

DICTATED CHC-AK

> Mrs. A.W. Tourgee. Mayville, N.Y.

Dear Madam:-

We have very carefully noted the contents of your letter of Sep. 17th, and will endeavor to give you an intelligent answer. First you state that you would like to have us send you next Spring, 12 early Summer apples, and 12 of our best Fall variety of apples. We certainly would take great pleasure in picking out 24 apples such as we know will please you, when they come in to bearing. You say you would like to have six of the Old Fashioned Damson plums. These we shall also take pleasure in furnishing you, charging you at the rate of 35 cents each for the apples, 75 cents each for the plums, sending them to you next Spring, as we did last Spring, by express, prepaying the express charges.

The pruning or trimming of fruit trees is something that cannot be done practically, unless the party employed to do the work is an experienced man in that line. We have men, of course, in our employ who are experienced, and we could of course send one of these men to you at the proper time or pruning fruit trees, which is in February or March of each year. The expense to you for the service of such a man would be his salary or his pay, and the expense of the trip to your place and return. There outht to be, however, a man in your vicinity who is familiar with trimming apple orchards. Of course, it would be a great deal cheaper for you to employ a man if one could be secured, living somewhere near Mayville. Have the party who hascharge of your place at Mayville to look up some of the farmers or fruit-men of your County, or the adjoining counties, who have bearing apple orchards, andwe believe that through some of these men he might be able to locate a practical pruner or trimmer of fruit-trees.

We certainly should not advise you to take out any of your fruit trees now that they have come out in to bearing, because there is no question but that they are all planted so as to eventually make good shaped trees, which when properly trimmed will certainly produce good quantities of fruit.

Plum trees, as a rule, unless it is what you call the Old Fashioned Damson, do not produce or mature large fruit, unless they are sprayed. There is an insect called the curculio that destroys the fruit, and early spraying in the Spring is required to kill this insect. This insect stings the fruit, and the result is that the fruit ripens prematurely and drops from the tree.

With reference to the grafting over of your crab apple trees. Of course, that can be done, but those crab apple trees, if pruned properly, will produce as good fruit as possible, which if not desired by yourself, certainly should be marketed at a good price, in your section. Crab apples here, withous this Fall for the purpose of making jelly, make brought a fancy price, and there is nothing we believe that makes a finer jelly than crab apples. We could send a man of course to graft those crab apples. This work is usually done in the Winter months, but we say again that we believe there can be found a man not far from you who has had experience in grafting trees, and who might possibly serve you, but if you find it impossible to secure a man to grat or to trim, and desire to have us furnish you with such a man, it is our opinion that we can do so, although you of course, realize that such men are practical men with us, men whose services are always in great demand by us, but if it is your desire to be accommodated in this respect, we shall certainly do all in our power to grant your request.

If you wish us to send you the apples and plums referred to above, kindly authorize us to do so on the enclosed card, and tell us if it is your wish to have them send late next Spring, as we did last season.

Charlest Chase