



Some of the Delegates and Speakers at the Recent Convention of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association in Toronto
For the names of the persons numbered see page 305.

Three Questions on Fruit Culture*

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I HAVE catalogued nearly all the questions put to me by correspondents on fruit growing, concerning the making of orchards, the planting, size, and so forth. Among all these different questions, three present themselves to me most often. The first of the three is: Who are the people who should plant orchards?

WHO SHOULD PLANT ORCHARDS?

The reply is simple—everyone; that is to say, all those who own more or less land. One should not see in this province farms without orchards; if not as the principal undertaking, at least as the first accessory, and the most beautiful adornment. It is not necessary to demonstrate that the apple thrives well in our country. Without doubt, there are districts in which they do not thrive perfectly, but there is room to hope, thanks to the persistent efforts of the pomologists, that these districts shall become apple-growing districts, if not with already existing varieties, at least with others which may be obtained and which would thrive there. It is recognized everywhere that by the cultivating of the soil, we are able, in a certain degree, to help vegetation, so that the wood ripens itself before the greatest colds and thus diminishes the havoc caused by our rigorous climate.

There is not a single farmer, to my mind, who cannot have more or less apple trees on his place. What is more beautiful than the neat, white homestead of the farmer, displaying itself on a dark green ground, picked out with spots of brightest vermillion. It is the orchard which makes the finest adornment to this residence and the passer-by will be captivated, in spite of himself, with such an attractive landscape.

We can, moreover, attribute to the apple an economical part, very real and important. It not only adorns the country, but also it makes those having other duties to love and often to return to the fields. The development of horticulture, the cultivation of fruit, shall be a means of overcoming the exodus to the cities which we deplore so much. This would be a good statistic to establish in those districts which are the most depopulated.

If I were a doctor, I would not hesitate to affirm that, from a hygienic point of view, the apple constitutes one of the best foods, and that the father of a family, who procures them for his children during all seasons of the year, will see his children grow in strength and wisdom. Nearly everyone likes apples. It is sufficient to prove this by referring to the systematic plundering of the orchards in the neighborhood of cities and populous towns.

There is a class of people who are able

to render fruit-growing a great service by bestowing on it a few crumbs of their superfluous time and money. I make allusion to those of the "liberal professions," those who, following these professions, exercise a considerable and worthy influence amongst others in their vicinity. What could they not do for horticulture? As an example, take that doctor who does not fear to plant amongst the Laurentians to the north of Montreal, at Lac des Seize Iles, an orchard of 500 apple trees. His example should be followed by a large number of others. This, which to-day is the exception, should become the general rule.

The classical colleges should, at the commencement of their studies, inculcate a taste and love for this branch of knowledge. Many of our classical and commercial colleges do not own the smallest orchard. The treasurer of a college, to whom I made this remark, replied that they had already tried the planting of apple trees, but that the plundering of the fruit had discouraged the authorities and that the experiment had not been tried again. I know how this fallacy would appeal to a college treasurer, when he would see the fruit being gathered by those whom it was not intended for. But how the fallacy would be sweetened, if their highest purpose was, in planting the orchard, to give to the students the first notions of

*A portion of a paper read at the summer meeting of the Pomological and Fruit Growing Society of the Province of Quebec.