

Apple trees blossom at the end of May west of Montreal, about the 10th of June at Arthabaska, and about the 20th of the same month at Kamouraska. Garden strawberries are ripe the 20th of June west of Montreal, at the beginning of July at Arthabaska, and about the 15th of July at Kamouraska. To sum up, we may well say that from the forty-fifth to the forty-eight degrees of latitude we have a distinct climate for every half degree, following the course of the St. Lawrence River. If, further, we take into consideration the variations of our climate in altitude, we find that, in the mountains, it shows as much difference, while we go higher, as it does in latitude.

From these facts, it is quite evident that a farmer who, wishing to grow fruits below Quebec or at Lake St. John, would try to imitate what is done, in that sense, in the island of Montreal, would lose both his time and his trouble. He must then follow one of the three courses mentioned above. Shall I advise him to follow the first or the second of the courses? Of course, no; for the reasons given before showing that they are not practical. He would then have to follow the third one, and to affiliate himself to the Pomological Society of our Province to benefit by the work and the experience of its members. But if our Society wants him to get all the needed information, we must take the measures taken by our sister associations of Ontario; we must organize fruit experimental stations in the districts of our province where the climate shows the greatest variations, when compared with the climate of its other regions.

If we consider what has been done in Ontario, we see that such a system can be established with little expense. The trees needed for the fruit experimental stations are obtained for the greatest part from the Ottawa Central Experimental Farm, which has the mission of propagating the varieties of fruit most useful for the various provinces of the Dominion. The fruit experimental stations are established on the farms of fruit-growers having good orchards and experimenting since many years; and in Ontario they have found some of those fruit-growers who, for the humble remuneration of one hundred dollars a year, take charge of the administration and arrangements of the station, under the condition that, if the station loses, later, its official character, the trees become the property of the ex-director of the station. The cost of maintaining the fruit experimental stations of Ontario, four in number, amounted, all expenses included, to one thousand dollars last year.

In our province, the thorough knowledge I have of its various districts induces me to believe that four stations would be required—one for the district below Quebec; one for the Lake St. John and Chicoutimi district; one for the counties of the North, in the region of Terrebonne County, and one for Beauce and Eastern Townships, somewhere at Sherbrooke. As to the western districts, I think they have all they require at Abbotsford, in the Island of Montreal, and at Oka.

I sincerely believe that our association can make a much more effective and prompt work for the development of the fruit-growing industry in our province, by means of such stations, than by any other way. We will give, by that system, information—on the spot, so to speak—to those who wish to plant orchards, will prevent them from throwing away their money, as many have done during