosening the soil all the insect pests which inhabit the ground, for many feet in all directions. It is not to be understood that everybody who plants an orchard will find it necessary, or even wise, to use dynamite; but this explosive has proved of great value in many instances.

Almost any sort of land, no matter how

rough and rocky, can be made to grow good fruit; but the operation is often a costly one. Mr. Hale, already mentioned, had a glacial formation covering 150 acres of his Connecticut farm. The land was covered with forest trees when Mr. Hale, in a fine fit of enthusiasm, decided to transform it into a peach and apple orchard. It seemed like a desperate undertaking, for beneath the full grown trees were huge rocks. At last, even Mr. Hale was about to give up in despair, when his Italian assistant sought him out. "You giva me one interest," he said, "and I maka da peacha growa lika dam."

Mr. Hale liked the man's spirit and made him his partner in the enterprise. There is a fine orchard there now, but thousands of dollars worth of dynamite were exploded before the ground could be worked.

Many orchards have proved failures because poor trees were purchased. The planter may have bought them in good faith; but there are all kinds of nurserymen, some as crooked as others are reliable. Some don't care

what a tree may be, so long as it bears the label giving it the name you specified in your order. The only safe plan is to buy your trees from a concern that has a reputation to protect.

Trees can be made to prosper when planted between the rocks on a steep hillside; but if the land can be well broken up and perhaps used for growing field crops a year or two, the trees will have a decided advantage over those planted under less favorable conditions.

The soil must be well drained, in order to get the best results, which often means that tile drains must be installed. The water level should be three feet below the surface.

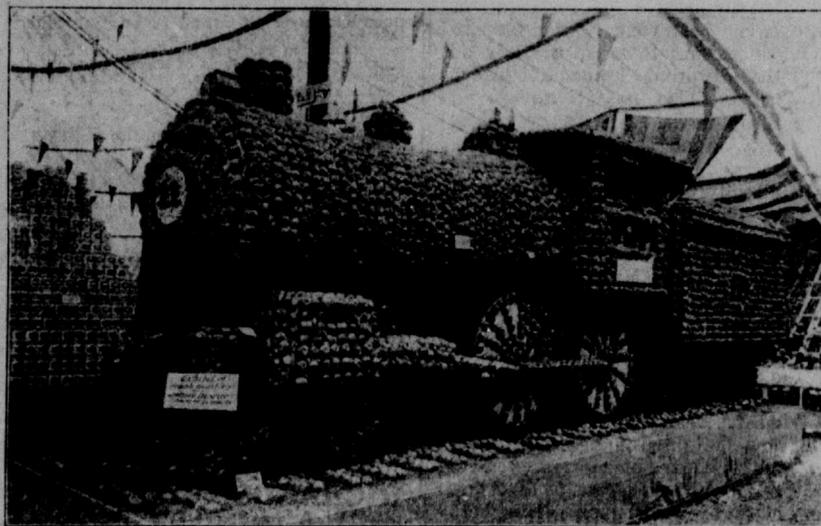
Forty feet apart each way is as close as most apple trees should stand; but in a business orchard "fillers" will invariably be grown between them. These "fillers" may be apple trees which mature quickly, peach trees or berries. Apple trees are preferable, all things considered, as it sometimes is difficult to give the sort of treatment that will be to the benefit, at one and the same time, of apples, peaches and small fruits. Some varieties of apple trees will produce crops in from four to eight years, while others will not come into bearing for twelve or fifteen years; but as soon as the permanent trees begin to crowd the fillers, the latter must be cut out. It takes nerve deliberately to sacrifice hundreds of trees that are bearing profitable crops, and many men can



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Display of apples at a California fruit show

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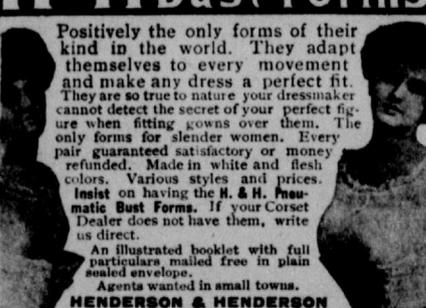
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