

FRUIT EXPERIMENTS—OTHER STATIONS TO BE OPENED—THE BEAVER VALLEY.



FOR some time past the Board of Control of the Ontario Fruit Experiment Stations has been desirous of establishing a plum station somewhere on the southern shore of the Georgian Bay, because this region is already famous for its productive plum orchards. It, therefore, seemed desirable that the growers of this fruit in that and other sections should receive every encouragement.

A station of this kind, at which all the varieties of a single fruit are grown, can accomplish much for the growers of that fruit in many ways. For instance, (1) by correcting the misnamed varieties which are grown in the section, (2) by introducing little known varieties which are profitable in other sections and might possibly be remunerative in that section also, (3) by testing new varieties, (4) by conducting various experiments in spraying, in fertilizing, in pruning and in cultivation, the results of which will, in due time, be reported for the public good.

The Minister of Agriculture has placed this whole work under the joint control of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association and the Agricultural College at Guelph, hoping in this way to attain the very best results.

Mr. Woolverton reports the whole country along the southern shore of the Georgian Bay as abounding in beautiful scenery and in suitable soil for the growing of fruit, particularly the plum and apple. The Beaver Valley, especially, is most delightful. From Thornbury, near Meaford, this valley winds among the heights of the "Blue Ridge," or "Mountain," as we call it in the Niagara district, for twenty miles back to Eugenia Falls, affording some of the most picturesque scenery in Canada. The finest plums in Ontario are grown in this section, both in quality and beauty of appearance, and the yield of fruit is most remarkable in quantity.

It was on the invitation of Mr. C. W. Hartman and others of Clarksburg and vicinity that Mr. L. Woolverton, Secretary of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, and Professor H. L. Hutt, Horticulturist at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, visited this section in order to locate a station for conducting experiments in plum growing.

Mr. Hartman very kindly engaged a carry-all, and, along with another gentleman, piloted Messrs. Hutt and Woolverton throughout this whole valley. Clarksburg is itself a small but prosperous town, founded many years ago by Mrs. Hartman's father, Mr. Marsh. It has waterworks, drawing its supply from the Beaver River, and shows other evidences of prosperity. According to Dun, Wiman's report, there is more wealth in this small town of seven hundred inhabitants than in any other town of its size in Ontario.