

St. John, N. B., 26th Dec., 1883.

My Dear Sir,—In response to your letter of this morning, I may say that the Frost Grape, *V. cordifolia*, is well known on the St. John R., and has, I fancy, grown on every gravelly point along the Long Reach, and is also known on the upper part of the Kennebecasis River—say 20 miles from St. John. I do not know of its growing nearer to the mouth of the St. John River than those two places, and I do not think it grows on the shores of the Bay of Fundy, though I think it likely to be a native of the Saint Croix River. Prof. Fowler reports it from intervals of the Saint John River, (*var. riparria*.) Prof. Bailey, in his Woods and Minerals, mentions the Fox Grape, *V. Labrusca*, as a native of New Brunswick.

Yours truly,
G. F. M.

We learn from Colonel W. E. Starratt, member of Central Board for District No. 2, that the following petition to His Honor Lieut.-Governor Ritchie, is now in course of signature in the counties of Queens, Kings and Annapolis:—

To His Honor M. H. Richey, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia:

The Petition of the Agriculturists of No. 2 District, comprising the Counties of Queens, Kings, and Annapolis, humbly sheweth,—

First.—That one of the most important Agricultural industries of Nova Scotia, Sheep Husbandry, has been much neglected for the last few years.

Secondly.—That, in view of the present increased development of our Manufactories of Woollen Goods, and the want of raw material for the production of the same, we believe that the manufacture of Woollen Goods is now so far advanced in Nova Scotia that it will go forward quite as rapidly as the production of Wools will allow, and give our farmers a home market with a good prospect of remunerative prices, which means increased prosperity and wealth.

Thirdly.—That it is a recognized fact that No. 2 District is peculiarly adapted, not only from its climatic conditions, but also from its abundant and rich natural pasturage, for the successful raising of improved sheep for the production of Wool and Mutton.

Fourthly.—That the bonus of \$100 per County, recommended by the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly in 1882, and approved by the Government, has not given sufficient inducement to the Agricultural Societies in this District to make importations of Sheep as anticipated.

Fifthly.—We, the members of the Agricultural Societies of No. 2 District,

for the reasons above set forth, would most respectfully request that the Government (through the Central Board of Agriculture) make a large importation of Sheep of the Shropshire and Leicester breeds during the coming season; and we would further request that an importation of Pigs be made at the same time.

And we, your Petitioners, will ever pray, etc.

We are informed that other districts are not unlikely to send in similar petitions. It is a healthy sign to see our Agriculturists coming forward in this way to make their wants known to the Ruling Powers.

The 21st annual session of the Fruit Growers' Association of Nova Scotia, was held at Wolfville, on 15th January. We were unable to be present, but find a full report in the *Herald*, which enables us to give an account of the proceedings. Avar Longley, ex. M. P., presided. In opening proceedings he expressed gratification at the representative character of the large gathering, which excelled any previous meeting during the 20 years history of the Association. The apple crop was the smallest known during a generation.

At the request of Sir Charles Tupper a collection of fruit was sent to England and exhibited at Birmingham, and elsewhere, and was a great advertisement for Nova Scotia fruit. The collection was an impromptu one, made after the fruit was gathered, and, therefore, at a disadvantage. As the crops of 1883 had been small and unsatisfactory, he hoped that of 1884 would be large and of superior quality. The trees ought to do something extra, as they had such a rest in 1883 as they had not had for twenty years previously. He was exceedingly pleased at the interest in the association excited among the orchardists, and looked forward to the future with high hopes and trusted that the day was not far distant when the dreams of the founders of the association would be realized, and the apples of Nova Scotia found commanding the highest prices in the best foreign markets of the world. The crop in England in '83 was an extraordinarily large one, while ours was extraordinarily small. In the nature of things the English crop of '84 might be expected to be small, while ours ought to be extraordinarily larger. This was a matter for encouragement to Nova Scotia growers. Fruit growing was as profitable as it was most enjoyable. He hoped that we were now about to enter upon a distinguished career as a fruit-growing country—a country that occupied a position, as regards climate

and soil adapted to fruit-growing, unsurpassed by no other in the world.

C. R. H. Starr, the secretary of the association presented his annual report. It is gratifying to note the large increase in the membership during the past year, and much greater interest in promoting the objects of the association than has been evinced during the previous few years. This may be attributed mainly to the publicity given to the meetings and work of the association. Rev. Messrs. Hart and Asford rendered valuable assistance in compiling the reports of the association. The publication of the portrait of the late Dr. C. Humilton seemed a well earned tribute to his memory, after seventeen years service as president of the association. The reports have been widely circulated, both at home and abroad. The handling of these reports, together with mailing 500 prize lists, and replying to 250 letters, involved a large amount of office work.

Three special meetings of the association and one meeting of the council were held during the year at Halifax, Bridgetown and Windsor. The winter exhibition in Halifax last March was a success as a show but a failure financially. The exhibit of the association at St. John was a gratifying success and was spoken of in the highest terms by the press. The association is indebted to R. W. Starr, John C. Byrne, J. & T. Longley, A. S. & R. E. Harris, T. E. Smith, G. C. Johnson, C. P. Elderkin, Dr. McLatchy, Prof. Higgins, George N. Rand, Isaac Shaw, James N. Borden, and others, besides friends in Annapolis county. The association was awarded a silver medal for the collection. A collection of some thirty sorts of our leading apples were sent to London at the request of Sir Charles Tupper, Canada's high commissioner, which was exhibited at Birmingham during the great cattle show. The association was not represented at the meeting of the American pomological society in Philadelphia. This is to be regretted. Alluding to the naming of fruits, President Wilder, the venerable Father of the American society in his address, said: "Let us have no more generals, colonels, captains, presidents, or governors; no more mammoths, giants, or Tom Thumbs; no non-suches, seek no furrthers, sheeppnooses or ironclads. Let us have no more long, unreasonable, inelegant and high flowing, bombastic names to our fruits. And, if possible, let us dispense with the now confused terms of beunes, dobenus, jippin, sudden favorite, and other like useless and improper titles. The cases are very few where a single word will perform a better name than two or more. Thus shall we establish a standard worthy of