

" I am convinced that the raising of trees at the stations is instructive and beneficial to farmers in general, who do not understand what a nursery of fruit trees is. This intelligent and laborious class have not had the advantage to learn that the trees which they get from Ontario at 30 to 50 cents each would not cost them more than 5 to 6 cents of disbursement and labor if they bought the grafts and cultivated them with the same care as they do a bed of vegetables.

" It is estimated that the fruit trees annually imported by us from abroad number 200,000 and cost our farmers and other proprietors \$60,000 on the average or nearly \$1,000 per county. This is an enormous tribute to pay to strangers for trees reared in over rich soil and forced to excess by means of solid and liquid manures, which renders them too tender to support our severe winters. It is calculated that not one fifth of the apple-trees, brought here from the west, survive. The net loss to the Province, through the purchase of these trees, is valued at half a million dollars in ten years and this estimate is below the real loss. These losses have the bad effect of discouraging a great many proprietors, who remain under the mistaken impression that our climate is too severe for fruit culture.

" The best way to lessen our imports and to retrieve the immense losses sustained by proprietors would be instruction in the art of grafting, the distribution of grafts by the Government and by the agricultural and horticultural societies and the establishment of larger nurseries at the experimental fruit stations, where the public would learn the economical way to grow trees in the nursery and where