

APPENDIX No. 2

are usually very hot and little rain falls. September, also, is frequently warm and dry. After the first week in October light frosts are frequent at night, but mangoes and other root crops are seldom injured till after the first of November. These conditions have a marked effect on the lines of fruit-growing that can be profitably followed. The hot bright weather of July, August and September ripens tomatoes, peaches and grapes perfectly which cannot be done in the open air in England or even on the coast in British Columbia.

But I wish to speak more particularly of apples and the effect which climatic influence has on the industry here. The early settlers, U. E. Loyalists from the south, the proteges of Col. Talbot as well as the English settlers who came as the result of the occupation of Fort Malden, near Amherstburg, had all been used to apple orchards and made large plantations of their own on every clearing. The region became famous for its Colverts, Jenettings, Baldwins, Spys, Golden Russets and Greenings and continued so to the present time. But there was this difference. At first the early fruit glutted the limited home market, but of late years even the winter apples were not in demand and apple orcharding fell into disrepute. What has happened? Just this. The other portions of Ontario began to grow winter apples and purchasers found that the winter apples grown in the colder portions of Ontario kept better for winter use, and this gave greater satisfaction. If apples were scarce in the fall then there was a demand for southern apples as they could be consumed before winter. With this irregular demand and poor price the orchards were allowed to fall into neglect and the fruit rapidly deteriorated. But events move quickly in these days. Within the last six years two things have happened that completely change the situation. Cold storage transportation on steamships has been perfected and an extraordinary increase has taken place in the population of the northwest. These two events have given us two markets for our early maturing fruit, Great Britain and the northwest. Once more apples have become profitable in southern Ontario. Do you want to know how profitable? Let me give you two sample cases. The apples in a certain orchard of about 5 acres near Simcoe in Norfolk, sold six years ago for \$180, just as they came from the trees. Next year the title to the land and orchard passed to Mr. A. Gilbertson who began to cultivate, prune, spray and thin the fruit and otherwise give it good culture. The revenue from the five acres increased year by year, and last year yielded the comfortable sum of \$1,500. Its total current expenses and interest on investment in connection with the five acres was less than \$200. Another man in the same neighbourhood also a skilled orchardist but with only a few trees, made a profit of \$10 per tree. These are large profits, so large indeed, that beside them Standard Oil dividends appear almost trivial. But I assure you no facts could be better authenticated.

But to return to our apple survey may. The hot weather of August and September in District No. 1, matures the winter varieties so early that they must go into consumption before the new year in the natural course of things. No prudent merchant will buy them to store for winter use because he knows that they will not keep without a heavy percentage of loss. For the present there is a good market for them even when sold in the fall for immediate consumption. but if apples are cheap at any period of the year they will be cheap during November and December, just when the winter apples of this district are on the market. It is for this reason that I do not advise the planting of winter varieties in District No. 1 unless the orchardists will grow enough to justify them in putting up a cold storage warehouse. The people of New York State who have exactly the same conditions have done so and thus saved their business. It cost from 30 to 50 cents a barrel to cold store; so in the absence of cold storage, and considering the cost, I advise that only early apples be planted here. There is no necessity for sacrificing their winter apple trees. Take proper care of them to grow good fruit; unite the fruit growers into co-operative associations and use the best facilities we have now in transportation, and their profits