

FRUIT REPORT FOR COUNTY OF LAMBTON FOR 1885.

(Prepared for the Annual Meeting of the "Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario," at Wingham, Ont., Sept. 16th and 17th inst.)

GENTLEMEN,—I am pleased to be able to make the following report of the standard fruits and their culture for the year in our county. I still think that the first place, both in position and importance, should be given to

THE APPLE.

Our soils are in general admirably adapted for the successful growth of the apple, and, as a consequence, the planting of apple trees continues to be very large and very general. The time will come when this county will be noted among the noted counties for the production of very excellent apples. The crop this year was very large and very fine. It is impossible at present to gather the full statistics of the crop in barrels for the whole county, but as near as can be ascertained it is close in the neighborhood of 125,000 barrels, valued at \$100,000, with the growth of the trees. And in this section alone the marketed crop was 40,500 barrels. This is a very large product, and represents \$37,125 of positive income to our farmers and growers of this section alone. An item that they have not heretofore calculated much upon, as their apples formerly represented no particular value. But when the eager buyer comes into the orchard and offers of his own free will to take all their apples, both fall and winter fruit, and give them a good price for them right in their hand, it at once stamps the crop as a thing of real, positive value that is not to be trifled with. The great trouble has been that our people have planted too many varieties, but they are now gradually learning better through reading and observation, and are in their later plantings restricting themselves to fewer and those mostly

standard winter sorts. One of the buyers told me to-day that our apple crop was by far larger and better than he had any conception of. That the worst apples to handle were Fall Pippins and Snows, and that he should strongly advise the farmers of this section to re-graft many of their early ripening apple trees with hard winter sorts, and then our country would be one of the very best in which to pack apples for distant markets. The prices offered this year have been for fall apples 75c. per barrel, and for winter apples \$1 per barrel; the purchaser to find the barrels and pack them, and the farmer to pick the apples and draw them to the market. About one third of the apples bought were fall, and brought in this section \$10,125, and the other two-thirds being winter, brought \$27,000, or a total of \$37,125. The sorts mostly grown in the county have been, for summer, Early Harvest, Red Astracan, Sweet Bough, Tetofsky, Early Joe, &c. These are used mostly for family purposes. For fall, almost everything is found in the section, but the best and most popular are Duchess of Oldenburg, Colvert, St. Lawrence, Maiden's Blush, Fall Pippins, &c. But in young plantations the people run into the other extreme, and plant nothing but winter sorts to the exclusion of all others. For winter, Baldwin best of all, afterwards Northern Spy, Rhode Island Greening, American Golden Russet, Grimes' Golden, Rambo, Snow, Talman's Sweet, Ben Davis, Yellow Bellflower, Seek-no-Further, Wagener, &c. When we consider the great value of the apple crop, it is quite clear that greater attention will annually be given to it, and the improvement in its management and culture will be very marked. The question of overstocking the market has been brought up, the farmers at first not liking the prices offered for their apples, but when the net proceeds are consi-