

FRUIT GROWING IN A NORTHERN CLIMATE.

By L. FOOTE, NEPEAU, ONT., NEAR OTTAWA.

AFTER twenty years' residence in the Ottawa Valley, in which time I have practiced a habit of close observation concerning fruit-growing, coupled with some experience, I would venture a few thoughts on the needs of that industry in a Northern climate. What is true here, is mainly so in the same isothermal lines of climate east and west of this, hence one feels that he has the agreement of a wide range of experience in what is needed to foster the fruit-growing interest, where so many discouragements must be surmounted.

One requisite is a class of nursery agents who will only sell such stock as will succeed in this climate. Hundreds of dollars of useless nursery stock has been palmed off on the farmers and would-be fruit growers of the Ottawa Valley, so that many are discouraged in the work of fruit-growing almost entirely.

There are some honorable exceptions, however, of agents who will only sell such varieties as they know will succeed with right treatment, and such win the confidence of the people and make good sales.

The "Experimental Farm" must prove a boon to the farmers and fruit-growers of the Dominion just in proportion as they appreciate and appropriate its benefits.

It has demonstrated the fact, that far more can be accomplished in the work of fruit-growing in this climate, than many thought ever could be, and yet the work of tree-growing is

but fairly under way. All kinds of small fruits are a decided success, and all who visit the "Farm" are forced to admit that fact. A great variety of ornamental shrubbery and forest trees is well under way, and a fine collection of flowers adorn the grounds and greenhouses.

One quality to ensure success in fruit-growing in this climate is *perseverance*. The would-be fruit-grower must be prepared to contend with obstacles; not dive into every novelty that is presented that might do well in a more southern clime, but venture upon a few well-tested varieties of each class of fruit, and plant for *mutual protection*. I plant a row of currants in line with a row of apple trees, and a row of grape vines four feet from each row of apples and currants, with a view of putting a tile drain between them. Hedge and tight fence protection around the fruit garden aid in retaining the snow late in the spring, which is much needed to prevent spring freezing. Tramping a snow mound around each tree prevents mice from barking the trees, and keeps back the flow of sap until the hard northern blasts are past in spring.

Winter protection is a prominent item to success in this climate. I have used pine boughs as a protection to strawberries, and prefer them to anything else, as they keep the snow up from smothering, and allow the vines more liberty to come on early in the spring. Straw or forest