

tions of the Fruit Growers' Association, and feel sure that you all agree that a great share of the credit is due to our late lamented president, who has for so many years filled the chair with so much ability, and taken such an active part in the workings of the Association.

The valley of Kings or Annapolis need fear no competition from any fruit-growing district in the world. While apples grown in some of the interior districts of the continent may be of larger size, and perhaps more highly coloured, owing to the greater heat of both day and night, they will compare in firmness and keeping qualities with those of this valley. We are protected from the sea breezes and fog, yet near enough to the saltwater to have cool nights, and that peculiar salt atmosphere, if I may be allowed the expression, which checks the rapid maturity of our fruit, thus giving it a firmness and flavor unknown to fruit grown in the interior.

Many of you, no doubt, have heard expressions of fear emanating, in most instances, from the older members of the community, that at the rate young orchards are being planted, in a very few years apples will not be worth gathering. Now, with all due respect to the opinions of our fathers in this matter, let me assure you we need fear no such result. If apple trees in full bearing shaded every foot of land, from the basin of Minas to Annapolis Royal, the crop would not be a hand full, comparatively speaking, when placed upon the markets now being opened up to us in Europe.

The fact of the short crop in England this year has placed Canadian and American apples in many districts where they have never before found their way, and the general favor with which they have been received, will, doubtless, lead to a very large demand for them in the future, no matter what the English crop may be.

It is estimated that the crop of apples, the last season, throughout Canada and the United States, by far exceeded that of any previous season; and the quantity shipped across the Atlantic was more than double that of any previous year. Liverpool alone, from the 23rd of August, when the first arrivals commenced, up to the 31st of December, having received 584,476 barrels, or 395,778 barrels over last season, and 359,220 over the season before, during the same period, yet prices have varied little. It is true that many apples shipped to England did not pay first cost, and in some instances did not pay freight. In these cases the markets were not to blame, but the parties, shipping