

FRUIT-GROWING.

We are strongly of opinion that British Columbia will be the distinctive fruit growing Province of Canada. The numerous wild fruits suggest this; the cultivated fruits confirm it, and various considerations of geographical situation, climate and soil, give us large hope for the future in any comparison between this Province and other parts of Canada. It is only lately—within the last year or two—that Canada has begun to study what particular fruits will suit best her rather severe climate. The French immigrants, long ago, brought with them seeds, and perhaps scions, from Normandy and Brittany, and grew them as best they could, in the very dissimilar region of their adoption. They themselves thrived physically as men, and why, said they, should not the fruits of old France also thrive in Canada? So, by-and-by, the Englishman, Scotchman and Irishman brought with him his loved fruits to New England and to Canada, making little orchards for household use. In time, fruit-growing to some extent, was pursued for profit, but even then, the fruits introduced into the eastern portion of the continent were the best fruits of the mild, humid portion of western Europe. It is only lately, as above said, that the accordance of fruit with climate has become a subject of study and experimental observation. Not much, as yet, has been definitely ascertained, but as a rule, it is considered that the fruits of western Europe and their pure offspring, born on this continent, are not long-lived upon the western prairies, above latitude $43\frac{1}{2}$ deg., and not, therefore, in the great central region of Canada between Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains. It does not follow that fruit cannot be grown in that central region. We know that particular kinds of apples, pears, cherries, plums and other fruits, good for cooking and eating, ripen in equally cold regions in Russia, but the question is, whether people in the north-west territories of Canada will go to the trouble and expense of growing fruits unfamiliar to them, when they may get supplies of luscious, familiar fruits by railway from British Columbia. This is a point to which we wish to ask the early and particular attention of our readers. The vast region of Central Canada, now being fast peopled, will require immense, continuous supplies of fruit. The demand can be met in two ways only: (1.) By growing in that region, fruits suitable to extremely cold regions. (2.) By importing British Columbian fruits. The distance of Ontario and the comparatively small extent of its choice fruit-growing area, make it impossible to draw adequate supplies from thence. The fruits of western Europe do not succeed in Quebec above $45\frac{1}{2}$ deg., latitude, and that Province need not be looked to. British Columbia is the natural and only place from which fruit can be imported into the Canadian north-west territories.

On this view, the Province, certainly, is designed by nature to be the orchard and garden of the Dominion. The best fruits of the mild, humid portions, and, also, of the drier portions of Western Europe, will ripen naturally in the extensive region, respectively of the coast, and the southern interior of British Columbia, and will have a finer flavour than fruits of that origin can acquire when grown in Eastern Canada. We need not go to Russia, or to other cold countries, to find suitable fruits. Whatever thrives in Western Europe will naturally thrive in British Columbia, owing to the climates being closely similar, and owing also to the richness of the soil. Public interest requires to be aroused and maintained on this matter, so that the Province may benefit by the bounty of nature, which has given to it large fruit-bearing capabilities, while the railway will ensure a certain opening market close at hand. Our agricultural societies have encouraged fruit-growing, but the subject should now be specially considered and dealt with as a great source of Provincial wealth, which everyone is interested in developing. We may never export wheat or barley (unless on account of their superior quality), but we believe that fruit-growing will take a high place, if not, in time, the highest, among our other great industries—the mines, the forests and the seas.

THE NEW GOLD MINES.

Considerable attention has been directed during the past summer to the recent gold discoveries on the Skeena River, in this Province. Lorne Creek, the only portion which has at present been worked, is situated about twenty miles below Kitwingsach, and an average week's journey for a canoe from the mouth of the river. Gold was found to be upon the creek in the summer of 1882, by Hector McDougall and Conn Daly, two experienced miners; who then panned out about three dollars. Returning in 1883, they raised between three and four hundred dollars. The report of this find circulating, induced a number of miners to start for the new El-dorado this spring to be followed later on by still more from the distant canneries and mills on the coast as the season advanced.

The creek itself, or rather that part of it at present being worked, is extremely narrow—in fact a cañon—in some places not more than fifteen feet across. Locomotion to and fro, between the river and the majority of the claims, is very hazardous and tedious, in some spots a false step would mean a perpendicular fall of 200 or 300 feet, with boulders for a cushion to alight on—in other words, certain death. Quite a few of the best claims have a very creditable record, some averaging as high as seven dollars a day to the man for the season. This compares favourably with the initial output of other creeks, more especially, as in the present instance, the best