

for the manufacture of wine is so dependent upon the quality and nature of the soil, the exposure to the sun, the altitude at which it is grown, and the extremes of temperature to which the plant is subjected, that, as is well known, a vine which in one locality will produce grapes of a particular quality, will not produce them of the same quality in another locality even in the same neighbourhood, hence the necessity of caution in making a selection.

While the progress we have made during the past year should encourage us to persevere in carrying out the objects of the Society, we should also be encouraged to perseverance by remarking the success which has attended similar societies in the United States. In that country fruit growers' Societies have been eminently successful. I shall allude here only to the chief and important one, the American Pomological Society. I believe that society was instituted in 1848 or 49, and its progress has since that time been most remarkable, its meetings have been attended by fruit growers and those interested in fruit culture from all parts of the United States and California; the discussions, addresses, and lectures have been most successful, and have attracted large audiences. The catalogue of fruits recommended by it have been found most useful and reliable, and it is taken as a standard authority on the qualities of fruit. That Society and others of a similar nature have given an impetus to the cultivation of the best varieties of fruit by diffusing a general taste for the science of Pomology, inspiring fruit growers with greater zeal and industry, and by promoting kindness and good feeling among those interested in the subject.

I have mentioned the importance of a society such as this to individual Fruit growers; it can be shown to be of equal importance in a national point of view. It was stated by the Honorable Marshall P. Wilder, President of the American Pomological Society some two or three years ago, that it was not more than a quarter of a century since the establishment of the oldest horticultural Society in the United States, and at the fruit crop of the country was not then deemed worthy of a place in the national statistics. It was also stated, I think, in the same way by Lewis F. Allan, in a lecture on the apple, delivered at New Haven, that after a careful computation he was convinced that the aggregate annual value of the fruit crop of the United States could not be less than \$26,000,000, twenty six millions of dollars, that ten counties alone in the State of New York gave an average \$200,000 each, that Niagara County 25 miles square yielded \$250,000. The fruit crop of the State of New York he estimated as being worth annually \$6,000,000; of New England \$4,000,000; of Ohio \$3,000,000; of Pennsylvania and New Jersey \$3,000,000; of the Northwestern States \$4,000,000; and of the Southern States \$9,000,000. And the value of the fruit crop is constantly and steadily increasing, so great has

been the progress of fruit culture in that country in a few years.

I am not aware that any estimate has been made of the value of the fruit crop in Canada or that we have sufficient data from which to form an estimate. Whatever its value may be it cannot be denied that in Canada the cultivation of fruit has not received the attention which it deserves. While great progress has been made in the science of Agriculture, a progress which is perhaps second to no country in the world, a corresponding progress has not been made in pomological science: much remains yet to be done, and in view of the importance and value of the fruit crop of a country, as shewn by the statistics I have given, we should persevere in the work in which we are engaged, and thereby aid in increasing the resources and wealth of the country. I think we may confidently look forward to a success similar to that attained by the American Pomological Society, and other societies of a similar nature in the United States, and that like important results will follow our efforts.

There is a great pleasure to be derived from the meeting together of those engaged or interested in the prosecution of a scientific enquiry, particularly of any branch of natural science, and the interchange of ideas and opinions on the subject in which they are interested, which those only can fully appreciate who have engaged in such enquiries. And I am sure that all who have attended our meetings during the past year can join me in testifying to the pleasure we have felt in our mutual intercourse and interchange of opinions on a subject so interesting to us all as that of the cultivation of fruit.

In conclusion, I beg leave to express my sense of the honor conferred upon me by placing me in the position of President of your Society during the past year.

Fruit Growers' Association.

Series of Questions issued to Horticultural Societies, &c.

THE FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF UPPER CANADA

Desirous to collect and circulate information relative to the production of the several kinds of fruits in the various parts of the Province, respectfully requests the several Horticultural societies, County and Electoral Division Agricultural societies, Township Agricultural societies, and all gentlemen interested in the subject of fruit culture, to cause answers to the following questions to be prepared, and sent to the Secretary, Mr. D. W. Beadle, at St. Catharines, C. W., on or before July 1st, 1862.

As the questions are all numbered, the answers may be numbered to correspond, and thus avoid writing down the question intended to be answered.