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REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF  
AGRICULTURE AND ARTS OF THE  
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, FOR 1868.

[THIRD NOTICE.]

It now remains for us to notice Appendix G, containing the report of "The Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario," with local reports annexed.

The Fruit Growers' Association was formed but a few years ago, and has been only one year in connection with the Bureau of Agriculture; notwithstanding, we have here upwards of fifty pages of useful and suggestive horticultural matter. As this large mass of information was collected in a somewhat hurried manner, and with little opportunity for collation and condensation, there are not perhaps that order and lucid arrangement of materials which are desirable and convenient in such reports—a defect which, no doubt, ampler opportunity and experience will correct in the future.

After a statement of the organization and financial condition of the Society, which appears to be financially and otherwise prosperous, holding out reasonable hopes of a long and successful career of usefulness, we have a very interesting address by the President of the Association, W. H. Mills, Esq., delivered before the annual meeting, held at Hamilton, in September last. Mr. Mills gives a graphic sketch of the origin and progress of the Society, paying a grateful tribute to the memory of the late Judge Campbell of Niagara, and Dr. Craigie of Hamilton; recognizing also the valuable services of several yet living, and expressing a conviction that under the auspices of the Bureau of Agriculture, the Society would devote constantly increasing

energies in cultivating the wide and interesting field which its labours embrace.

The report contains a valuable prize essay on the cultivation of the apple, as applicable to the Province of Ontario, by D. W. Beadle, Esq., of St. Catharines, the accomplished and energetic Secretary of the Association. Our space will not admit of anything like a synopsis of the essay, but we will try to give our readers an idea of a few of its more prominent points.

Under the head of *soil*, Mr. Beadle remarks that any ground, which will produce a good crop of corn or potatoes, is suited to the apple. A dry calcareous loam is the best, but clays, when drained and deeply cultivated, will do well for the purpose, and even light sands may be so managed, by mixing manure and other descriptions of soil, as to become adapted to fruit culture generally. *Transplanting* may be successfully done after the fall of the leaf in autumn, but in this climate experience seems to indicate that spring (before the buds break) is more reliable. Great care is necessary in removing trees, so as to injure the roots as little as possible, and to plant them in their new locations, so as to arrange the roots as nearly as practicable in their natural and relative positions. Newly-planted trees should be carefully staked, and before the heat of summer commences, mulched with coarse litter, to keep the soil moist and cool. Water copiously immediately after planting. *Cultivate* orchards annually, till at least they come into bearing. Prune gently in April, but never late in the fall. Manure liberally every alternate year, and a dressing of lime will be found generally beneficial. Weeds should be carefully kept down, and every precaution em-