

*Ontario*.—A hasty description of fruit growing in this province would easily occupy the whole time at my disposal this evening. We shall first look at some of the older fruit growing sections. Along the banks of the Detroit river in the extreme south-west are gigantic pear trees. These are from seed planted probably by French missionaries. One of the oldest is said to date from 1705. Legend also states that a colonist brought from his European home three pear seeds in his vest pocket and planted them near Amherstburg. These grew, bore fruit, the seed of which produced the picturesque old trees marking the landscape of this region at the present day. The trees are productive, but the fruit is not valuable. The planting of apple orchards began in this region about the year 1784. Since that time grape growing has assumed enormous proportions. The entire peninsula between Lake St. Claire and Lake Erie, composed of the counties of Essex, Kent and Pelee Island, are especially favoured climatically, for the production of grapes and peaches. The manufacture of wine is a business of growing importance. On Pelee Island there are 350 acres of vineyards. This Island has probably the highest mean temperature of any point in Canada. North of Pelee Island is a peach section—rapidly becoming recognized as one of the best in Canada. The industry is not more than 20 years old, yet in 1894 a single station, Leamington, shipped 35,000 baskets of peaches. Last year that number was probably doubled. It is estimated that nearly half a million peach trees were planted last spring in this section; this year the area planted will nearly equal that of 1896. Land values are increasing in this section.

Along the south side of the Georgian Bay, in the valley of the Beaver River, we find one of the finest plum growing sections of Canada. Disease of the trees is practically unknown. In 1894 a carload of plums was shipped every day for three