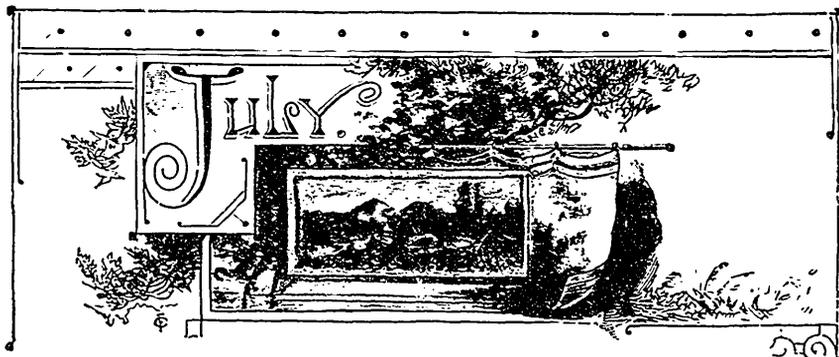


THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

VOL. XXII.

1899.

No. 7



PEACH GROWING IN ONTARIO.



ONLY thirty or forty years ago it was thought almost foolish to plant the peach in Ontario. A few natural seedlings were growing about Grimsby, but no one seemed to think that an orchard of good varieties would ever live long enough to give paying returns. About the year 1860, Mr. A. M. Smith and Mr. C. E. Woolverton, then partners in the Grimsby nursery, planted the first peach orchard of any extent in the Niagara district, devoting about five acres of the farm now known as Maplehurst, to such varieties as Early Purple, Early Crawford, Late Crawford, Royal George, Morris White, Old Mixon and Smock.

Then was the time to make money out of peach growing, it being quite an ordinary thing to sell the fruit at \$3 and \$4 per bushel.

No wonder that orchards were planted on all sides at Grimsby, St. Catharines, Niagara and Winona, and the rage for planting did not cease until yellows came

upon the trees and glut in the market reduced the prices.

For some time it was thought that the Niagara district was the only favored one for peach growing until some enterprising fruit growers at Leamington and Kingsville found that the soil and climate of that region was also adapted for peach growing. Soon the planting fever seized that whole district, and thousands of acres of peaches were planted. In 1889, W. W. Hilborn, resigned his position as horticulturist at Ottawa and at Leamington with the view of engaging in peach culture. About this time Mr. Hilborn was engaged to act as experimenter in peaches, and over 150 varieties were placed in his care for trial. In 1892 Messrs. Morris, Stone and Wellington of Welland, Ontario, became interested in Essex as a peach section, and purchased nearly one hundred acres of land and planted the whole to peach trees, placing them under the general oversight of W. W. Hilborn.

Our frontispiece shows this farm as it