

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION
OF ONTARIO
FOR 1875.

To the Hon. the Commissioner of Agriculture.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit for your inspection, the Report of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario for the year 1875.

Although the past winter was one of unusual severity, yet on the whole the fruit crop has been abundant. In those sections of our Province where the peach can be grown successfully, there was a large yield. Some varieties of fruit, including the grape, scarcely came up to their usual excellence, owing to the unusual coolness of the summer. We have had another remarkable illustration of the fact that, even in the high latitude of the Ottawa Valley, such is the intensity of the heat of their short summers, that many varieties of the grape have ripened better there than in more favoured southern localities.

We call your attention to the fact that certain varieties of apples shown at the Provincial Exhibition in Ottawa, such as the Duchess of Oldenburg, Alexander, Red Astrucan and Fameuse, attained to a much higher degree of excellence in the Ottawa Valley than in more southern districts.

It is matter for deep regret, that owing to want of pecuniary means, under which our Society is labouring, we were unable to make a display of our fruits at the meeting of the American Pomological Association at Chicago. We trust, however, that, through the liberality of your Government, we will be enabled to make a creditable display of all the fruits of Ontario at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia during the coming year. The event itself is one that occurs only once in a lifetime, and the opportunity ought to be embraced by our people to show to the world the productions of our country. Our fruits have already attained to very considerable commercial importance, and they only need to be more widely known to cause that importance to be greatly enhanced.

The distribution of copies of this Report at Philadelphia, through the Dominion Commission, would tend materially to an enlarged acquaintance with the fruit-producing capabilities of our country.

The Bureau of Agriculture has courteously submitted to our Directors the proposed amended Agricultural and Arts Act; we have proposed certain amendments affecting this Association, which we leave to your best consideration.