

The Good Work of the Society.

Twenty-two years ago this Society came into existence at Abbotsford. Through all these years it has urged the production of better fruit, and has tried to show how orchards should be cared for. Among other things, it brought to the attention of the public the high merits of the Quebec Fameuse, and it has tried to show the orchardists how best to place this Queen of Varieties on the market.

Five years ago demonstration orchards were started by the Society, and the results have been very gratifying. But there is still something lacking. The good people of this province are not yet seized with the importance of the fruit industry. There are large areas that are admirably adapted for apple growing, but very little effort is being made to set out plantations.

Our Society continually runs up against difficulties in its efforts to increase the apple areas of the province. Unscrupulous agents make their way among the farmers, and by their persuasive ability and by the display of highly colored pictures of apples they make sales of nursery stock which in most cases are untrue to name, and unsuitable to our climatic conditions. One can hardly blame the farmers if after such treatment they refuse to take any further interest in fruit-growing.

Last Spring the Society prepared an illustrated poster containing in a nut-shell the chief factors to be kept in mind by the fruit-grower in the care of his orchard and the production of good fruit. As the Society's funds would not permit of the publication of this poster the Department was asked to finance the undertaking, a matter of about \$250. We regret that it did not see its way clear to help us in this plan of helping the fruit-grower. To my mind a beautifully colored well-printed poster containing just the information regarding pruning, spraying, tilling, etc., the orchardist requires, and arranged for hanging up in the kitchen, is far more valuable than a bulletin which is often thrown away before it is read.

While I am dealing with the Department I shall refer to another matter of importance to the fruit-grower. Last year the ravages of the various cankers of apple trees were brought to our attention quite vividly by many of our members. Unfortunately no satisfactory remedy could be advised on account of lack of knowledge of the diseases. This Society and its sister Society, the Quebec Society for the Protection of Plants, thereupon urged the Department by resolutions to appoint an expert on cankers and other apple diseases so that relief might be brought to the fruit-growers. Again I regret that no action has been taken in the matter, and the disease continues its ravages unchecked.