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THE ELBERTA PEACH.

ABOUT forty years ago, when our Association was first organized, fruit growing could scarcely be called a distinct vocation; and the small crops harvested in the garden or orchard were taken to the nearest market along with the butter and cheese. In the oldest Report of our Association, published in 1863, reports were collected from the various counties, showing what fruits could be grown; and, in those from the County of Wentworth, we read, "The peach crop is uncertain. Severe cold destroys the fruit buds, and it is sometimes sufficient to destroy the trees. It is recommended to train them on walls, or trellises, and protect them;" and even under Lincoln County we read "the peach crop is uncertain."

A great change has come over this whole district, and peach orchards of large acreage have been planted, until the crop now moves in car loads, all our large markets are glutted with this delicious fruit, and prices have dropped from \$3.00 to 50c. a bushel. Naturally this condition of things led us to try exporting the peach, and the magnificent

Crawford was first packed for export. It was a magnificent failure, for it was too soft for carriage to a distant market. Just at this time the Elberta was introduced from Georgia, a cross between the Chinese Cling and Crawford's Early. It was planted with caution, because originating so far south, but it surprised everybody with the hardiness of the tree and the good shipping quality of the fruit. Then we proposed that it be tried for export, and a few boxes were timidly forwarded in cold storage. The result was surprising; it carried in perfect condition, and now it is looked upon by the shippers as the peach for export. The fact is that for this purpose the many-variety system, which is well enough for home markets, is all wrong; and instead we want just about one first-class, high grade variety of peach, pear, apple and grape, and ship that variety in such quantity as to make an impression on the English market, and make it known as the characteristic sample of that fruit from Canada. It may interest some readers to have a brief technical description of this comparatively new and valuable variety.