

THE WINTER MEETING.

The Winter Meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association was held in the Court House, Hamilton, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 20th and 21st of February, 1889. The President, Mr. A. McD. Allan, called the meeting to order about ten o'clock a.m.

RUSSIAN FRUIT TREES, WHAT OF THEM?

The following paper was contributed to the Winter Meeting, at Hamilton, by Mr. D. W. Beadle, of St. Catharines:

Some few years ago the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario became convinced that if our brethren of the "cold north" were ever to enjoy the pleasure of raising their own fruit, they must be supplied with trees much more hardy than those that formed the orchards of Southern Ontario. These had been planted by many who were anxious to have in their more northern homes the fruits that we here enjoy, but their labor ended only in disappointment. Our fruit trees were found to be unable to endure the severe cold of that climate. At the same time our brothers in Quebec, and our cousins in the north-western United States had become convinced of the same truth. The Government of the United States had undertaken to meet this need of their north-western states by importing scions from northern Russia, and this naturally turned attention to that country as a probable source from whence to obtain a race of fruit-bearing trees sufficiently hardy to flourish in our cold north-land. Mr. Chas. Gibb, an enthusiastic cultivator of fruits, residing at Abbotsford, Quebec, learning that Professor J. L. Budd, of the Agricultural College of the state of Iowa, intended visiting northern Russia for the purpose of ascertaining whether the fruit trees of that country were likely to supply the want of American north-land settlers, arranged with the professor to accompany him in his Russian tour. After his return, Mr. Gibb very generously communicated to the officers of this Association the information he had acquired during his visit to Russia; and they, being convinced that many of the Russian fruits would thrive in our cold sections, at once set about importing from north-eastern Russia those varieties which Messrs. Gibb and Budd had found yielding abundant fruit in a climate that, in both its summer heat and winter's cold, closely resembled that of our more northern latitudes.

From the importations made by our Association and those made by Professor Budd, and likewise the importation made by the United States Government, trees have been propagated and disseminated, and the inquiry now is, what is the result?

Are the Russian fruit trees proving to be what was expected? Do they endure the climate of the cold north-land of America, and do they bear fruit of such quality as to make them desirable?

Unfortunately the planting and care of these trees in Canada has not been conducted in such a manner nor for such a length of time as to enable me to point to results in our own northern regions. It becomes necessary, therefore, to draw upon the experiments that have been conducted at the stations of northern Iowa, and gather what information can be gleaned from planters in the Province of Quebec, and in northern Vermont just on the border of our sister Province.

First, then, let us look at the apples. The limits of such a paper will not admit of an exhaustive examination of the varieties that have been imported, and are being tried in various sections, even if I were competent for the task. I shall only venture to name a few, and chiefly those that give evidence of being worthy of attention from Canadian planters.

The Duchess of Oldenburg is already well and favorably known. The bare mention of this favorite autumn apple is sufficient.

1 (F.G.)