

HOW FAR NORTH CAN THE APPLE BE GROWN.

IN the spring of the year 1855 a Mr. Hubbard, I think his name was, had a nursery near the town of Guelph. In a conversation with him he made the statement to me that he was so satisfied that the County of Wellington was not and never would be adapted for growing apples, that he had concluded to sell off his stock for what it would bring and go out of the business.

Now we can say that Mr. Hubbard was mistaken, for the apple grows all right in the County of Wellington, and much further north.

About the year 1865, Peter Henderson, of New York, in an address I think at Rochester in answer to the question, said certainly not beyond the limit of where the beech is grown. Now at this date we know Peter Henderson was wrong; we are here in St. Joseph's Island beyond the limit of the beech, and still we find the apple growing, I may say to perfection, or as near as insect pests, rust, etc. will let it.

Several years later a member of the Cabinet, in the town of Fergus, in course of his speech made the following assertion, that Owen Sound was the extreme point north where a man could live and draw his substance from the soil. Some one of the audience called out, "Won't Peaches grow up there?" "No," was the reply, "if you can grow potatoes it will be as much as you can do." Now we know that if he was right about the peaches he was wrong about everything else.

The first and greatest mistake I have made, and I may say we have all made, was getting it into our heads that we were too far north to grow fruit, and if we bought a

dozen apple trees it was to get the fruit tree agent out of our home, for we never expected them to grow; we might dig a hole and put them in but that was the last of them.

Now in 1901 we know a good deal better than that; we know that they will grow if properly taken care of, and that the percentage of failure is as low as in what is usually supposed to be more favoured districts.

A very few years ago if any one had asked me if, as a commercial venture, it would be wise to plant a few acres of apples, I would undoubtedly have said no, I did think we could grow a few for our own use of some very hardy varieties but nothing more; but more interest began to be manifested in fruit culture, and this year when you people in eastern Ontario are lamenting your short crop of apples and holding them up for a big price, we have a splendid crop, and of course we are taking advantage of your scarcity and raising the price. I knew of two instances where outsiders have come in and bought out the whole crop.

Now we are by no means at the outside of the fruit belt here yet, for near Green Lake, about latitude 46 may be seen or was a year or two ago, two aged apple trees of an inferior variety presumably seedlings; and beyond the height of land on the slope toward James Bay, wild currants and strawberries may be found, while I have been told at Batchawing Bay on the north shore of Lake Superior about latitude 47, apples have been planted a few years ago, and so far have lived through the winters and made satisfactory growth.

Richard's Landing. CHAS. YOUNG.
St. Joseph's Island.