

thing the general public cared little about. We have no sympathy with such views. The adornment of our lawns and gardens has become a fixed fact, and the passion for flowers is rapidly spreading among us. Our public parks are claiming careful attention. Volunteers are offering to contribute their quota for the public taste. In London our cemetery companies are vying with each other who are to make the last resting place outwardly the most attractive with floral decorations. I am glad to think that Mr. W. Saunders is leading the public taste largely in this matter. His leadership will at least secure correct taste. In forestry everything requires to be done. Canadian yeomanry have wonderfully succeeded in clearing the land of the noble monarchs of the forest—monarchs which, were the iconoclasts to live to ten generations, they could not replace. Questions of increased rainfall general health, grain and fruit crops, hang on the proper attention to be given to this interesting subject. Land capable of growing the black walnut, butternut, and red cedar is, and ought not to be, left to the production of the elm and ash. An English writer of note says: "The universal curse of an old civilization is the reckless destruction of the original forests." We Canadians unconcernedly stand by and witness the dire effects of fire and the axe without lifting one protesting and supplicating voice. We can never estimate aright the valuable timber that has been sacrificed to a hungry greed to clear the land. The Fruit Growers' Association need to put forth their best efforts to husband our provincial and Dominion resources in their timber limits—to carefully instruct the farming community how much depends on the judicious planting of forest trees, their presence producing abundant rainfalls, preserving and distributing moisture, and thereby forming a preventive against drought and devastating floods. Hamilton, which might have enjoyed a scene of beauty for generations yet to come, has allowed the face of her fair mountain to be barbarously shorn of the leafy covering, to the great detriment of the city and injury to the proprietors. We need protection from selfish and greedy men, protection from men, devoid of taste, by those who have taste and sense. Mr. Wilmot, our admirable President, I am sure, would indeed rejoice, for the sake of his special culture, that the woods were largely spared to afford "water privileges" to the valuable fish streams that enrich our country. In our forest city we are setting the denizens of other cities a good example in boulevarding our handsome, wide streets. There is much for our Association to do in this respect. The question has to be answered: What are the best trees, and when and how to plant them? Let us importune our Government to efficiently take this matter in hand, and speedily adopt measures introduced by legislation to meet the urgent demand for tree planting. What a wide field for such energetic efforts in the valley of the Saskatchewan! Who could object to a restricting clause in the sales to our highly favoured emigrants to the Lone Land, that yearly they are to plant and protect a certain number of trees. Tree planting has received a marvellous impetus in the Western States by the Timber Act of the United States Congress, by which 57,000,000 trees were set out during the current year. Verily, our cousins are an enterprising people. They seem to do to-day with all their might what their hands find to do, and thus present a noble example to us. I look forward with no trepidation to the consideration of our recommendation of this subject by our enlightened Commissioner of Agriculture, the Hon. S. C. Wood, who has always shown himself thoroughly alive to the furtherance of horticultural and kindred pursuits. His part will not be wanting in successfully carrying out the projected alterations in our Provincial Agricultural Act to enable us, as to the manor born, to take under our wing the subject of Canadian forestry. We turn to the effects of

THE NATIONAL POLICY

on our fruit growing. We confess that we are not indifferent to its results commercially and politically. Whatever benefits or depresses our country's interests cannot be viewed with indifference by the patriot. Last year we were met by the random assertion that the National Policy would enhance prices, and that only the rich could buy luxuries under its sway. Dr. T. H. Watt, of Niagara, who has greatly interested himself in these matters, writes me thus:—

"Again, with regard to peaches, who ever heard of them being sold on the 7th day of August at one dollar a basket, in the previous history of fruit-growing in Canada. We

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