

SUMMER MEETING OF THE FRUIT  
GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF  
ONTARIO.

For "*Canadian Horticulturist*."

MR. EDITOR.—On Monday, August 27th, my friend, W. W. Hilborn, and I, boarded the noon train at Watford, for St. Catharines, to attend the summer meeting of above Society. We safely arrived at our destination in the evening of the same day, after a very pleasant transit through an exceedingly fine and promising country in the midst of a Canadian harvest. The weather was exceedingly pleasureable, and the fruit trees through which we passed, though, as a general thing, not loaded with fruit, yet they studded the landscape and added beauty and a charm to the ever-changing scene. It is not possible to travel any considerable distance into the heart of our country without being convinced of the greatness awaiting it in its coming grandeur of development.

The following day we spent in the city, and by the assistance of kind friends visited many beautiful and charming places. We first called at the private gardens of the Hon. T. R. Merritt, whose gardener, Mr. Cameron, took us under his care, and led us through the varied and beautiful scenes of the garden. Everything was in the best of condition, and commanded our highest admiration. The large and varied beds of gay flowering and foliage plants were perfectly beautiful. In the fruit garden the loaded trees of beautiful and well-formed pears and plums, and trellises of grapes, were something to excite our deepest astonishment—such quantities and such beautiful and perfect specimens. In the grapery the large and beautiful clusters of foreign grapes, suspended above us, were something truly admirable. In the lawn the old and beautiful Norway Spruce, Balsam Fir, and other ornamental

trees, were exceedingly fine. Such grounds as these are not only the pride of the owner, but the admiration of the people, and a blessing to the country.

We next visited the home grounds of John Riordon, Esq., whose gardener, Mr. Dunn, also very kindly showed us some wonders of his skill in planting and training. He first took us into the grapery under glass, where fine Black Hamburgs, and luscious Muscats were hanging in enormous clusters over our heads. These beautiful grounds are perfectly charming. The conservatory, a large glass structure filled with noble Palms and many other exotics from far southern climes, was one of the most delightful places we had ever seen. The lawn was well supplied with fine old specimen trees of varied habits and foliage, intermixed with beds of the richest color in flowering and foliage plants. In the fruit garden we were also shown beautiful fruits, all that the heart of man could desire.

We also visited the nursery grounds and private gardens of D. W. Beadle, Esq., the industrious Secretary of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association. These grounds are on the very site where the old St. Catharines nurseries were first established by Dr. Beadle, the venerable father of the present esteemed owner. These admirable grounds are very extensive and well located, and are covered over with trees, plants and flowers of almost every conceivable pattern. The soil is admirably adapted to the purpose to which it is put, the growth of the trees and the nursery business.

We afterwards visited the celebrated Dominion Gardens of A. M. Smith, Esq., whose grounds are so widely known as the birth-place of the Early Canada Strawberry, and the Niagara Raspberry. Here we saw growing the wonderful Niagara Grape that is now agitating the whole country so much