

The Canadian Horticulturist

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in the Dominion

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THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST

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THE EXPORTING OF FRUIT

This year there promises to be another bumper crop of fruit. From all sections, not only of Canada but from the United States as well, come reports that orchards have wintered in exceptionally fine condition and that prospects for a large crop of almost all varieties of fruit are bright. Unless unforeseen events occur there is danger that there may be a glut of at least certain varieties of fruit. This means that those growers who are able to market their fruit in the best condition will receive the top prices, and that inferior fruit may not be wanted at any price. For this reason large quantities may go to waste.

In the past the cooperative fruit growers' associations, where there has been a surplus of fruit, have saved the situation for their members by being able to dispose of their fruit when other growers in the same districts have been unable often to make sales. It is not too late yet for growers, where there are none of these associations, to meet and organize for the joint handling of their crops next fall. This should be done immediately. Only by being able to offer considerable quantities of fruit, properly graded and packed, will they be sure of receiving the best prices.

The increase in the number of cooperative associations of late years has forced another question to the front—the marketing of the fruit in Great Britain. The associations in Ontario, in some cases, have sold their output direct to English buyers, thus saving the middlemen's charges, exacted from growers, who sell to Canadian exporters. It has long been recognized that the consignment of fruit to Great Britain to be sold by auction is thoroughly unsatisfactory. A better system is needed. THE HORTICULTURIST has shown that there are many retailers and buyers in Great Britain who would like to establish connections direct with the growers on this side of the ocean. There is

a possibility for a great development of this trade. Before it can be made a thorough success two things are necessary: an increase in the number of cooperative associations among the growers of Canada, and some means by which these associations can be placed in touch with the retailers and consumers in Great Britain.

Believing that we are just on the threshold of a vast increase in this work THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST has sent a member of its staff to Great Britain, where he will investigate the conditions at first hand, and report his observations through these columns. While abroad our representative, who is now on the ocean, will visit the leading import points, including Glasgow, Manchester, Liverpool, and London, where he will interview leading importers, the officers of retail grocers' associations and other people interested in the handling of Canadian fruit. His main object will be to place himself in touch with firms that are prepared to buy direct from Canadian growers. A list of their wants will be made and the information thus obtained will be made known for the benefit of the readers of THE HORTICULTURIST. Any of our subscribers who would like to place themselves in touch with British importers of Canadian fruit, and who believe that our representative while abroad may be able to assist them, are invited to write us immediately. THE HORTICULTURIST hopes that it will be able to gather information in Great Britain that will be of great value to Canadian fruit growers.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES

The next two years should show a great increase in the number of horticultural societies in Ontario, and in the value of their work. The new act relating to horticultural societies makes this possible. By this act the two restrictions that have prevented the development of this work have been removed.

After this year it will be impossible for societies to hold exhibitions or to work in connection with agricultural societies. Many societies in Ontario have been doing this, including those at Strathroy, Aylmer, Renfrew, Goderich, and others. These societies have been devoting all their funds to holding exhibitions at the time of their local agricultural exhibitions. In this way they have neglected practically all the other lines of work, which have been carried on so successfully by the other societies in the province. It is not likely that the societies already established at these points will drop out of existence. Instead, they probably will expend their funds in holding separate exhibitions, distributing seeds among school children, civic improvement work, and in other efforts of a more valuable nature.

In other cities, such as Cornwall, where agricultural societies have prevented the formation of horticultural societies, there will be nothing to hinder the establishment of live horticultural societies. This should lead to a considerable increase in the number of these societies. Anticipating the formation of additional societies the total government grant has been increased by almost \$1,500. For these reasons a great extension of horticultural work in Ontario may be confidently expected.

The market gardeners around most of the leading cities in Ontario have organized branches of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association, and are beginning to make known the fact that their profession is a most difficult one, that requires even more scientific knowledge than any other of an agricultural or horticultural nature. The various steps the growers are taking to develop the industry and to introduce improved methods of culture, are meeting with marked success. There is one point, however, on which not much has been said, but to which attention should be given. There are too many market gardeners who do not pay the attention they should to their personal appearance. They seem to think that no person expects them to dress neatly and to look as well as other business

men, and they make this an excuse for a neglect in the matter of their clothes and of their wagons, that results greatly to their own injury. A neat, serviceable suit of clothes and a coat of paint on his wagon would not cost a gardener much in a year, and would help to raise the standing of the profession.

The Toronto Horticultural Society is likely to benefit more than any other society in the province by the new Horticultural Societies Act. In the past the Toronto society, although located in the largest city in the province, has received an annual grant of only \$140, although the societies in Ottawa and Hamilton have received grants of \$350 each. This has been because a dummy agricultural society in Toronto, that has never held an exhibition, has taken money that otherwise would have gone to the horticultural society. Under the new act the Toronto society will be able to participate in the special grant of \$800, made to the four societies in Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton and London, and also in the general grant to the societies throughout the province. Its grant, thus, will be greatly increased so that it should become one of the strongest and best societies in the province.

The Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association is making a name for itself. It has a membership exceeding 400, which is considerably larger than that of any other association in the province, although its government grant is much the smallest of any of the associations, being only one-third of that of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, and less than one-third of the grants to the Dairymen's Associations. Its proposal to offer prizes for the best crops of celery grown in the province and to require the competitors to furnish full information in regard to their methods of growing their crops should create great interest and help to still further strengthen the association.

When giving his evidence before the select standing committee on Agriculture and Colonization, Dairy Commissioner J. A. Ruddick, after announcing that the work of his branch is divided into four divisions (the dairy, fruit, extension of markets and cold storage), had the following to say: "I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the matters relating to the Fruit Division be left for the chief of that division, Mr. A. McNeill, to explain to the committee. He is much more familiar with the details than I am, and I think you would prefer to have him give evidence with respect to that particular division." If the chief of the fruit division is better acquainted with the details of the fruit division than is the head of the division, and better able to give evidence before the Committee of Agriculture, why should he not be given full credit for his work and made the fruit commissioner?

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