

## Ontario Fruit Growers

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In 1878, the society started the publishing of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST which was edited by the late D. W. Beadle until 1886 when it, with the office of secretary and treasurer, was passed into the hands of Mr. Woolverton, Grimsby. In this year we assisted in making the great exhibit of Canadian fruits at the Colonial Exhibition in London, in which we did so much to establish our markets in England and to attract the attention of the Old World to Canadian fruits and the Canadian climate. In 1893, at the Columbian World's Fair in Chicago, we showed the world that Ontario was not behind any part of America in the production of fruit. She had the largest exhibit (the season through), scored largest number of points, and rated highest in quality of any exhibit on the grounds. Again at the Pan American in Buffalo in 1900, we maintained our position as second to none in producing all kinds of fruit grown in the temperate zone.

The advancement of fruit growing has not been the sole aim of the association, but the advance of horticulture in all its branches, particularly the improvement of home surroundings, both in towns and country. To this end ornamental trees, shrubs, and plants were sent out to members. As agent of the association, Mr. Thomas Beal, of Lindsay, one of its old and energetic workers, organized numerous horticultural societies throughout the province which became affiliated with the association. These have been the means of changing the aspect of many of our towns and villages and of creating a taste for the beautiful which was unknown before. Great changes have taken place in the sur-

rounding of Farmers' homes, especially those of fruit growers.

Another great work the association has been instrumental in accomplishing is the establishing of experimental stations for testing fruits. Thousands of dollars have been wasted yearly in the past by farmers and others in planting fruits that were unfit for market or not adapted to the locality where they were planted. Early settlers and planters had no knowledge of varieties and depended largely on the advice of nurserymen and tree agents and took any variety that the latter recommended. The consequence was that the country was flooded with varieties that were useless.

Canada at one time was the dumping ground of nurseries in the United States, and besides this, unprincipled dealers would buy the surplus stock of our Canadian nurseries, often relabelling it, and selling to farmers under wrong varietal names. Furthermore, settlers were moving farther north, locating in colder sections, and wanted to plant fruit. They thought that the varieties they had grown at the old home, would do equally well there. Many trees were planted that proved too tender for the climate. Scores of new varieties were introduced by nurserymen and dealers as something more valuable than those then grown and sold at extravagant prices to growers in all parts of the province who wanted to get the best. When the trees came into bearing the majority of them proved not as good as the old tried sorts.

Knowing these things, the association began early to advocate the establishing of a station where varieties could be tested before being recommended or sent out. There was scarcely a meeting but that this subject was discussed. Its importance was frequently urged upon the government, but

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