

# The Canadian Horticulturist

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## The Value of Books to the Fruit Grower\*

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RESIDENT Taft in his address before the National Conservation Congress at Kansas City, Mo., of farming that "It is now most a learned profession," and designated it as "the profession of farming." This shows that what a few years ago was thought good enough for the mentally dull or inefficient members of the family has come to the front with attraction sufficient to interest the most proficient members of society. In all probability, in a few years' time, it will take the foremost rank of occupations whereby man has to earn his living and make a competence. The production of food for a growing population has become a vital question.

Modern methods of rapid and easy transit and with a still more rapid communication has broken down the isolation of the farm. Modern machinery has freed it of much of the drudgery, so that now the farm is no longer the abode of brawn, but of brain, and the greater knowledge of the brain the greater the pro-

fits, and accordingly the higher the standards of living. It is said of us in our youth that we go to school not so much to learn as to learn how to learn. That is, the brain is trained into lines of thought—the greater the efficiency of the thought the better direction should be given our labors, and consequently greater profits result.

### DIFFERENT CONDITIONS

When the writer was in California, he met a young Englishman of a progressive turn of mind. He told me that in England you have to keep within your own boundaries, while in California things were different—you could go over the fence and see what your neighbor was doing. Indeed, he said, it is your duty to do so, and whatever you find he is doing better than you can do, you are expected to adopt it and work it into your own scheme of affairs. Unfortunately some of our neighbors live too far off for us to see what they are doing, but thanks to the press there is permitted us an intercommunication by means of books and periodicals.

Books that are of interest to the fruit grower in helping him in the promotion

of his business for the most part treat only on one branch or phase of that business. They are written by one who in all probability has devoted the greater part of his life to the study of that one subject and not only represents years of labor, but also the expenditure of much money in the pursuit of the knowledge of the subject they represent and you owe it as a duty to yourself to study such books as are in direct line with your life work—the work by which you earn a livelihood for yourself and family and on success in which depends the quality of your comforts. Books present to you the viewpoints of others, a study of these may modify or round out your own, may increase your accomplishments and heighten your efficiency, and thereby cultivate and develop your mental and physical powers, awaken your latent energies, and open to you a new and wider horizon.

Thus it is that the fruit growing profession is elevated to the plane of the learned profession. The growing of fruits and intensive cultivation demands intensive thought—correct lines of thought are only promoted through the study of

Catalogue of books bearing on horticultural pests and fertilizers may be obtained free on application to The Horticultural Publishing Co., Peterboro, Ont.



A Portion of the Apple Show, Held Last Fall, at Summerland, B.C. The Artistic Displays are Shown on the Left and the Boxed Apples on the Right