

flavor of the berry makes full amends for this. It is pretty early in ripening, and both here and in Montreal has proved a success.

HARTFORD PROLIFIC—that which we received from Ontario has proved not true to name. Strange enough, too, Mr. Robert Jack of Chateauguay Barⁿ. recognized it as that which he had received from another part of Ontario for Hartford. The berry is medium, the bunch small the season medium, and the grape below medium in general merit. The true Hartford Prolific was exhibited from Plattsburg. It is largish both in bunch and berry, and on account of its earliness and yield, should have a place among our "best five kinds." The past season, with its late spring frosts and cold September was, by no means favorable to our door grape culture: still our success was such as was worthy of wide imitation.

Soon after the Exhibition, Committee meetings were held, the strong and weak points of each new grape were duly weighed and noted for future reference, and their propagation discussed. It may be said that the grapes grown by Mr. Bailey at Plattsburg are no fair guide to us who live 50 miles nearer the North Pole, but a careful comparing of 5 varieties grown by ourselves with the same varieties grown by him, showed that this last season his grapes were no earlier in maturity than those grown upon the exposed slopes of Mount Yamaska. This was of course exceptional, and was partly owing to season, and in part to culture; for proper care and culture greatly hasten the ripening of a grape.

On the other hand we must say that though Massasoit and Lindley were sweet, and perfumed with their fine Muscat flavor, yet there was more pulp and acid at the core, than would have been had September been warmer. So too with Crevelling; it was sweet and good, but its aromatic flavor was somewhat diluted.

Delaware was sweet and nice, but less pronounced in that delicate flavor which to many is suggestive of the fragrance of the sweet pea; and which makes all lovers of good grapes so mad in its praises.

Some years ago, Adirondac and Black Hamburgh, both in good condition, were placed for opinion, with names withheld, before several of our residents at Abbotsford. The thinness of skin, and insidious, pulpless fleshiness of the hot house grape were duly noted; the thicker skin, and juiciness, rather than meatiness, of the out door were also noted, so too on the other hand, its freedom from pulp, and that fine combination of rich mingled flavor in the Adirondac which gave it the preference in the minds of many.

The Adirondac of the past season, though good and highly thought of, did not reach this standard of excellence. Yet so it is with other fruits. The strawberry and the raspberry lose flavor after a shower of rain, some varieties of the apple and the pear, unless they have a certain amount of heat at the time of ripening, are colorless and insipid. The grape above all other fruits needs heat. On the exposed slopes of Yamaska Mountain, our September lacked ripening power; but such was not the case in the sheltered city gardens of Montreal, where, even on clay soil, the quality was really first rate.

Our own experience in this matter is limited to a very few years, but from what we have personally seen of older vines, and from what we have heard from older grape growers, we feel that, in those parts of the country which are not subject to June and early September frosts (and even where thus subject, if care in covering for a few nights be taken), the grape does ripen its fruit with a degree of certainty that should cause it to be generally planted.

CHAS. GIBB,
COR. SECRETARY
F. G. Assoc. of A.

We gave, in our January number, the beginning of the above interesting and able report and we omitted to give Mr. Chas. Gibb credit for it.

Seeds.—Messrs D. M. Ferry & Co., whose advertisement will be found elsewhere, favored us last spring with samples of such seeds as they supply to their customers. We tried them in our garden, and found all of them really excellent, some early varieties bearing abundantly several days in advance of others obtained elsewhere and highly recommended.

For the better accommodation of their Canadian trade, this extensive Seed House has opened a branch house in Windsor Ont., where all orders for the Dominion will be executed, avoiding tedious and vexatious delays, and saving the expense of entering, and paying duties, in Canada.

We intend during the coming season to continue our experiments, but on a more extended scale, trying, side by side, and under exactly similar circumstances, a few standard varieties of garden seeds obtained from the best known seedsmen in America, including Canada of course. The results obtained, carefully noted for the benefit of our readers, will appear from time to time in our *Journal*.

John M. Fisk's Nursery. (Abbotsford P. Q.)

We have from time to time, and for several years back, obtained several varieties of fruit trees from these nurseries, all of which have done remarkably well. We therefore think it due to our readers to say that for well grown hardy trees, specially suited to our climate, they should never order beyond the province lines, when this and several other first class firms offer to supply us with province-grown trees, at reasonable prices. Mr. Fisk's advertisement will be found in our last page.

4th Report of the Montreal Horticultural Society and Fruit Growers Association of the Province of Quebec.—We beg to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of this always welcome volume. To Canadian fruit growers it appears to us "worth its weight in gold." In fact, we know of no other source where the information therein contained could be obtained at any price. We live in the extreme northern fruit region of America, and, therefore, any experience of successful fruit culture in the Province of Quebec must be secured here, or not obtained at all.

The Fruit Committee, who give gratuitously much valuable time to the production of these reports, deserve the best thanks of the community. They are also entitled to every encouragement that can be given. How much more could and should be obtained will be apparent, when it is remembered that, out of 697 members in all of this *Provincial Society*, nine members only are reported outside of the Island of Montreal. We therefore make an earnest appeal to all our country readers to send in one dollar with their own name, and, if possible, that of their friends, to Henry S. Evans, the active and earnest Secretary, in order to become members of this really National Society. As will be seen by the advertisement in our last page, all persons, now resident on the Island of Montreal, who subscribe one dollar, will receive immediately the last Fruit Report. They are besides entitled to all the benefits of the Society, free permission to exhibit, and to visit the Society's annual shows. They will, moreover, receive the coming 5th Fruit Report, and also the *Illustrated Journal of Agriculture* for one year, in French or in English, if they do not already receive it.

GLEANINGS FROM THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

The milking properties of Short-Horns.

We have repeatedly had occasion to notice the large and even extraordinary yield of milk by Short horn cows of the highest breeding, and all who are practically acquainted with the breed know that such instances are by no means unusual. In fact, in every herd of any consequence there are families which have always been noted for their great value as dairy stock.

Mr. Stephen B. Bliss, of the Park Farm, Weston Underwood, in communicating to *Bell's Messenger* certain particulars of some recent births in his herd, remarks:—"In