

we are apt to fail to appreciate the full value of the privileges we thus enjoy, until we are awakened to a sense of their importance, by a removal to some remote section of the Dominion, where fruit is scarce and dear.

Great progress has been made in Canada in fruit growing, within a comparatively few years, indeed it is within the memory of many persons present that the greater part of this advancement has been made. Formerly Canada was considered to have a climate and soil wholly unsuited to the production of fruit, and in the early settlement of some portions of America, now included in the United States, similar views were entertained, regarding many sections now noted for the abundance of the fruit which they produce. Some of these erroneous ideas had their origin in the fact that the varieties of fruit then introduced were unsuited to the climate. European fruits, accustomed to entirely different conditions of moisture, rainfall and temperature, were tried, and when they failed, the conclusion was reached that the soil and climate were unsuited for fruit culture. Thus it was with the grape. The old European sorts were tried again and again, and because they mildewed and proved a failure, it was held that grapes would not grow in America. Some 40 or 50 years ago an American seedling grape, known as the Isabella, was introduced, which gave a new impetus to grape culture, and it became exceedingly popular as an outdoor market grape. But within the past few years other varieties, earlier in ripening and superior in quality, have been introduced, and the Isabella has almost entirely disappeared from our markets. These earlier ripening sorts have much enlarged the area of grape culture, and grapes are now grown with success in many parts of Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia.

This advancement has been chiefly brought about by taking the wild grapes of America as a foundation in originating new varieties, instead of the European sorts, and by crossing these natives and selecting the best of the seedlings so produced. Other cultivated fruits have been similarly improved, and new varieties are being constantly introduced. The diversity of climate found within the Dominion of Canada necessitates a large number of varieties to meet the requirements of the country. Having lately travelled the entire length of the Dominion, and spent some time in each of the Provinces, I will briefly refer to some facts in connection with our fruit interests, gleaned by personal observation.

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