

trees. By a census return of the district of Port Royal compiled at Paris in 1698 we have the first and only mention of fruit in these old documents. It gives the number of fruit trees in that district as 1584 and the number of families as 98—a little over 16 trees to each family. Beaubassin is credited with 30 families and 32 fruit trees; but Les Mines is not mentioned. Later on in 1701 we find the populations of the three settlements to be: Port Royal, 456, Beaubassin, 188, and Les Mines, 490 souls, and in 1731 we find in a note appended to the returns of that year, that "Les Mines (Grand Pre and Riviere au Canard) has 168 families who are rich; Beaubassin 150 families less prosperous than the preceeding; Cobequit 68, and Piquit 150 families not well off. And at Port Royal (where is the English garrison) 160 poor families." Now when we

CONSIDER THE WEALTH OF THE PEOPLE

and the evidences left behind them in the growing trees we may credit the inhabitants of the eastern end of the valley with quite as great progress in the culture of fruit as those of the west. In 1760 when the emigrants from New England colonies were settled on the lands vacated by the expelled Acadians, they wrote back to their friends home, glowing accounts of the fertility of the dyked marshes and uplands; and also of the singular adaptation of soil and climate to the production of the apple as proved by the vigorous growth and productiveness of the old French trees, still luxuriant amid the ruin and desolation of abandoned homes and deserted gardens. With the advent of the Anglo-Saxon race came improved methods of culture. New orchards were set, old ones enlarged, and as time passed on, and the struggle for the bare necessities of life incidental to all new settlements, gave way to comparative affluence, the want of some of the luxuries enjoyed in their old homes was felt; and longing thoughts went back to the old orchards on the hill sides of New England, to the red cheeked apples remembered from boyhood's days as the "best in the orchard." Then it was that John Burbidge, Samuel Willoughby, Ahira Calkin, David Bent, ——— Gesner, and others, each working by himself, but inspired with the desire to improve the quality of those crude seedlings which were bearing so abundantly, introduced from New England, and in the case of John Burbidge probably from Old England young trees and scion of improved varieties of apples.

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