

consist of two houses and two barns. They are old and of little value.

All that will be done this year will be to put the farm in shape for experimental work. This will require a lot of cleaning, fencing, and draining. The farm is run down, and careful work will have to be done to put it in order.

This year it is proposed to put a good fence around the entire farm. The farm will be cleaned up, old and worthless trees will be removed, some summer fallowing will be done. Probably a man from the Ontario Agricultural College will be put in charge for this summer. Next year experimental work will be taken up and planting will be commenced.

APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR

The government has stated that it intends to take plenty of time to select a competent man for the position of director. Not until such a man is found will the appointment be made. The future of the undertaking will rest largely with the man who is appointed

to superintend the work. It is not likely that any class rooms will be built on the farm just now.

The farm will be attached to the O. A. College, Guelph, and the director made an additional professor of horticulture. Probably the specialists in horticulture at Guelph will be required to take considerable practical training on this farm. In time, perhaps a separate institution for students of horticulture will be established on the farm. Adjoining the farm, as already stated, is the Rittenhouse school. This school is splendidly equipped with a library, museum and other accessories necessary for work in natural science and nature study, and has beautiful grounds and a school garden. This itself might be developed into a school of horticulture. Public school teachers could take courses in nature study right on the farm as well as at Guelph.

VEGETABLE EXPERIMENTS

Experiments in growing vegetables

will likely be given equal importance with fruit. At Guelph the work with hardy vegetables and with vegetables under glass will be carried on; while at the new place, investigations will be conducted in the growing of early market vegetables under glass and in vegetables for canning.

Within three and a half miles of the farm is being erected E. D. Smith's canning factory, a big plant, which will tend to stimulate the work of growing fruits and vegetables for canning purposes. This factory, in conjunction with the farm, will greatly increase the value of farms in the neighborhood.

While primarily the farm is to benefit the Niagara district, other sections of Ontario are alive to the fact that the province as a whole will have to pay for the equipment and for keeping it up, and not the Niagara district alone. For this reason it will be so managed as to be of benefit to the entire province, and necessarily to the whole Dominion.

Ontario Fruit Grower's Opinion of British Columbia

Robert Thompson, St. Catharines, Ont.

DURING a recent trip to British Columbia in the interests of farmers' institute meetings in the fruit districts, I had an excellent chance to size up the situation and compare the conditions of the fruit grower of that western province with those of Ontario growers, more particularly those in the Niagara district. In some sections the possibilities in the fruit business are exceedingly great, but there is a large market in the prairie provinces which the production of the immediate future in British Columbia orchards cannot hope to fill.

When I arrived at Victoria on March 5, I found the peach and apricot trees in bloom, and the pears well out. One week later they had four degrees of frost that caused considerable damage to early fruits. On Vancouver Island the fruit grower is sadly handicapped, owing to the long distance from market and a lack of enough growers in one locality to make up car lots. As soon as they form cooperative associations and make up car lots they will be able to ship to some of the northern coast markets.

In the lower country and along the Fraser delta they have to do a great deal of spraying, and fruit growing is not increasing very rapidly. In the upper country valleys, however, you hear fruit talked of everywhere. The fruit industry bids fair to be the largest cultivated crop in the province. Excursions are run in from Winnipeg to the Okanagan valley, and land is being sold in many places at \$40 to \$200 an acre unimproved. In many places the

land is sold in 10 and 20 acre lots. The greatest boom is from Enderby to Vernon, and down the shores of the Okanagan lake to Peachland and Summerland.

Around Salmon Arm there appears to be a large area suitable for apples for sale at reasonable prices. In the Kootenays there are some places where it is claimed that apples and berries will do better than in the Okanagan. The Kamloops district is too dry without irrigation, and I do not look on this section as likely to be a heavy fruit producing section. From 800,000 to 1,000,000 trees were planted last spring, but as a conservative estimate not one-fourth of them will ever produce fruit. Many unsuitable varieties are purchased. Peaches and Japan plums are planted where the frost will kill the bloom. In British Columbia, trees should be planted not over one year old, but the people persist in buying trees two or three years old. Others plant them in wheat fields and in meadows, where they stand for one, two or even three years, and have made little, if any, headway.

Nevertheless, Ontario fruit growers need not be jealous of their western brethren, as the growth of the Territories will absorb all the fruit produced by them for many years. The apple trees bear very young; in fact, too young, as it checks their growth if the orchard is not well cared for. In many sections the blight is very bad on the pear trees. Our fruit growers think that they have a hard time fighting in-

sect pests, and suppose that our western friends have no troubles, but I found it was only the wideawake, active grower, who cultivated, pruned and sprayed, who was making a success of his business. The climate is ideal, and possibly in some sections too dry in summer, but where they can get a sufficient water supply irrigation takes the place of the rain.

The packing is nearly all done after the western states style in boxes. Grapes will never be a great success, owing to the cool nights. The people are whole-souled, generous and hospitable, very ready to give information, and as ready to learn and adopt anything that they consider may benefit them in any way. British Columbia is sharing in the boom of the Northwest, as many of the older settlers in the prairie provinces are selling out and moving west. Many English and Scotch settlers are coming in and settling on fruit lands.

After seeing the country and the conditions under which the fruit grower has to produce the fruit in the west, and comparing our lot in the Niagara district with theirs, I have no hesitation in saying that we have as good a chance to succeed here. We have no more drawbacks than our western friends, and we have a larger and more varied market. Canada is a great country. We think we have the Garden of Eden in our section, and our western friends are also justified in thinking that they have it in a dozen places in their many valleys.