

bably 30 per cent. lower, and the third ought to be compelled to stay at home. This would be justice to the producer and purchaser, and at the same time educate the public mind to a standard of excellence and comparison. It should be understood by all parties that the method of carrying fruit to market should be one of the conditions of the grade; for example, no fruit, be it otherwise of the first grade, shall be so considered if brought to market in bags. No fruit can be thus handled without injury. Many other things will present themselves to the committee. No doubt the press, throughout the Dominion, would give free publicity to the Report of such a committee, on the ground of public interest.

Although the exports for the fiscal year ending June, 1867, show so favorably, I have not the least doubt that when the next Report is made up for June, 1868, the exports will be found to exceed those of the previous year. I am acquainted with several gentlemen in our immediate locality who have shipped many hundred barrels this season to Montreal, New York, and Liverpool; they were some of the finest specimens of apples, thoroughly selected, and packed upon scientific principles. These command something over one dollar a barrel more than the same shipped without special attention. We also have some favorable accounts from the second and third concessions of Norwich and from the County of Halton. The *Milton Champion* states that Messrs. Moore and Orr, of Oakville, have shipped from that port alone 2,500 barrels, this season, the cost of which, delivered at the vessel, averaged \$1 75 per barrel; these have been shipped direct to Liverpool, Glasgow and New York, by way of Oswego. Mr. James White has also shipped some two or three hundred barrels to Great Britain, and no doubt others have done the same, as the crop this year was good, and the traffic greatly on the increase; we may, therefore, look forward to the next official Report with much interest. If we bear in mind the fact that our facilities for commercial relations are becoming more perfected from year to year, no cause for fear (as some nervous people fancy) need be entertained, that too many vines and trees can be planted, and the market thereby become glutted with fruit; they may as well puzzle their brains with the idea that a time is coming when the coal fields of the world must give out. All developments are governed by natural climatic forces, the human race included. The tropical productions are distinctive; the frigid and temperate zones, also, have their own peculiar conditions of soil and climate, and from these only can those indigenous productions be profitably supplied. Therefore, the people of the apple region need not have any fear of a world's competition. The whole matter resolves itself into a natural reciprocity: the Indies want our ice and apples; we their spice and figs. But to keep more strictly to the subject of fruit-growing, I may be permitted to say, that the apple and pear, the peach and the plum, are not the only fruits for which our soil and climate present favorable conditions for development; all the smaller fruits, as well, may be produced in great abundance. The fact has been established, that where Indian corn can be successfully grown, there, too, the grape-vine finds a suitable and natural element in heat and dryness, two important conditions in its successful culture. We find these conditions remarkably prominent in the counties of Lincoln and Welland, Elgin, Essex, and Kent. We have already made a commencement toward the production of this healthful, and, above all others, to me the most grateful and delicious fruit; we, therefore, look forward with extreme pleasure to the time, as not far distant, when the Dominion of Canada may boast of its grapes and wine as articles of export. Though we may never be able to rival the far-famed Syrian clusters, in their marvellous weight and magnitude of bunch, we may, however, take as many pounds in the aggregate from an acre of ground; and this, for commercial purposes and manufacturing of wine, is all we require. The almost unlimited number of new varieties recently introduced, indicates an effort to produce a grape equal in flavor to the foreign kind. I have no doubt of the success of this effort through hybridization and proper selection, and by studying the suitable conditions of growth for the young seedlings. Under these circumstances, it more than ever devolves upon this Association, as protectors of the public interest and as directors of

public taste in fruit matters, that no haste be exhibited in the recommendation of new fruits. That much diversity of opinion exists touching the qualities and hardness of the same kind of fruits, there can be no doubt. This arises from the fact that there can be exact identity in soil, climate, and position or modes of cultivation; it follows that no particular fruit can become a universal favorite, but may be a local gem of excellence. Some may have a wider range than others, still the fact remains the same; and were the originators modest and candid enough to let their patrons know this, much chagrin and disappointment would be avoided. Our efforts should be to secure the production of at least as good, if not a better fruit, than the best now known. The road through hybridization to produce new varieties is unlimited; no man need be envious of the efforts or success of others. The field is too large for collision. If any of our friends succeed in producing a really good grape or other fruit, we can afford to be proud of his success, because we feel that it may be still further improved by judicious hybridization. I should, therefore, deprecate any effort to influence members of this Association to make our Society subservient to any private interest, either in this direction or any other, that may have a tendency to falsify the second article of our constitution.

