

may account for this. The American and Canadian growers have been aiming at very early varieties. We have them now, and as they are only good from hand to mouth, and are flung on our markets at once, we see a decline in one day from two dollars to one dollar. They have no other market in the United States. Now to my thinking this is just where the National Policy steps in and aids us. They must sell, or have them rot on their hands, so sell they must. Peaches sold this day (8th Aug.) at \$1, deduct duty 20 cents, basket and cover 10 cents, freight to Toronto and Harbour dues, say 12½ cents, commission 10 cents or less, 52½c, value of the fruit, less expense of picking and teaming, 47½c. Now if this is the case with early ones, what will it be in full season? The shipper will be brought into debt. Thus probably the cultivation of the peach may be curtailed to a certain extent on their side and increased on this, and the same line of argument may hold good with all perishable fruits."

The Dr. further adds:—"The National Policy is only on its trial, and it would be unfair to expect any very immediate results. The whole money system of Canada is in the balance; may it not be found wanting?"

We are satisfied that more fruit tree planting has been done during the past season than for years before. Our nurserymen have been pushing a good business—a sure indication that better times are looked for in the near future. B. Gott, a shrewd observer, writes me—"The market outlook (for fruit) is very encouraging. The effects of the National Policy, or protection, upon our fruit market seems to work well, and we are much more encouraged in getting the cream of our own market, and finding a ready demand for our rich fruit products. All this is very pleasing."

TREE AND PLANT DISTRIBUTION.

As a general thing, we have the most satisfactory reports from every part of the country where our trees reached their destination alive. We recently visited Strathroy and found in Mr. Geo. Orchard's garden the good effects of our tree and plant distribution. He has not only received, but cared for his associational free gifts. His Swayzie Pomme Grise, Grimes' Golden, Beure Clairgeau, Clapp's Favourite, are handsome trees, upright and healthy. Glass' seedling plum is a perfect beauty, and the Burnet grape is doing splendidly. Mr. Orchard is a model horticulturist, and exhibits the greatest interest in all matters horticultural connected with the efforts of our Association. A pleasant and delightful hour was spent on his place. The reports, indeed, from all quarters are satisfactory. The wonder is at the dissatisfaction consequent on disappointed hopes, where the distribution has been so extensive, was not larger. As to be expected, many of our members sometimes have received their trees in bad condition, which was the misfortune, not the fault, of our Association, the evil resting with those with whom we dealt outside our own borders. Of late the members must have noticed that the Board have been confining their distribution largely from the ranks of our own Canadian hybridists. This rule has, however, not been so rigidly enforced as to preclude what has seemed to the Board to be of superior excellence from abroad. The present policy is working well and Mr. Arnold's Ontario was recently sent over the length and breadth of the land, as, we trust, another feather in the cap of your direction for prudent forethought.

ILLUSTRATIONS IN THE ANNUAL REPORT.

You will doubtless miss the accustomed illustrations in your annual report. The omission has arisen from straightened means. A small debt hanging over the heads of your direction owing to the increased expenditure for the publication of the *Horticulturist* has dictated the propriety of curtailing our outlay to bring it into correspondence with our narrow income. They have determined to pinch along, and do the best they can for the advancement of our chosen culture. It is eminently due to Mr. Wm. Roy, of Royston Park, and Mr. Wm. Saunders, of London, to say that their liberality in a very practical way was manifested in our extremity, which bridged us over our financial difficulty. The Hon. Commissioner of Agriculture, Hon. S. C. Wood, also timely came to the rescue, and added an important addition to our grant. In a few months our financial matters will