

comes all will be ready. Whether the bee keeper uses the box hive or the best modern hive, he had better get his hives and all other necessary appendages ready during the winter, and when the active season comes around he will be fairly astonished at the amount of work he can turn off without fret or friction, when everything needful is at hand.

### Horticultural.

IT is a mistake with many to plant trees too deeply. A large hole is dug, and the tree put down deeply in the cold earth several inches lower than the position it occupied when growing. If the land is a stiff clay, this hole becomes a ready receptacle of surface water, owing to the soil being less compact after having been disturbed, which is almost certain death to the tree. On the other hand, trees should not be planted too near the surface, as then the wind will sway them to and fro, if it does not blow them over; nor will it do to build a mound of earth around them, for then the rain will wash it away. It is a much wiser plan to plant about the same depth as the root was buried before its removal. Wet, cold lands are very unfavorable to the growth of fruit trees; indeed, they should not be planted in these at all until they are first made dry and warm.

### The Trade in Fruit.

(Continued from January.)

#### THE TWO CHIEF OBJECTS OF OUR TARIFF

are: (1) To provide a revenue for the Government, and (2) to give to the home producer a measure of protection against foreign competition. The first of these is served to the extent to which duties are paid on imports less the cost of collection, and the second to the extent to which the home market is secured to the home producer by the exclusion of foreign produce. Well, has the tariff served the growers of fruit and fruit trees and of seeds and vegetables in Canada by shutting out or even reducing in volume the imports of these articles from the United States? To answer this question I might compare the years of the last decade with the corresponding years of the present one, and show that under the lighter tariff the competition was apparently less keen than then now. Our imports from the United States were less for the six years 1871-6 than for 1881-6, and

#### OUR EXPORTS TO ALL COUNTRIES

were hardly one third as much in the former period as in the latter. But let us compare the three years 1881-3 with the three years 1884-6, and see what the imports show. The following table gives the value and duty paid on our imports from the United States of green fruits (exclusive of oranges and lemons), of fruit trees, shrubs and plants, of field and garden seeds, and of vegetables for the two periods:

Classes of Articles.	1881-82-83.		1884-85-86.	
	Value.	Duty.	Value.	Duty.
Green Fruits.	\$642,967	\$123,321	\$929,133	\$165,836
Fruit Trees, Plants, etc.	198,340	41,006	227,346	43,597
Field and Garden Seeds.	335,357	50,017	714,849	107,470
Potatoes and Vegetables.	220,578	40,645	475,780	82,330
Total.	\$1,395,242	\$254,989	\$2,207,108	\$399,233

From this statement it appears that the imports of the last three years from the United States exceed those of the previous three by \$891,866—the excess in the valuation of green fruits being \$286,166; of fruit trees, plants, etc., \$29,006; of field and garden seeds, \$381,492; and of vegetables, \$195,202. These figures, it appears to me, demonstrate that the present duties do not serve the interests of the Canadian producers by shutting out United States imports, or even reducing their volume. A philosophic historian has said that extirpation is the only persecution which can be successful, or even not destructive of its own object. Well, I am disposed to believe that pro-

hibition is the only protection which can protect in the case of the trade we are considering. The fact is, that only in a very small degree do American products come into competition with the Canadian at all. The

#### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WHICH WE IMPORT

from the United States are chiefly those which ripen earlier than ours, and which our dealers import and our people consume because they can be got nowhere else. The best information I can obtain from men in the trade is that, while imported strawberries supply our city markets a month earlier than the home grown fruit, they cease to compete when the latter comes in. Being brought a longer distance they have lost freshness and flavor, and besides the duty of four cents per pound becomes prohibitory in its effect. The same observation is generally true of apples, plums, pears, peaches and vegetables. They are imported from the Southern and Middle States for a few weeks before our own mature, and, with the craving appetite for new fruits and vegetables which the diet of a long winter begets, they are bought up eagerly at any price in reason. They compete for a brief season only with the native products, not merely because the trade is made unprofitable by the duty, but because they are by comparison of a poorer quality. If any proof of the correctness of this statement were needed, I have no doubt that it would be speedily forthcoming from the members of this association, but let me quote

#### AN IMPARTIAL AUTHORITY.

the report of McKittrick, Hamilton & Co., of England, on American apples for the season 1886-7. Here is what they say:

"Canada, as usual, has been to the fore, and we have had really perfect parcels landed here for which high prices have been obtained. The early supplies from the Dominion made about same prices as those from the United States, but once their fall fruit was in a condition for shipment they immediately took the lead, and while Boston, Maine and New York Baldwins made 10s. 3d. to 15s. 3d., Canadians sold for 16s. to 18s. 3d. This lead was maintained through the season; the general average of prices being very high."

