

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION
OF ONTARIO,
FOR 1874.

To the Honourable the Commissioner of Agriculture :

SIR—It is again my agreeable duty to submit the Report of the transactions of the Fruit-Growers' Association of Ontario. You will find, by examining the discussions of our three stated meetings, much valuable information on Fruit-Growing. The winter meeting held in Hamilton was very largely attended. The interest of the meeting was greatly enhanced by the presence of a delegate from the Horticultural Society of western New York. At Owen Sound and Ottawa, the attendance was increasingly large, and much valuable information on Fruits and Fruit-Growing was elicited, specially adapted to those particular localities. The good influence attending those meetings has been fairly established by the steady interest that has been felt and expressed by individuals in these neighbourhoods, and in no way so much as by the numbers that have attended our meetings, eager for information on Fruit-Growing. So much has this been the case, that I have every reason to congratulate you on the good that has arisen from the action that has been taken in choosing different localities for the field of our labours.

A felt want has arisen from the important labours of our hybridists, who are every year adding to our stock of new fruits—that want being a piece of land adapted to the testing of these new fruits. If a piece of ground could be got in a district of the Province favourable to Fruit-Growing, and these fruits there fairly tested, your directors would then have a warrant for their general dissemination over our western Province. I beg leave most respectfully to suggest to you, that if Government would purchase a few acres for this laudable object, the Association would have the means out of their own proper funds to care for the plants, and keep the grounds in order.

I further suggest that the Government might subsidise our efforts to appear at Chicago in 1875 with our Canadian fruits, as the Government did when the Association went to Boston a year ago; for I am fully persuaded that immigration and the best interests of the country are greatly aided by these exhibitions of our own fruits abroad. Our success at Boston shows conclusively that our Canadian fruits can compare favourably with those of any part of the continent, and reveals the fact that our climate for fruit-growing, and consequently for the production of all the comforts and luxuries of life, is second to none. As in former years, we have continued the distribution of trees and plants with marked success: this distribution is not only beneficial to our members, in encouraging them in fruit culture, but eminently encouraging to our hybridists, whose fruits are being largely circulated by your association.