

FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO.

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Then turning to the nursery interests, we find something of interest there. In 1889 we brought in from other countries \$87,000 worth of apple trees for planting purposes. From that year to 1893, there has been a steady but marked annual decrease, until the amount last year reached only \$24,000 worth. And while this decrease has been going on in importations the matter of orchard planting has been largely on the increase, showing that the Canadian nursery industry has been keeping pace with the general progress in home developments. I mention these matters because I believe they all have a bearing on and a close relation to the effects and influences of the Ontario and affiliated Fruit Growers' Associations.

I recognize with grateful acknowledgments the generous aid that this Association is receiving from the Department of Agriculture in the Ontario Government, and also from the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa. The former has, through liberal grants of money, enabled us to establish testing and experiment stations at several points throughout the province, where a great variety of fruits are now being grown and tested, that their qualities and suitability to our varying soils and climatic conditions may be ascertained before being offered to the public for profitable cultivation. We expect to widen and develop this department of our work as fast as the resources placed at our command will admit of; and it is confidently hoped that the results obtained will prove of much value to the fruit grower and to the province—sufficient, we believe, to more than justify the expenditure and the labor involved. To the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa we feel grateful for the ready response to our requests for tests and experiments in spraying and other means for the destruction of the codling moth, curculio and sundry other pests that the fruit grower has to contend with. For these tests and experiments the season has not been a suitable one, owing to the constant rains throughout the spraying season, but under more favorable circumstances, or I might say ordinary conditions, much valuable and practical knowledge must surely result from these experiments.

Since we met together one year ago one of our number has passed, like a ripened fruit, away. We mourn to-day, in the death of our fellow director, Mr. David Nicol, one whose association we all enjoyed and whose wise and deliberate counsel we all valued. And this loss that we all feel to-day reminds us that we too belong to a great vineyard whose fruit is ever ripening and dropping off. David Nicol was one who devoted himself industriously to the cultivation of the beautiful in nature and to the improvement and development of all the choicest fruits capable of production in his adopted province. To labor in the vineyard of nature was to him a labor of love, and out of his labor came both profit to himself and instruction to his fellow man. Let us remember him for the good he has done, for the valuable services he contributed to the interests with which we as an Association are identified, and for the ennobling example he left us in his life and labors. He neglected not the cultivation of the spiritual vineyard, and when the harvest time came he was gathered like a ripe and golden fruit into the garner of the celestial mansion.