And because it possesses this fine quality, a degree of perfection hardly equalled anywhere else on the Continent, Canadian fruit needs no tariff wall for its protection. We are able to compete with the American fruit growers at home or abroad, and I am persuaded that in the products of the orchard and garden, if in no other, it is the common interest of consumers and producers to favor a policy of Unrestricted Reciprocity with our neighbors. New York, Ohio and Michigan have not suffered by competition with each other, or by competition with sister States eastward, southward and westward, and the great centres of population in those States, growing greater every year, will maintain for all time the best of markets at our doors. There is one other aspect of the question of trade with the United States to which I must refer, viz: the relation of fruit and vegetables as articles of diet to the health of our people; and in looking up the best authorities on this subject, I ought to say that I have been aided by my friend, Dr. Bryce, the secretary of the Provincial Board of Health. A high English authority, Dr. Wynter Blyth, of London, stated in a recent address that "The importance of cabbages, carrots, turnips, of apples, pears, raspberries and strawberries is far more than their nutritive value, for without the addition of these substances, even while eating fresh meat, we are liable to decline in health and suffer from eruptions, while if we eat salt meat for any time, and consume neither potatoes, nor vegetables, nor fruits, then that terrible disease scurvy is imminent."

Another authority whom I shall quote is Prof. de Chaumont, who, in a lecture on Practical Dietetics (issued by the Council of the International Association of 1884), expressed practically the same opinion as Dr. Blyth. If the blood is in a proper, healthy condition, he stated, it is alkaline, but if it gets into an unhealthy condition, chiefly through being

#### DEPRIVED OF VEGETABLE FOOD,

then it becomes less alkaline, gets into a fluid condition and the result is the disease we know in its extreme form as scurvy. And he goes on to say:

"This disease in former years was the scourge of our navy, and it is on record that the Channel fleet in the

middle of the last century had sometimes come into Spithead with no less than 10,000 men disabled by scurvy alone; and one of the reasons why the enormous hospital at Haslar was built to hold 2,000 patients was on account of the tremendous stress put upon all hospital accommodation by the enormous number of scurvy patients. This condition of things was remonstrated against by the medical officers of the navy, who pointed out the remedy at hand by the use of vegetable acids a long time before it was adopted, but as soon as it was adopted the result was magical. Scurvy disappeared from the navy altogether, and that immense hospital at Haslar was left with only a few cases compared with what it was intended to accommodate. But I should mention that scurvy has by no means disappeared entirely, and so far is it from disappearing that if cases are carefully investigated in ordinary life even among the better classes, we shall find symptoms of scurvy from time to time. A great many people dislike vegetables, and even dislike fruits and neglect the use of them. Others from sheer ignorance do not use them, and the result is that again and again diseases that are apparently caused by quite other means are aggravated and complicated by a certain amount of this scorbutic taint."

It hardly seems necessary to point the lesson which these statements of eminent men so unmistakably teach. The use of fruits and vegetables in the diet of our people is so essential that the policy which makes these articles scarce and dear can only be regarded as

#### FATUOUS, INHUMAN AND STUPID

in an eminent degree. We are proud of our north land, with its bracing climate, its great lakes, its rich heritage of farm land and forest, and proudest of all of the men who have made and are making it. But let us never close our minds to the fact that it is and ever must be a north land, where winter reigns half the year, and that we can ill afford to make that winter longer still by a barrier raised to shut out the bounties of nature. And in our relations with our neighbor may we learn the wisdom of the philosophic maxim, "that of all the agencies of civilization and progress of the human race, commerce is the most efficient."

### The Home.

#### Gwenfion.\*

Musing o'er my lonely fire, on a chill autumnal eve,  
Back my thoughts are sadly carried to the time I learn'd to grieve,  
Heart so young as mine was, then, you, never knew a trouble's weight.

Ah! I almost think 'tis lighter than it was when I was eight.

Now I see the snow-white cottage, as of old, so fair to see,  
Close beside the bridge-span'd streamlet hurrying on to join the  
Dec,  
And I see a happy youngster pass it on his way to school,  
Strange to think that I'm that youngster—I, who now have boys  
to rule.

Never did I pass that cottage on my way from school or home,  
But my eyes with furtive glances shyly o'er the whole did roam,  
Seeking there a pretty figure that I well had learn'd to know,  
And a face of sweetest frankness by the window bending low.

Oh! I wonder'd why she never came to school or play'd at games  
And I wonder'd what they call'd her, thought of all the pretty  
names;

Never did I speak about her to the rough lads in the town,  
Nor to one of all the lasses who to her were coarse and brown.

Summer days indeed did see her sitting on the doorstep clean,  
Then my eyes would feast upon her, wondering what her eyes did  
mean,

For she seemed to look so tranquil, yet so far away her gaze,  
With sometimes a dreamy searching as of one in great amaze.

All the time she plied her needles, knitting fast some fancy frill,  
Yet she wander'd all in dreamland, fancy thoughts did hold her  
still.

Unobserved I pass'd her always, hoping always she would see,  
Thinking, if she knew I wish'd it, she would even speak to me.

So one morning, rising early, gather'd I a posy rare,  
And I wrote my tiny message, plac'd it with the tender care  
In between the fragrant roses, just enough for her to see,  
Peeping out above their petals with its simple humble plea.

Passing by that snow-white cottage on my way to morning school,  
On the topmost step I laid it with a hand not firm and cool,  
For my heart was throbbing mainly, and my face with fire did  
burn,

As a thief I fear'd detection, so I quick away did turn.

All that morning work was harder than it ever was before,  
For my thoughts were full of roses, and their Queen held all the  
lore,

That could offer any rest for fancy wand'ring like a dove,  
Then, indeed, that rest secur'd would make the labor one of love.