

APPENDIX V.

EXPERIMENTAL FRUIT STATIONS FOR THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Subsequent to the meeting at Peterborough, the committee on experiment stations, consisting of Prof. John Craig of Ottawa, A. McNeill, of Windsor and W. W. Hilborn, of Leamington, prepared the following report, and submitted it to the directorate through the mail. The report was accepted, and the scheme adopted, a copy of which is herewith presented :

The exhibits of fruit made by Ontario at the World's Columbian Exposition gave to the world a truer conception of the possibilities and attainments of the Province. It also inspired the fruit-growers of the Province with a better appreciation of the capability of her soil and climate for the production of fruit—that "flower of commodities"—in its highest state of excellence. It has also emphasized in a general way the fact that each variety of fruit varies in respect to appearance and quality according to the soil and locality in which it is produced, and has a more or less area in which it reaches most nearly perfect development.

Our knowledge of the variations in habit of growth and quality of the fruit due to soil and climatic effects is vague and undefined, and data with regard to the relative success of varieties in different sections is lacking. The fruit interests of the Province suffer in consequence.

The Fruit-Growers' Association of Ontario has long recognized the advantage that would result from establishing a system of experiment stations, particularly designed to collect information of this character and to promote the fruit interests of this Province generally. That they are sincere in the matter is attested by the fact that a standing committee was appointed three years ago, whose duty it was to do everything in its power to bring the scheme to a successful completion. This committee has interviewed the Government annually, but thus far without any definite results.

The fruit-growers of Ontario fully appreciate the liberality with which they have been treated by the Provincial Government, but are assured that the good use made of their grant has more than justified the expenditure, in witness of which they point with pride to their journal of horticulture which has a circulation as wide as the continent, is well known in Europe, and is recognized as the official organ of the fruit-growers of the Dominion.

In view of the large capital invested, and the annual revenue derived from the fruit industry of the Province, which, according to recent statistics, is second only in value to the hay crop, which takes the lead, your petitioners feel that they are justified in laying their desires before you with full assurance that they will receive at your hands that consideration which their importance deserves.

It is believed that the fruit interests of the Province cannot be served best by the establishment of a single experiment station, no matter where it might be located ; and, further, that results more useful and more immediately available would be obtained by the establishment of a number of small and inexpensive trial experiment stations. These might be carried on in co-operation with the various fruit-growers in different parts of the Province, who already are specialists, and have made a financial success of growing