

new locations, they did not neglect the means of securing future comforts and profits.

The late Colonel Land, who settled in Hamilton in 1794, told me years ago, that when he went to Grimsby carrying his wheat on his back to get it ground, he greatly prized a few scions of grafted trees, obtained there from older settlers than himself. To prepare for grafting, he sowed the seeds of apples obtained from any quarter, and in due time planted them out as orchard trees, and top-grafted them as opportunity presented. Orchards of seedling fruit are not rare in several parts of the country even now. Not to mention orchards, a great proportion of whose fruit trees bear natural fruit even in the neighbourhood of Niagara, there are the remains of large orchards of natural fruit along the shore of Lake Erie, from Simcoe westward.

Francoeur Bab., Esq., brought up from Montreal, in 1799, the following varieties, which are pretty generally distributed in the south-west: Fammuse, pomme grise (two varieties), Red Colville Roseau; another called Long Roseau, the Bournaise, and one called White Colville, a sample of which the Fruit Growers' Association had from Nova Scotia a year ago. It was, however, Mr. James Dougall says, "the winter Pearmain."

In the year 1835, Mr. Dougall, one of our most esteemed directors, and a veteran horticulturist, began to disseminate the finer varieties. Some years after the late Dr. Beadle, St. Catharines, and Mr. Leslie of Toronto, introduced new and valuable sorts.

The advance of our horticulture from small beginnings to its present eminence, is altogether within the memory of living men. The premier Horticultural Society of the United States, (I refer to that of Cincinnati) dates *only back* to 1843; and the gentleman, in whose house it was formed, Robert Buchanan, Esq., still lives to grace the Horticultural Society of that city, and to urge forward by his enthusiastic example all kinds of fruit culture.

Niagara and District have long been famous for their fruits. As the Old Capital—a military and trading post its position brought many casual visitors and residents of varied tastes. The late Hon. James Crooks was in the habit speaking in enthusiastic terms of the Count de Flahault, who introduced into Niagara both apples and pears from France. From his stock much of the best fruits in the Niagara and Hamilton Districts has arisen. Indeed some of the best apples we have were brought into notice by the Count. There is an apple of superior excellence, which ought to be mentioned in this connection, and which unfortunately is not so well distributed as its merits warrant, I mean the swazie pomme grise. It was first introduced into the Niagara District by Colonel Swazie and is one of the best, if not the very best apple known. Its eating, cooking, and keeping qualities, attest its excellence.

Mr. Crooks brought with him on his removal to Flamboro' all the best sorts of apples grown at Niagara. From Flamboro' as a centre, the finer and then rarer sorts were quickly disseminated. Mr. Crooks told me that people were in the habit of coming long distances to obtain cuttings, of which he was no niggardly distributor. In an mention of these early times, we ought not to omit the tribute that is due to horticulturists on the other side of the line for their enthusiastic and acute prosecution of the trade in fruit trees. Settlers from that country in almost every corner of

our land, brought the taste and desire for fruit trees with them, which had an early development in the Old Dominion and thence on the New England States. This fact is yet apparent among the descendants of Americans now naturalised in Western Canada. As a class they are still pre-eminently their fruit-growing, and taste for horticulture.

The progress of fruit-growing, of late years among all classes, is wonderful. Western Canada, is now looked to as one of the great sources of supply for the Province of Quebec. It is an undoubted fact that we are beginning to compete with them, even in their own market, for apples. Large shippers forward great quantities of apples to Montreal and to the City of Quebec. This season I had an advantageous offer from a fruiterer in Montreal, for any variety of pears that would take the market, while the Bartlett was especially mentioned. Horticulturists from the States declare that the apples grown by our farmers in the Niagara District will successfully compete with any grown in any part of New York State. This is as flattering as it is remarkable, if we take into account the advanced state of fruit culture in Rochester, Lockport, Canandaigua and the other fruit centres in that State.

It cannot be denied that the art has received a great impetus by the means employed for that purpose by the Fruit-Growers' Association of Ontario. Their records show the painstaking efforts made in this direction. The list of apples and fruits best adapted to the different districts of our longitudinal country is valuable, and might be made the means of greater good. The soil and climate influences are so varied that it is only by frequent comparisons that we can arrive at the knowledge of which fruit trees are best adapted to any particular locality. For example, varieties of fruit trees that do admirably well in Hamilton, Grimsby and Niagara, often produce poor and stunted fruit at no greater distance than Toronto and further east. Our Greenings are greatly superior to those grown on the north shore of Lake Ontario. The Baldwins and Spys of Wellington Square and Stoney Creek can scarcely be equalled anywhere.

This principle of adaptiveness to a particular locality must yet form an important phase in future operations of this Association.

Pear culture, perhaps, has even made greater strides than that of apples, because it is more recent. It is true, indeed, that there is no want of individuals, who have been for years touched with the fever of heart-culture. Mr. Dougall, of Windsor, years and years ago, went to the expense of importing new and rare varieties from France. Here and there his efforts and example have borne fruit. There is some fine fruit grown on the northern shores of Lake Erie, which, in many instances, can be traced to his nursery. St. Catharines and Niagara have been, perhaps, far ahead of other parts of the country in the cultivation of the older and finer varieties of pear. Pears excel on alluvial deposits, both in the Old and New Worlds. Windsor and Niagara are striking examples of the remark. The old pear trees in and about Windsor are the wonder of visitors, and there are some specimens of pear trees at and near Niagara not much behind the former in growth and size.

The cultivation of the peach of late years has not kept pace with apple and pear culture. Owing to the open and unsteady nature of the weather in