

It may indeed be said that within a very few years this development has been great. In 1880, Ontario produced eleven and two-fifths million bushels of apples. In 1896, the yield was fifty-five and one-half million bushels—and in the following year a report by the Government of the province showed that there were 6,100,000 apple trees, fifteen years old and over, and 3,435,000 under fifteen years old.

From the same report it is found that the vineyards of the province had increased from 5,000 acres in 1890 to 11,100 acres in 1897.

Some thousands of acres are planted with peach trees, which afford a good living to many. The fruit is distributed all over the country, and is preferred by all who desire a juicy peach to the California peach or any other grown on the continent.

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In 1899, the development of apple-growing had reached a point in Canada when the value of the apples exported was equal to the whole cost of the imports into Canada of all kinds of fruits, tropical and others, and more than equal by a million dollars and the profit of the total export. In a word, we paid for all the imports of pineapples, bananas, oranges, lemons, figs, currants, dates, grapes, peaches, plums and limes, and all other fruit a fruit-loving people enjoy, and we paid for all these with the exportable surplus of our apple orchards, and had three million dollars more than was needed to square the account, to spend on other articles or bring home to Canada to increase the savings bank account or aid in planting more apple orchards.

We shipped in 1842—that is, fifty-eight years ago—856 barrels of apples and a few casks of cider to points outside the present Dominion.

In 1899, we shipped to outside countries 1,075,100 barrels of green apples, and over eight million pounds of dried apples,—the former by far the best on this continent, bringing an average price higher than the apples of the United States of North America, their rosy colour, firm texture, juicy pulp and fine flavour making them prime favourites among the people on the west side of the English Channel, who among other excellent traits of character, derived possibly from the strain of Norman and French blood in their veins, know a good apple when they see it, and knowing it are willing to pay for its possession, and, therefore, give higher prices for Canadian apples than for others. Of course this is not to be wondered at. We take the finest fruit from their native lands and we improve on them. We took the