

tion afforded by the mountains, giving the necessary shelter for fruit trees, combined with the advantages of a suitable soil, have already made the valley famous as a fruit growing district. But the fact that its extent is limited, renders the question of its adaptability for fruit growing one of greater importance. Were it in extent like the vast prairie plains of the North-West, or, if the whole of Nova Scotia were excellent farming land, the case would be different. As it is, it seems every way desirable, if not absolutely necessary that it should be utilized to produce what it is naturally best adapted for, and that from the cultivation of which there would be the largest return. The comparatively small extent of land necessary for a fruit farm, and the usually large yield per acre, point to fruit growing as one of the most suitable industries for such a district. Indeed, I may say, that a seven months journey, extending through almost the whole of the settled portions of the Dominion of Canada, confirms me in the belief that (protective tariffs notwithstanding) the day is not very far distant when, with the increased facilities of communication, it will be everywhere realized that it is for the best interests of each country, as well as of the world, that each should be devoted to that for which it is best adapted. While the great North-West will probably stand unrivalled for wheat producing, it can never hope to compete with portions of Ontario and Nova Scotia. Climatic considerations settle that beyond a doubt. Nor do they place the British fruit grower under circumstances less peculiarly disadvantageous when compared with the Canadian and American. Another thing that must be apparent to any observer, who has had the opportunity to form a judgment, is that the consumption of fruit in England is yet very small to what it must be in the course of a few years, when the poorer classes, who now use it very little, if at all, have learned to know its value, and can procure it of a good quality, and at a price that will be within their reach. The position of Nova Scotia, obviating the necessity of a long railway transit, and its situation, as it is sometimes said, "stretches out a friendly hand to England," will, I doubt not, give it place second to none as a source of supplies for England in the course of time.

Wishing your Association success in its efforts to develope and promote the interests of the fruit growers of Nova Scotia, and thanking you for the papers referring to its work,

I am yours truly,

WM. KING BAKER.

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