Which is the Best Winter Apple?

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—The question is often asked which is the best winter apple, we will suppose, for all purposes. At one time the Baldwin received the most votes at the Fruit-growers' Convention of western New York; but of late, King of Tompkins County appears to be the king of all the keeping apples.

The Baldwin is not the apple it was advertised to be; the quality is not quite first-rate, and the tree is not hardy; but it is an apple of long endurance, and will stand as much exposure as any other variety.

Northern Spy is a very fine apple in every respect, but requires careful handling, and is uneven in size; the tree requires a long time to come into bearing.

Golden Russet is a very fine market apple, being even in size, and one of our very best table apples, always commanding the highest price.

Ribston Pippin is our most valuable apple to ship to a foreign market; it contains the most real virtue, is worth the most per bushel of any of our long list of apples; but it is not quite so productive, and not so hardy as some. King of Tompkins County appears to be the apple for the Dominion of Canada, an apple without a fault, according to some of our most experienced fruit-growers. If this is the case, why not plant it all over the Dominion? This is a subject worthy of our most serious consideration, and, unfortunately, those having the most experience are not the parties most likely to write on this subject. The Fruit-growers' Society, of Ontario, recommend a list, which is not very long, and still leaves the matter undecided. B. L.

Cobourg, Jan 11th, 1868.

The Grape Question.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—In my rambles over the country this fall I found some very good grapes. It is said by many that we cannot grow the grape in Canada; but if they had been with me in my boyish days, rambling up and down the shores of Lake Ontario, they would have found at least wild grapes in abundance; and the country that will grow the fruit spontaneously, must surely be suitable for its cultivation. On the 21st September last, about forty miles west of Kingston, and five miles from Lake Ontario, I found Diana grapes quite ripe, growing on a close board fence running north and south, without any particular care. Here I sat down and ate my first grapes for the season. On looking around I found Concord clusters hanging loaded with fine bunches, just putting on their bloom. About midway between Kingston and Toronto I found Concord clusters hanging in large clusters, of what quality I did not determine, but fine to look at, on an open trellis, and not far off was a vine of Diana, laden with quite ripe fruit. This locality is bordering on the lake. On the 19th of September this

grape figured at the Horticultural Exhibition, taking prizes as Concord and Delaware; so much for judges not knowing Diana from Delaware. Now, what we want to know, is something more about grape growing in this country. It is not enough for me to say I have climbed high trees and plucked grapes off their tops, or that I have seen grape vines fifty feet long and as many years old, not a mile from where I write; we want to know all about the Adirondac, the Allen's Hybrid, the Creveling, the Iona, and the Rogers' Hybrid. Mr. Arnold tells us we have to wait another season for his new seedlings. Why wait another season? If the grape-growers of Ontario will give us their experience in all the new and valuable kinds, we will plant immediately, and not wait, for Canada is to be a great grape-growing country. FOX.

ONTARIO, January, 1868.

A GERMAN who went to Kelly's Island, Lake Erie, in 1853, with \$600, to grow grapes, is now worth over \$50,000.

J. W. Griswold, of Wethersfield, Conn., informs the *New York Horticulturist* that he has preserved his trees from the canker-worm by piling coal-ashes around their trunks.

In the Niagara River there is an island of 120 acres, where peaches never fail. On both sides the water, flowing rapidly, never freezes, so the trees are not killed with intense cold. A few years since, this small tract was purchased for \$5 an acre. Last year the crop of peaches alone sold for \$7,000.

RABBITS AND FRUIT TREES.—A correspondent of the *Western Rural* gives the following directions for protecting trees from injury from rabbits; he says he has tried the plan for twelve years without a failure: "Take sweet milk and add soot sufficient to make a thin paint, and wash the tree or rose-bush as far as the rabbits can reach. This should be done on a dry day, so as to dry before any rain. I have found one application sufficient for the winter. Let the farmers try this one season, and I will insure satisfaction."

BLACK KNOT IN PLUM TREES.—D. D. Walsh, of Rock Island, Illinois, a well-known entomologist, says that all his examinations have resulted in the conviction that the black knot on the plum tree is the effect of a fungus, and is not a disease nor a gall. He thinks the spores or seeds are formed about the end of July, in latitude 40 deg. 30 min., and therefore if the excrescences be all cut off and destroyed by the early part of July, an effectual stop will be put to their farther spread.

Advertisements.

TO AGENTS!

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