

change of ground colour towards light yellow. This will necessitate going over the trees several times at intervals, but the uniformity of fruit marketed will well repay the extra care. Once fruit is picked it should be shaded from the direct sunlight as soon as possible, and stored or marketed without delay.

Little can be added to the spraying operations recommended last month, except to stress the necessity of keeping all pip-fruit covered with arsenate of lead, to meet the attack of the brood of codlin-moth which can be expected at this season of the year.

—W. H. Rice, Orchard Instructor, Hastings.

#### NELSON.

With the month of February the apple harvest commences in earnest. Growers should therefore complete arrangements without delay and see that necessary supplies of packing-materials are on hand. Important modifications have been made in the export regulations regarding size and colour; these must be studied and the pickers instructed accordingly. Great economies can be made if the picking-teams are right. Teach them what to pick. Picking for export is by no means an easy job. While apples that are too small and immature must be left on the tree, *all* mature apples of sufficient colour must be gathered; any that are overlooked now and gathered later give no end of trouble if included in the pack. Apples below C grade should be placed in separate boxes by the pickers or placed in a heap at the butt of the tree; this precaution will save double handling later. As far as possible gather the fruit when it is cool, and place it in the shade.

Among the necessary improvements in the export pack are two very important ones. First, the box into which the goods are finally placed must be carefully examined before packing; a lot of fruit is lost for lack of this precaution. See that the box is strongly and well made. Put aside a doubtful box without hesitation. The second point is the matter of stencilling. Have you the right quantity of paint on your brush? Is that stencil straight and in the right place? Not only must stencils look well, but they must be very clear, and always in the same place. Nearly every time that fruit is handled those marks have to be read. Bad marking is not encouraging to a buyer.

Towards the end of the month autumn rains can be expected to commence, and spraying precautions must be renewed. Further application of lime-sulphur and arsenate of lead will be required.

Orchard cultivation generally should now cease. Where necessary a cover-crop can be sown now. The present time is more especially suitable for sowing lupins or peas.

—W. C. Hyde, Orchard Instructor, Nelson.

#### CANTERBURY.

Spraying: The notes which appeared in the November *Journal* still hold good for both pip and stone fruits. At this period lime-sulphur may be applied at the strength of 1 in 120 on apples and pears. The second period of moth-infection may be expected about the third week of this month.

Reworking trees: The latter part of this month and February is a good time to bud to better varieties all poor and worthless kinds. Be sure the buds to be used are taken from trees known to produce a high-quality fruit. Insert the bud on the outer or underneath side of the limbs. Besides the bark lifting more easily, a better-shaped tree will be obtained than if the buds are inserted on the inside.

Summer thinning: Wherever trees are found to have too much growth throughout the centre, superfluous growths only may be cut to within six or seven buds from the base from which they spring. The leaders should not be touched. Heavy branches should not be cut at this time. Thinning should not be commenced until after the terminal buds have set. This will open up the centre of the tree and admit sunlight, which aids the development and ripening of wood and fruit-spurs.

Cover-crops: Growers intending to grow a crop between the trees for green-manuring purposes should order their seed so that it will be on hand when required.

Cultivation: The land should be given a thorough cultivation, so as to break any crust which may have formed and to check the growth of the weeds. Hand-hoeing should be done around the trees, so as to loosen the soil missed by the cultivator.

Marketing fruit: Care should be exercised that fruits are not allowed to become too ripe before being picked. The time to pick is one of the most