

GENERAL DISTRIBUTION.

In this connection your Committee is impressed with the very marked beneficial effect upon the fruit-producing capabilities of our Province, caused by the large bodies of water by which the Western portion is bounded. The Peninsula lying between Lakes Erie and Ontario, the Counties of Norfolk, Elgin, Kent, and Essex lying on the shore of Lake Erie, and those parts of Lambton, Huron, Bruce, and Grey, which border on Lake Huron and the Georgian Bay, evidently enjoy facilities for growing the finer varieties of fruits which are denied to those portions which, lying in no higher and even in not so high a latitude, are removed by their interior position from the ameliorating influences of the water. Even along the North shore of Lake Ontario and near the River St. Lawrence this beneficial influence is perceived, although the belt of land within which it is enjoyed is much narrower than in those counties which lie either in a lower latitude or on the South side of large bodies of water.

Throughout the Peninsula, and along the North shore of Lake Erie, nearly every variety of Apple, Pear, Plum and Cherry will succeed; and in favorable seasons crops of Peaches are obtained, which in size and quality compare well with the production of more favored climates. The Quince, a fruit that never fails to find in our cities and towns a most ready market, will thrive here; indeed every fruit usually grown in this latitude may, through this section, be produced in great perfection.

Along the shore of Lake Huron is a belt of country, perhaps but a very few miles in width, in which a great many of our best varieties of Apple, Pear, Plum, and Cherry, and even some varieties of Peach thrive well. At Owen Sound the Isabella Grape ripens, and no doubt within the limits of this belt most of our fruits can be brought to perfection. But in examining the returns from along the North shore of Lake Ontario, we find that the Peach will no longer thrive in the open air, that the Heart and Bigarreau Cherries fail, that although the belt of country lying immediately upon the lake and along the St. Lawrence is more favored than the more interior portions, yet the climate has undergone a sensible change; and as we move down through the Counties of Durham, Northumberland, Hastings and Leeds, the number of the varieties of Apple, Pear, and Plum, which will succeed constantly diminishes, until we pass out of the region where the Baldwin, Roxbury Russet, Colvert and R. I. Greening will flourish, and find only such as the Alexander, Red Astracan, Snow Apple and Siberian Crab able to endure the climate.

In the inland counties also, as Perth, Waterloo and Wellington, and in those parts of other counties that lie beyond the influence of the water, the Peach will not flourish, only the Duke and Morello Cherries can be relied upon, the Quince will not fruit, and of the Apple, Pear and Plum, only a limited number of varieties can be grown.

Yet judging from these returns, it would seem there is no part of our Province, however severe the climate, where the settler may not enjoy some varieties of most delicious Strawberries, Gooseberries and Currants. These small-fruits, so easily grown, coming so soon into bearing, and to which may no doubt be added the Black Cap Raspberry, will yield an ample return for any care that may be bestowed upon them, and be made to

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