

10,000 trees which give promise in the near future of providing annually several millions of barrels of this luscious fruit.

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Turning again to the St. Lawrence, it is to be noted that the religious establishments followed up the early efforts, the results of which have been described by Boucher, and introduced many varieties of French apples. From their extensive gardens these were propagated and distributed. From being the exception it became the rule to have on every holding the orchard plot more or less extensive.

Still, at the middle of the nineteenth century, comparatively little could be shown as the result of good and conscientious work on the part of a relatively few men.

One of the great nurseries of the province was at Abbotsford. The first grafted trees were brought to Abbotsford in 1810, and the first seeding orchard there came into bearing in 1812. In 1826, Rev. Joseph Abbott brought scions of the Fameuse from Montreal.

The grafted trees consisted of three varieties, the Blue Pearman, the Late Strawberry, and a flat graft whose name was lost. These were procured from scions brought from the New England States.

The first regular commercial nursery was established in 1857, and from that date the Abbotsford trees became the foundation of many a valuable orchard in the Province of Quebec.

The first recorded meeting of a fruit committee in Quebec province, convened for practical purposes, took place in the winter of 1854. The occasion was the then coming Paris International Exhibition of 1855. The desire prompting to the meeting was that the French growers might show by their fruit what they had done in the Montreal district of the province in the way of growing apples, plums, pears, and other specimens of pomaceous and drupaceous fruits.

That exhibition undoubtedly gave a stimulus to fruit-culture. Large nurseries were established, and extensive importations made from Great Britain, France, Germany and the United States.

About 1874, Mr. Charles Gibb, a gentleman of education, independent fortune and leisure, began to take a lively interest in everything pertaining to fruit-culture, and his example induced many others to engage in the same work. The Fruit-Growers' Association of Abbotsford was organized in the same year — the first of the kind in the province. Under its fostering care the first fruit list of the province