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provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Our department is supposed to be confined to the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, although our correspondence covers the whole Dominion. We get almost as many letters, I think, from British Columbia as from any other province outside of Ontario and Quebec. We are working for a hardy winter apple of fair size, fine appearance and good quality. We are anxious to get apples which will compare in quality with the Northern Spy, the King, the Greening and other varieties. All of you know, I am sure, that these apples originated in the United States. The Northern Spy originated there, also the Baldwin, King, Greening, and practically all of our best winter apples. The reason they originated in the adjoining Republic is not because Canada cannot produce a winter apple. The reason is that the United States was further advanced in the early part of the nineteenth century than Canada was. Nurseries were established in that country and these apples were found out and propagated by the nurserymen and sold to farmers and fruit growers in not only the United States but also in Canada, and as a result we have them. But the difficulty is that these apples succeed only over a comparatively limited area in Canada. In Ontario they succeed, say from Kingston west and south to the Great Lakes and Georgian Bay. But taking the great central part of Ontario, from 20 to 30 miles north of Kingston, the northern parts of Ontario, all eastern Ontario, all of the province of Quebec, the province of New Brunswick, and certain parts of the provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, we have not got really a hardy winter apple that will compare with these best varieties in quality. But there is no reason, in my judgment, why we should not have them, and we are working with that end in view.

To show you how parentage influence offspring I might say that about 1890 we got a lot of seed from the northern part of Russia thinking that it would be good stock for us to work upon in getting hardy trees. We grew 3,000 seedlings of apples alone from that stock, and out of that number we have only four that would compare favourably with our best named summer and autumn apples in this country, the reason being that the majority of the Russian apples are either summer kinds or else kinds that would be quite inferior to Canadian. The offspring of these Russian apples has therefore, on the whole not proved to be fruits which were fit for Canada. So we started in 1898 sowing the seed of our best apples which fruited at Ottawa, mostly of the hardier kinds, including Northern Spy, because we have had it fruit here, the McIntosh Red, the Fameuse, the Wealthy, the Golden Russet and a number of other kinds. We sowed the seed of these and we have got some very good seedlings, and we expect many more promising ones in the future. We have about 2,000 of these seedlings of apples alone, and about 200 of them have fruited. Of this number fully 25 per cent have been apples that we could not discard because we thought they were so promising that they would probably fill some want in apple culture in some parts of the country. For instance we have seedlings of the McIntosh, seedlings of the Wealthy, seedlings of the Scott's Winter, which is one of the hardiest winter apples we have, and seedlings of the Northern Spy, which I think will take a place in time with our best apples and will also mature at a season when we have not got good kinds. In addition to these we have seedlings of crossed apples. For instance, we crossed the McIntosh, which is one of our best early winter apples, with the Northern Spy, which is another good winter apple, with the idea of getting a hardy, later keeping apple, and the results will soon be known. Crosses between other varieties have already fruited, and there are some promising apples among them.

VARIETIES OF APPLES TO PLANT IN BEST APPLE DISTRICTS OF ONTARIO.

*By Mr. Christie:*

Q. In setting out an orchard what varieties of apples would you recommend the farmer to put out? I have in mind a farmer who contemplates devoting 50 acres to apple orchard next spring, and the locality is 15 miles north of Lake Ontario?