

development and advancement. Indeed, it is only the application of the best scientific knowledge and the use of the latest improvements in apparatus that make it possible for the modern tiller of the soil to maintain himself. The old-time farmer, who merely followed the example of his father in his methods, and was ignorant of the processes of nature farther than these came practically under his observation, and conducted his routine of yearly operations largely by main force, in a spirit of haphazard, without regard to economic laws, has no chance in competition with the man who has made an earnest study of the science of agriculture, and applies its principles rigidly in the practice of his calling. The establishment of agricultural colleges, and the holding of conventions in local centres, so as to gain the ear of the entire farming community, must be spreading a higher degree of intelligence among our rural population, which cannot but tell upon the future course of agriculture in this country. It will not do to place supreme reliance upon the virgin qualities of the soil, and to expect mother earth to go on yielding nourishment from her bosom for successive generations, without her being herself rejuvenated. She needs nursing in her turn, and trained nurses alone can treat her according to her requirements. Every farmer in the Dominion would do well to read the reports of the experts employed at the Central Farm, as contained in the Government Blue Book. Every page is charged with instructive matter with which he ought to make himself acquainted. From the Directors' Report he would learn what particular varieties of grain, roots and trees are best adapted to the district in which he resides, and the fact that 12,285 kindly were distributed among 5,140 applicants, shows a keen appreciation of the advantages which the Experimental Farm affords to those for whose benefit it was established. Prof. Robertson, in his report, gives details showing the relative profitableness of different breeds of cattle and swine, dealing with the live questions regarding dehorning and feeding of calves, the value of ensilage and other descriptions of fodder, the best methods of dairying,—and all the advice he offers is the result of careful experiment. Fruit growing is developing into an important industry in Canada, and as improvements in communication with the old world advance, bringing us closer to the European markets, a bright future is unquestionably in store for Canadian orchardists. Those who are staking anything on this line of business should read with care what Mr. John Craig, our national horticulturalist, has written on the subject in his report. If Canada is to achieve distinction in horticulture and our gardeners and fruit growers would add to their wealth, it must be by producing the varieties best suited to our climate and soil.