

HORTICULTURAL COLLEGE AND STATION WANTED

THE fruit growers of the Niagara district have petitioned the Ontario Department of Agriculture to establish a horticultural college and fruit experiment station for their benefit. One of the strongest deputations of fruit growers that has ever waited on the Department of Agriculture interviewed Hon. Nelson Monteith, Minister of Agriculture, April 19, and laid their claims before him. Hon. J. S. Hendrie assisted Mr. Monteith in meeting the deputation.

The fruit growers of the southern fruit belt of Ontario have long desired to have a fruit experiment station and horticultural college, and recently they decided to bring the matter to a head by having a deputation wait on the Department of Agriculture. The deputation, which was introduced by Dr. Jessop, M.L.A., of St. Catharines, contained many of the most prominent fruit growers of the Niagara district and included representatives of the Hamilton and St. Catharines city councils, and boards of trade, as well as representatives from the municipal councils in the counties interested.

"To show you how thoroughly unanimous is the desire of the residents of the Niagara district that a horticultural college and fruit experiment station should be established for their benefit," said Mr. E. D. Smith, ex-M. P., of Winona, to Hon. Mr. Monteith, "I might state that all the municipalities in the Niagara district have passed resolutions approving of the government establishing such a college and station. There are five experiment stations in the Dominion, but none in the Niagara district, which is the most important fruit section in Canada. At the stations already existing apples are almost the only variety of fruit that can be tested to general advantage. What we need in the Niagara district is a station which will conduct experiments in the production of the varieties of fruit we grow and

concerning which we are unable to obtain reliable information at the experiment stations which now exist. In the past our principal markets have been large cities not far distant from the Niagara district, to which we could ship our fruit without danger of its being damaged. The supply of fruit is increasing, which means that we must extend our markets.

"There has been a great growth in the trade with the Maritime Provinces, and the trade with the Northwest is rapidly developing. While we have been able to land our fruit on the local markets in good condition we find it is impossible to ship it to the distant markets although several varieties stand the shipment better than ours. California fruit growers are able to ship their fruit to all parts of the world and we should be able to do likewise. We need a fruit experiment station which will experiment in the production of varieties of fruit that will stand long shipment, so that we can be assisted in producing varieties that we can ship to distant markets. We have not one really good pear or grape. While some varieties are good shippers they each have some serious defects, such as poor taste, or susceptibility to disease. There are one or two good varieties of peaches and plums, but there is great room for improvement there also.

"If such an experiment station as we desire develops one good pear the revenue that will be derived from it by the fruit growers of the Niagara district would more than meet all the expense of the station. We do not want any 10 cent fruit experimental farm. I cannot too strongly impress upon you the enormous value to the fruit growers of finding varieties that will meet the requirements of the market. I believe the Dominion government should buy and equip the farm, but if it does not take the matter up there is a grand opportunity for the On-