

very few of the orchards contained grafted trees, but that many of the seedlings, had they been propagated, would have been valuable acquisitions to the fruit lists of this Province. I can well remember one tree that was alive and productive eighteen years ago (since dead); it at that time was probably over fifty years old, and was renowned for its excellent winter fruit. I would like to possess scions of that tree to-day. Its fruit was much like Red Astrachan in appearance, of rich sub-acid flavor, and kept till mid-winter. No doubt there were many other seedlings of equal merit that have been altogether lost because no attention was paid to their propagation.

One Mr. Cook had, perhaps, the largest orchard; it is said he gathered annually about fifteen hundred bushels of apples. He made quantities of cider, having a mill on his premises; numbers of bushels were sold to the Hudson Bay Company officials and Indians at Oka, on the opposite shore of the lake. In those days the Indians were prosperous, and most of them in the employ of the above-named Company.

That the farmers do not pay much attention to the cultivation of fruit is very evident from the few orchards in the county to-day; and after the manner they have been "taken in" by tree peddlers from the Eastern States, it is no wonder many have given up planting, preferring to buy their fruit rather than to grow it. In almost every case the trees sold by these peddlers have turned out, if they lived, not true to name and worthless; but by far the greater number, and I speak from experience, reached the farmer more dead than alive. Of all men perhaps the tree peddler is the most insinuating; with his beautifully colored and attractive pictures of fruit, his voluble and persuasive language and pertinacity, he soon finds a victim in the farmer. Five or six years ago thousands of dollars were taken from this and the neighboring counties of Prescott and Argenteuil, and I think it no bold assertion to say, that at the present time there is not to be found, in the three counties, one good orchard planted with trees sold by these men. If the same number of trees had been purchased