

mechanics in their interest *in* and knowledge of horticulture. I need only to refer you to our annual list of membership to show you that more than one-half of the members of our association belong to towns and cities instead of being farmers, and if you need any further proof of my assertion I might take you around among the farmers of the country and let you see their surroundings. The trees, shrubs and plants on their farms (or the want of them)—their neglected orchards and fruit gardens. Their unmown lawns covered with burdocks, Canada thistles and other noxious weeds, ornamented with chicken coops, wood piles and broken down farming implements, instead of trees, shrubs and flowers, and compare them with the gardens, trees and lawns in our towns and cities. Our farmers, as I have intimated, have all the surroundings that should induce them to have a taste for horticulture and all the advantages for cultivating it; but how seldom do they improve them. Take the opportunity of selecting a building site and the advantages for laying out lawns, planting trees and shrubbery, and making home attractive in general, to say nothing of fruit growing, that farmers have, and how do they improve them? Are the best sites selected? Are the standing forest trees, if there are any, so left as to present the finest aspect? Are other trees planted with the same end in view? Are lawns laid out and carefully kept? Are other farm buildings located so as to make the least obstruction to the views from the dwelling? A majority of our farm houses in Canada look as though they had been built so as to be as close to the barns and pigpens as possible, instead of being located so as to command the finest views and prospects, and the approaches to them are oftener through narrow lanes and barnyards, covered with their accumulations of filth, than they are through fine avenues of trees or over grass covered lawns, decked with flowers and foliage, and as for conservatories or even plants and window gardening, which brighten so many homes in towns and cities, how little of them do you see among farmers! And come down to the growing of fruits, even for home consumption. I will venture the assertion that the majority of town and city people who are in as good circumstances financially as farmers, are better supplied with the fruits of our country than the majority of farmers are themselves, though they have every facility for growing them. Why it is that farmers do not supply themselves with these luxuries, when they can so easily do so, I could never understand. Take the farmers of Ontario as a whole and there is not over one in fifty, I will venture to say, who grows strawberries and raspberries enough for their own consumption—and what is there to hinder them? They will grow readily in any part of the province; and further, there is not one farm in fifty outside of the Niagara district that has a grape vine on it except it may be a wild one, and the same might be said of plums and pears and some of the other fine fruits. I know a man, right over here in the county of Haldimand, who has recently gone to growing grapes and pease, and he told me a few days ago that his best market for his fruit was right around among the farmers in his own neighborhood; and there is no better soil and climate for growing these fruits in Canada than there is in that locality. Is it any wonder that any community, who are so blind to their own interest, are badly afflicted with politics? Take forestry. How little judgment and foresight has been exercised by the farmers in removing the forests from their farms or in planting out forest trees. Tree after tree has been cut down indiscriminately, no attention being paid to wind breaks being left or shade for the flocks and herds on the farm, or in replanting these where needed, to say nothing of preserving the beauty of the landscape; until to-day the winter winds are sweeping over vast sections of our country which are almost treeless, removing the snow from the white fields and strawberry beds—where there are any—and from the roots of other plants and trees—robbing them of their natural covering and protection, letting the frost in to destroy their roots, pinching and blasting the fruit buds, sweeping through the barnyards among the shivering cattle, penetrating the dwellings of the farmers themselves, necessitating an extra supply of fuel (which they find is now getting scarce) and the putting on of extra storm doors, blinds and windows. Is it any wonder that the boys, and girls, too, want to leave the farm and get into the city, out of the wind in the winter time, or that the extra attractions of fine trees and lawns, fruits and flowers, should entice them to stay there in the summer. It seems to me if farmers want to solve the great problem which we hear so much discussed, "How to keep the boys on the farm," that they have got to go

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