

*By Mr. Trow :*

Q. In following up these reports from various sources, do you think that they are all reliable?—A. Very nearly all of them. The Canadian meteorological service is very careful and accurate. Instruments of course are rarely perfect, but errors on the instruments are known by comparison with a standard, and applied to the observation. The instruments are exposed to the air on a uniform system, so that results may be compared fairly. There are occasionally stations peculiarly situated, but the local influence can be easily measured approximately and allowed for. Nearly all the records are thoroughly trustworthy. Great care has been shown by Mr. Carpmeal and his staff in the work that they have done.

Q. With reference to those portions of our Dominion—Pelee Island and around Lake Ontario—their general character admits of close investigation. Those western sections of our country that have not been fully explored, will it not require some further search before data could be compiled?—A. For a considerable belt of territory in the North-West there are records that could be made the basis of fairly close approximation to accuracy in detail. For the southern part of British Columbia, south of the latitude of the Thompson River, the records admit of the drawing of valuable conclusions generally, as well as here and there of detailed indication of the differences of climate in important districts. As the observations of the meteorological service becomes more extended in the remote parts of the country, relative approximations could give way to the detailed mapping that some of our older districts admit of. Topographical considerations would have, of course, to be applied to supplement meteorological records. In most of our great fruit growing districts, a close mapping of the differences of climate is practicable from the material accumulated. The Fruit Growers' Association, especially the association of Ontario, has been labouring with great difficulty in the admirable work of testing varieties, through lack of definite information in regard to differences and peculiarities of local climate. Their work would be greatly facilitated—in fact, stimulus would be given to it—if such conditions as the cold of winter, the length of the frostless season, and the isothermals of the growing season were definitely ascertained and indicated. The advantage this would bring in determining the varieties of fruits best adapted to local climate, is obvious.

Q. How about testing new varieties?—A. I refer to those common in America and those recently introduced from the old world. It takes time to test a newly originated variety. You do not know the sensitiveness of a new variety to the extreme frosts such as occur perhaps only once in ten years; but with respect to European varieties introduced, we have simply to compare the European climate with our own.

Q. Would not the soil have an influence?—A. Yes, to a large extent. The soil in which fruit, or even a variety succeeds best is generally well known. This affects chiefly quality and quantity.

Q. You think it would not have so much to do with the soil as the climate?—A. No; the climate is the chief consideration. Whether you can grow a thing at all or not, on any soil in any particular locality, depends on the climate. If the climate permits of successful cultivation, of course a cultivator will choose the best soil.

Having read the preceding transcript of my evidence, I find it correct.

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