

Report from George Winslow, Millbrook.

None of the trees have borne any fruit as yet, but from the appearance of the Wagner and Grimes Golden Apples, Clapp's Favourite Pear, and the Diadem Raspberry, I think I may expect fruit next year. The Burnet Grape did not grow much last season, but looks healthy. The McLaughlin Plum, and Swayzie Pomme Grise Apple are dead.

Report from Alfred Hoskin, Toronto.

My Burnet has made a good start.

THE PHYLLOXERA.

BY THE PRESIDENT.

In the *Australasian*, published at Melbourne, on the 15th of Dec. last, is to be found an interesting article on this pest, exhibiting the views and aims of our countrymen at the antipodes as to the mode in which they are to rid themselves of the evil. The editor twits the fruit-growers of Geelong with their ignorance in allowing the insect to exist without notice for the past five years, though their vines were showing every symptom of its presence. Its ravages were discovered by what is called mere chance. The important question is discussed, What is to be done? We notice that a deputation of grape-growers, who are styled by the appropriate name of "Vignerons," waited upon the Government, and suggested that they should acquire the power by Act of Parliament to adopt measures to stamp out the disease. The energy and judgment of our kinsfolk on the other side of the Equator cannot be too soon imitated by ourselves in ridding ourselves of the multitudinous evils that afflict fruit-culturists. They set to work with a good will that is refreshing, which is a sure index of their success in future. The article urges the expediency of the stamping out process. Vine culture, it is affirmed, has become part and parcel of the husbandry of the farm. "Farmers have learnt to grow grapes as inexpensively as other crops, and to sell them to the wine-maker just as they do their wheat to the miller." Vine-growing is gradually acquiring a position amongst the great staple industries of the continent, and it would be sad indeed were its progress marred by such a misfortune as the spread of phylloxera. The practice of France and Switzerland is adduced as that which alone can avail to get rid of the disease. In France the system adopted is to lift the vines and their roots as completely as possible, sprinkle them with tar and burn them. In Neufchatel the law requires clearing and burning of the vines in whatever vineyards phylloxera make their appearance, and it is enacted that no vines be replanted on the ground for ten years. Such powers are pled for in the Australian Act. "It appears to us that anything short of an absolute power to do this would negative the most conscientious administration of the Act. The bill is objected to because it makes no provision for compensation. "This appears likely to inflict hardship on some of the growers." The admirable reflection is added: "It seems questionable whether, in the interests of justice, owners of infected vineyards ought not to be compelled to prevent them being a source of injury to their neighbours." After all, this is touching the matter with a needle. In a state, citizenship demands that trades and professions ought to be so carried on that no detriment accrues to one's neighbour. Compensation ought to be given where healthy vines, in close contact with diseased roots, are destroyed to prevent the spread of the disease.

This matter, as regards ourselves, is parallel to the case of the Shorthorn importation. Diseased cattle are prevented from being introduced either from Britain or the United States, so ought diseased vines be debarred from entering our country on the same principles.

Should our brethren at the antipodes stir us up by the vigour of their action in preventing the spread of the phylloxera, our little but important monthly, *The Canadian Horticulturist*, will serve a most important purpose.

By way of *addendum*, it may be mentioned that the paper, which contains a leading article on the phylloxera, is composed of 32 pages of five columns each, with a supplement in addition of eight pages. Verily, giant sheets are issued on the other side of the line. For the copy of Dec. 15, 1877, we are greatly indebted to our distinguished member and fruit-grower, Mr. John McLean, Owen Sound.

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