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SOME CANADIAN HORTICULTURISTS.—XVII.

MR. MURRAY PETTIT.



PROMINENT among the vineyardists of Niagara district stands Mr. Murray Pettit, director of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association for district No. 7, which includes the counties of Wentworth, Wellington, Waterloo and Halton. To this office he was elected at the annual meeting held in the Town of Wingham in the year 1885, a position which he has held ever since.

Like Mr. A. H. Pettit he belongs to one of those old and respectable families of U. E. Loyalists, who would not stay in a country that had broken its connection with England, and, therefore, came to Canada soon after the Declaration of Independence. His grandfather, John Pettit, came to Winona, then called the Fifty Mile Creek, and received from the Crown a free grant of four hundred and sixty-eight acres of land, as a reward of his fidelity. There, on the south shore of Lake Ontario, the family has ever since resided.

Mr. Murray Pettit was born in 1843 on the old homestead. About twenty years ago, he awoke to the possibilities of his situation for the cultivation of fruit. Little by little he has extended his efforts in this direction, until now he has over fifty acres so occupied. His first venture was a peach orchard of eight acres, then considered a very large one. He reaped a few fine crops of peaches and was just beginning to feel encouraged with the prospects of excellent returns for his venture, when in the year 1879, the yellows, that scourge of peach