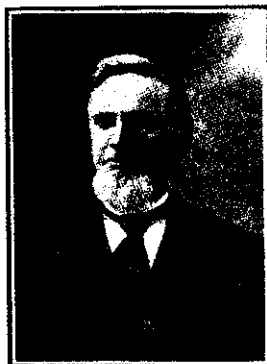


# Life in the Garden

## Practical Advice for Amateurs

### The "Apple King" of America.

The statement that one man owns over one thousand six hundred acres devoted to apple trees sounds amazing; that more than five hundred thousand bushels of apples were sold by him from trees of his own planting for an aggregate above two hundred and five thousand dollars is likewise amazing; yet these figures convey but a slight idea of the operations of Judge Fred Wellhouse, of Topeka, Kansas, known to those familiar with horticultural matters in the United States as "The Apple King" (says F. D. Coburn, secretary of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, in "Suburban Life"). He has long been known by this sobriquet, and is entitled to it for more reasons than one,—but one reason alone is more than sufficient justification for its bestowal, and that is



He is a most Genial and Amiable King.

the fact that he has grown more apples from trees of his own planting than any other one man in the world. This, however, is perhaps a minor reason, when weighed against his potent influence on the horticulture of a great State, and beyond.

Apple-growing has been a life study with Judge Wellhouse.

When, in the late seventies, he was planting 437 acres to apple trees in Leavenworth county, Kansas, many of his neighbours looked upon him as well-nigh denuded.

It wasn't all smooth sailing at first. Not at all. But Wellhouse persevered, using the proceeds from his earlier crops to buy more land to raise more trees to bear more of the apples which by their excellence were attracting far more than local attention and building up a reputation for Kansas fruit. Across the Atlantic, epicures feasted on the products of these Kansas orchards; sturdy Brits further fortified blooming health by the consumption of all the available fruit grown and packed by Wellhouse. "Out there in Kansas," and like the Oliver Twist of their own immortal Dickens, they hungrily appealed for more. In one

year an entire train load of Ben Davis apples was shipped from the Wellhouse orchard to a Baltimore firm for reshipment to Germany. Like most men to whom has come a goodly share of success in the business world, Judge Wellhouse has kept a complete record of all expenditures and receipts during the years he has been engaged in commercial orcharding, and the figures can be taken as being careful records, and not the result of guess work. Although Kansas is so peculiarly fitted for the cultivation of the apple, the State, like most of the others in the Union, has at times been the victim of Jack Frost. For instance, in the spring of 1907, the prospects of a bumper crop of apples were of the best; the trees were loaded with bloom, and the Judge strongly hoped that his great ambition was to be realised at last—to harvest 100,000 bushels of apples in one season. But one night in the forepart of April the frost came, and the next morning there was not a bloom left, and of course not an apple was harvested in 1907. At harvesting time in a prosperous season the orchard is a scene of wonderful activity.

The object of the whole plan is to place before fruit lovers, in the best possible condition, the finest and most toothsome products of the greatest of orchards. Picking, hauling to the packers, sorting, packing, and re-hauling to the railroads are all carried on as parts of a well-ordered plan, and proceed with the regularity and precision of clock-work.

Perhaps in no way can be conveyed a clearer conception of the immensity of these apple-growing operations than by citing the figures from the records. In all, the maker of this record has grown and sold twenty-six crops, amounting to considerably more than half a million bushels. The crop of 1890, approximately eighty thousand bushels, was the largest, and it sold for more than £10,000. This was perhaps the most valuable crop of apples ever grown by any one man in the Middle West, and the total paid for it aggregated more than the earnings of the average citizen during his entire lifetime. The combined yield of the two largest crops, those of 1890 and 1891, was 142,868 bushels. The smallest yield was 488 bushels in 1899.

All these apples, if packed in barrel and loaded on the ordinary railroad freight car, averaging twenty thousand pounds to the load, would fill about one thousand two hundred and fifty cars, or make more than sixty-two train-loads, of twenty cars to the train.

