

THE HARDINESS OF THE CANADA RED (RED CANADA).



IN a paper read by me before the Farmer's Congress, at the City of Quebec, in January, 1893, and which was afterwards published in the last June number of the *HORTICULTURIST*, I mentioned Canada Red as having proved to be a very hardy tree, after upwards of three years of trial at Hudson-on-the-Ottawa. It is extraordinary that the fact of the hardiness of this variety does not seem to have been brought prominently before the notice of fruit growers heretofore. The test of the hardiness of Canada Red, to my mind, is conclusive. The orchard at Mount Victoria, Hudson, Ont., is situated within two miles of my own at Como, and I have had ample opportunity to observe the present condition of the trees of that orchard, and to know of the dreadfully neglectful way in which these trees have been cared for, ever since the death of the late Mr. George Matthews (some twenty years ago), who planted out the orchard. The farm was sold shortly after Mr. Matthews' death to a Montreal gentleman who never, I understand, visited the place, and the several tenants who have rented it, from year to year, of course never took the slightest trouble to cultivate the orchard properly, or even to prune the trees. The soil of that orchard is the poorest quality of sand, so poor that the present tenant has told me he sometimes fails to get even a crop of oats off it in dry seasons. Under such conditions it is surprising that any of the trees planted by Mr. Matthews, nearly thirty-five years ago, are alive at all. Some of the trees were obtained from Montreal, such as Fameuse, St. Lawrence, Pomme Grise, and Bourassa, and of these only a few survive. I distinctly remember Mr. Matthews saying that he bought a number of his trees at Rochester, N. Y. Among these, I think only Canada Red and some Talman Sweet survive. But the best trees by far, the healthiest and most productive, are the last named. The present tenant says he has frequently taken six barrels per tree, of good marketable apples, off them, and obtained some years four dollars per barrel. For many years the several tenants of Mount Victoria sold the Canada Red under the name of Red Spitz. I never took particular notice of this apple until four years ago, when I was struck by the fine, clean, healthy appearance of the fruit. Knowing that Red Spitz could not be the correct name, and at the same time being aware that many of the trees of this orchard were brought from the State of New York, I sent specimens to several pomologists, among others to Mr. L. Woolverton, of Grimsby, and all pronounced the variety Canada Red.

Fine specimens were sent from this province to the World's Fair in the fall of 1892, and placed in cold storage there, with other Quebec apples, and were exhibited until the disastrous fire in the Cold Storage building destroyed all the fruit, of 1892, in July last. No specimens of Canada Red were sent to the fair from this province in 1893.