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underdrained. In order to support his opinions he will, perhaps, bring forward the stubborn facts that his own orchard, where the trees are planted on the surface of the ground, is more thrifty and bears larger and better flavoured fruit than the orchard of Mr. So and So, where the ground is underdrained eighteen or twenty feet apart.

Now, this may be perfectly true, but, when we examine all the facts of the case we may still have good reason to believe that underdraining is a most essential requisite for an orchard. After due investigation we will likely find that although in the one case the orchard is well drained, yet the trees have been planted too deep and neglected, the bark has not been kept clean, the trees have not been properly pruned, nor the fruit thinned out. In the other case there may be a gravelly subsoil, and the trees well attended, with manure, careful pruning, fruit thinned out, etc.

Again, at a meeting of fruit growers, Mr. A. will scientifically point out the benefits of a liberal supply of manure to fruit trees, how it stimulates their vital forces, supplies them with nitrogen and carbonic acid, and all these positions supported by clear, cogent reasoning. Mr. B. will then state that the principal thing for an orchard is to keep the ground loose and the trees free of grass round the roots, and that where this is done no manure is required. In proof of his theory, the orchard of Mr. C, who uses manure freely, will possibly be contrasted with the orchard of Mr. D, who depends altogether on keeping the ground loose and the trees clean, and who raises fruit fully equal to Mr. C, both in quantity and quality.

When all the facts connected with those orchards are brought to light it will probably be found that the trees of Mr. C. are large and have been bearing quite a number of years, while the trees of Mr. D. are young and vigorous and growing in rich soil. Such diversities of opinion, and tracing of the same effect to different causes, are some of the difficulties of imperfect statistics. Every reflecting person will see the necessity of having all the details of the management of orchards included in the account of the annual product. No doubt the Directors of the F. G. A. had this object in view.

In order to have sufficient fulness of details it is necessary to have the following particulars, to wit: The name of the owner of each of the principal orchards in the Province of Ontario, also the name of the Township, County and Post Office. Number of trees, age and varieties, also the quantity of summer, fall and winter fruit. The nature of the soil, manures, when and in what quantity applied. Miscellaneous observations on pruning, peculiarities of culture, etc.

In giving returns of the average quantity of fruit grown in this Province, and particulars connected therewith, it is highly important that all the statements should be strictly accurate. Large crops of first-class fruit do not depend on one or two causes, but on a number of causes put together, hence it is self-evident that inaccurate returns may be an evil instead of a benefit.

The success or non-success of experiments in fruit growing not unfrequently requires several years of a testing process before one can speak with certainty either one way or the other. Moreover, the quantity and quality of fruit is largely influenced by the seasons. The injurious effects of a low, moist temperature when fruit trees are in blossom, and, also, the high flavoured fruit which generally follows a warm summer, have been frequently observed. Still there are some things connected with the influence of peculiar seasons that will require a considerable amount of investigation before they are properly understood. For example, a slight frost when fruit trees are in blossom, will sometimes injure the crop to a large extent in certain orchards, while others in the immediate vicinity suffer no perceptible damage. Taking all these facts into account, it is obvious that statistics of fruit growing must have fulness of details, accuracy, and also be extended over a large number of years before they can be of real value to the fruit-grower.

To take statistics in this manner, over such a wide field as the Province of Ontario will, of course, necessitate a large amount of labour. To attempt to pay for all this labour is almost, if not altogether, impracticable. Consequently, the following method of obtaining full and accurate statistics of the quantity of orcharding in Ontario, and the average annual product, is respectfully submitted.

Let members of the Fruit Growers' Association throughout the Province, take the statistics of the townships in which they reside. Supposing there are on an average four members of the Fruit Growers' Association in each township, it would be an easy matter for them to divide the townships into four parts, and each one to take a part. One whole day of