

it is better to grow fruit themselves, and orchards are being planted by them now, owing more or less, to the advice and example given them by us, which served as an interesting object lesson to them. I have no doubt that fruit growing will become very general there within the next ten or twelve years. In the North-west one farm is located in one of the great wheat belts of Manitoba, and the other on the verge of the prairie district in the territory, where the climate is a continuation of the great American desert, and the rainfall is lacking which they get further east, in Manitoba. In those districts we are endeavoring to test such varieties as can be obtained in Russia, Silesia and different other European countries—the apples, pears and plums that are found to grow in similar districts there. We are also trying to get from our neighbors in Minnesota such fruits as they have adapted to the North-west. I have no doubt that in a few years we shall be able to establish a degree of reciprocity with them in that line, whether a reciprocity treaty be negotiated or not. I made an attempt in that direction recently, when in Washington, and succeeded so well that the Secretary there has placed us on the list of Experimental Stations which receive samples of the seeds and products the United States receives from abroad, and we shall send them any we may introduce as soon as we possibly can. I think this reciprocal interchange among our fruit growers and those of the United States will do good, and our neighbors across the line are so good-natured that it is pleasant to get among them to negotiate with them these little trifles of bargains. Of course we generally try to get a little the better of them; it would not do for us to lose the reputation we have gained in that respect. The United States have done a great deal in this direction, in the introduction of new trees from Russia for testing in the colder climates of this continent, and none of them so much as Iowa. Professor Budd has been associated with our own Mr. Gibb, of Abbotsford, P.Q. They travelled together through Russia, and secured and introduced into this country many new varieties of fruits, giving promise of being adapted to the requirements and climate of the country. A few weeks ago, while at Indian Head, I went very carefully over the Russian apples sent up a year ago last spring, which have stood two summers and one winter, and I must say the success attending their growth was very gratifying, although the season has been unusually trying, the rainfall being little more than five inches between April and September, and the trees manifested a degree of hardihood and vigor that I think augurs well for the future. Not only apples, but some cherries also, promised very well; and through the energy of our excellent secretary, we are now on the eve of getting from another part of Russia a consignment of trees of a very promising sort, which I trust will prove another very valuable addition to the list we are trying to grow at the present time. Apart from these introductions we are trying to originate new fruit. I will give you one experiment now in progress, from which you will have an idea of the work we are trying to do in this respect. The town of Riga, in Russia, is, I suppose, about a thousand miles north of the latitude of Winnipeg, and around that district a great many varieties of fruit are grown, and even north of that in Russia, where the climate is very cold, and they have dry winds something like those in our own prairie district. Through the kindness of a seedsman in that town I have been able to secure a considerable quantity of seed of apples, pears and cherries which have been ripened and sold in the markets in towns north of that place. From these seeds—I think I am within the mark—fifteen hundred trees have been grown; seedling trees, which will be planted out in orchards in Ottawa and at the North-west farm, and it is expected that by thus multiplying the chances of success almost *ad libitum*, we shall, in a very short time, get some varieties to manifest that degree of hardiness to make them meet the great want of our people all over the country. In addition to growing seedlings in the way I have outlined, we are endeavoring, by cross-fertilization with the hardiest fruits we have, to produce new varieties. You must not think all our labors are devoted to the interests of the North-west, or the colder sections of the country however. We are endeavoring to help the dwellers in such situations as yours in Essex, and other favored parts of the country, by introducing and testing new varieties as they come out. We hope by testing these new varieties, some of which are so highly lauded and little deserving of it, to be able to save many a farmer a very large expenditure, to which he has been hitherto subject, in having to test these things for himself. These