

method of making the whole Province a great experimental fruit garden to be fraught with the happiest results both to our society and to our country, we have made engagements to have grown a quantity of the Goodale Pear sufficient to supply all of our members with a tree; have engaged two thousand trees of Clapp's Favourite Pear, for distribution next spring, and have advertised for plants of the Downing Gooseberry, to be furnished in the spring of 1874, and trees of the Swayzie Pomme Gris, for spring of 1875, and of the Tetolsky Apple for spring of 1876, with a view to their distribution to the members of the Association. It was the intention of your Directors to have coupled the Norton's Melon Apple tree with the Clapp's Favourite Pear for distribution next spring, but we have been wholly unable to find them in sufficient quantity.

We have followed the course pursued by the board last year, in appointing committees to make a personal inspection of parts of the Province, with a view to ascertain their present fruit productions and their fruit producing capabilities. We appointed committees to examine the country along the Lake Erie shore of Kent and Essex; also, in the County of Huron, and in the vicinity of Toronto, within a radius of fifteen miles, and in the County of Frontenac, about Kingston; and hope that the reports of the committees entrusted with this labour,—which is on their part a labour of love, being without compensation—will be full of much very valuable information.

The prizes offered during the year 1872 will be found upon the 3rd page of the report for 1871. We are sorry to be obliged to say, that no essays have been received by the Secretary in competition for the prizes offered therefor. The committee on seedling fruits have several promising varieties under examination and trial, prominent among these are Mr. Dougall's Cherry, and the Elliott Pear, and we hope that among them some will be found worthy to receive the very liberal prizes offered for Canadian seedlings.

The Report for 1871 was handsomely embellished with a very accurate coloured lithograph of the Red Astracan Apple, which not only added much to the appearance, but also to the usefulness of the Report, by placing before the members a truthful representation of one of our most hardy and most useful fruits. Believing that this feature of our Report should be continued, we have engaged the same artist to prepare two thousand copies of a coloured lithograph of the Beurre Clairgeau Pear, with which to illustrate the Report of 1872.

It seems also very desirable that this Association should possess a few acres of ground upon which fruit bearing trees and plants, whether of Canadian or foreign origin, may be tested sufficiently to enable the Directors to decide whether they or any of them are of sufficient value to be grown and disseminated for trial throughout the Province. We believe that such an initiative experimental ground is essential to the best accomplishment of the great objects of the Association, and that it should be procured and placed under the supervision of some competent person, amenable to the Directors, at the earliest practicable moment.

In order to accomplish all these ends, it will be necessary to procure an increased Government Grant. The sum of five hundred dollars per annum, now received, is barely sufficient to enable us to accomplish but a small part of the good that this Association is capable of doing in the way of helping our people to those varieties of fruit, and informing them in regard to the methods of cultivation, best suited to our peculiar climate and position. This Association is Provincial, and is supplementing for the whole Province the work of our noble Provincial Agricultural Association, in increasing and improving the products of Canadian industry, and there is no reason why it should not receive from the public funds assistance proportioned to the magnitude of its undertakings. Viewing the matter in this light, the Directors have already authorized the President and Secretary to represent the work of this Association to the Honourable the Commissioner of Agriculture, and to request that he may consider whether the interests of the country would not be largely promoted by giving to this Association, and to our sister Society, the Entomological Association, increased facilities for the prosecution of our work.

Another matter that will claim attention from this Association is the establishment of some standard for the judging of fruits and deciding upon their respective merits. Were some standard of comparison once fixed by this Association that should commend itself to the lovers of fruit, much of the uncertainty that now exists would be removed. Such is our climate and peculiar geographical and geological position, that we need a standard of excellence for ourselves, by which we may measure the quality of our apples, pears, plums, cherries, &c. In the matter of pears for instance: the Flemish Beauty comes the nearest