In picking, the men averaged forty bushels each per day,—the packers and pickers were paid for 20,833 days work, at the rate of six shillings per day of ten hours. The pickers worked in gangs of from ten to fifteen men.

For harvesting, £6250 was paid to pickers and packers; £1285 for hauling from the fields to the packing-house, and £2313 for hauling to the railroad and loading on cars. The barrels cost £3400, and about £300 was spent for miscellaneous items, such as boxes, extra hoops, etc. The total outlay for gathering the crops and placing them on the market was £13,500. You see, capital is required for a job like this one.

The gross sales amounted to £41,180; this less the £13,600 expenses, leaves a net return of £27,580. But this amount does not represent all the profit. It does not include the value of the corn

which was grown between the tree rows from the time of setting out the orchards until they began to bear. The corn was grown by tenants, and the landlord received one-third of it for rent. Of the 161,000 bushels of corn grown, he received 53,600 bushels, which sold for an average of 30 cents a bushel, netting about £2950, and paying all expenses of planting and growing the orchards, to the time of their bearing, added to that from the apples, this income from the corn brings the total net profit up to £30,300. And then, too, its planter still owns this largest orchard, and has every reason to hope for many more bumper crops.

### Hardy Clematis.

New Zealanders do not as a rule require to be told of the beauty of the clematis. If there is one of our native plants more than any other we specially admire and boast of, we think it is the clematis. For chaste beauty there is no native flower, in our opinion, to equal it. This plant is occasionally successfully transplanted from the bush; it can also be raised from seed, and nurserymen supply plants in pots. There are endless varieties of clematis. We

### A "NEW SYSTEM" OF CULTIVATION.

Our Marlborough correspondent forwards a letter, written to the Press by Mr. George Turner, of Blenheim, suggesting what he calls "a new system of growing plants in pots," which, stated briefly, is the substitution of hay or grass for the usual crocks when potting. The idea is by no means new or novel. It is sometimes put in practice, but with the hay or grass on top of one or two crocks. When practising this plan it will be found much better to use the crocks. Well-rotted manure is often preferred to hay for certain plants. As to using semi-circular bags to hold mulch for the top of pots, some such plan might answer, but we have never tried it in bags. For the purpose Mr. Turner indicates we should think the old-fashioned plan of moss or selaginella preferable. We cannot detect any chance of anything in the shape of "revolution in the horticultural world" in the idea of the writer of the letter, but we are not too old to learn. We are pleased to give the letter publicity in the hope that some of our readers may be interested, and probably have something to say on the matter. We shall be glad to hear from them.

The letter is as follows:—  
"Sir,—In the cultivation of plants and flowers in boxes and flowerpots it is



Clematis Florida.

(The flower are double, white).

give an illustration of a plant of the Florida section, named Lucy Lemoine, the flowers of which are double, and fine white in colour. Clematis are excellent plants for covering large spaces, or for massing in beds, growing in pots, etc. The effect when they are in full bloom is splendid. Clematis like deeply trenched and well-manured ground; indeed, the soil can hardly be over-rich. In planting the roots, select the north side,

usual to fill these vessels with earth. Some drain them with stones, broken bricks and earthenware; these being efforts to find a better system of drainage than has been in practice hitherto. Such a system I claim to have discovered—simple and at everyone's command. Take the flowerpot with the usual hole in the bottom to illustrate my representations. My system is to substitute for the stones, bricks, and crockery, say, two inches of hay, straw, or even grass, firmly packed in the bottom of the pot, filling up with earth and planting in the usual way. It will then be found that the plant can be freely watered without any danger of producing mud at the bottom, while the surface appears too dry (as has been my experience). This drain mulching has the disadvantage of draining too much, requiring watering, say, every day. To remedy this I put the hole, not in the bottom, but in the side of the pot, say, one inch up. We will then have a reservoir one inch deep at the bottom of the pot, which will only require to be filled about once a week,



A Five-year-old Orchard.



Barrels ready for "Heading."