

commencing from the time when the vintage has been completed in the autumn, the watering is continued until the fruit sets next spring.

Mr. Beal thinks that sufficient information was not given in the papers referred to on irrigation read at the winter meetings of 1877-8—see Annual Reports for those years. I can only say that the time of these meetings is limited, and the subject of irrigation is a long one. To have travelled over all the ground (or water) would have wearied the audience. My object was merely to draw attention to the subject generally, trusting that parties more conversant than myself, and more able writers, would give their experience.

A general system of irrigation, such as is required for Ontario, would have to be undertaken either by the Government, as in Europe and Asia, or by companies, as in California. It would not be possible for private individuals to undertake the artificial watering of more than a few acres. Irrigation on a large scale would require legislative enactment for the right of way of large canals, heavy cuttings and embankments, and the use of water from streams at present flowing. It would therefore have been useless to give any estimate of the cost of the systems employed by private individuals in England. There also the cost of labor and material is cheaper than here, and a smaller supply of water is needed.

In the south of France, where the climate is hot and dry, and irrigation is extensively practiced, from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 inches of water in depth is applied to the land every ten days; and this supply is the basis for all contracts between the government, which looks after the water supply, and the owners of the canals. And this may be taken as the medium amount required in Canada, as the climate and circumstances are somewhat similar. Some crops and soils require more, and some less.

From observations made by Mr. Dickinson, Abbots Hill, England, extending over eight years, he found that ninety per cent. of the water which falls during the summer months was evaporated from the soil. If such is the case in a cool, cloudy climate, what must it be here, where the temperature is from  $15^{\circ}$  to  $20^{\circ}$  warmer, under the direct influence of vertical and unveiled sun.

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The Early Purple cherry proved to be a very profitable crop this season, selling readily in Montreal at from 15c. to 20c. per quart.