

sent, it may be possible to arouse an interest in the subject that will soon terminate the doubt.

Concerning the quantities of fruit grown in the Province, we are practically limited to two sources of information, neither of which are wholly satisfactory. We have in the census returns for 1871 and 1881 statistics of fruit under three heads, viz., apples, grapes, and other fruit. We have also in the trade tables of the Dominion the quantity and value of exports of green fruit from year to year; but in consequence of the practice of crediting a Province with all exports made from any port in its territory, regardless of the place of production, it is not possible to ascertain definitely how much of the total exports of fruit are the growth or product of Ontario. The nearest approach to definite figures is to be obtained by comparison of the census and the trade tables. Having ascertained Ontario's proportion of the total fruit crop of the Dominion, we can form an idea of her share of the exports. The census returns gave the crops of 1870 and 1880 as follows, for Ontario and the whole Dominion:—

	—1880—Ontario—1870—	
Apples, bush	11,400,517	5,436,504
Grapes, lbs	3,697,555	1,028,431
Other Fruits, bush	644,707	242,878
	—1880—Dominion—1870—	
Apples, bush	13,377,655	6,365,315
Grapes, lbs	3,896,508	1,126,402
Other Fruits, bush	841,219	358,963

Now, for both of these years Ontario's produce was about 86 per cent. of that of the whole Dominion, and if it be assumed that her proportion of the exports is about the same, we can estimate with some degree of accuracy the progress made by our Province in fruit-growing from year to year. The following table gives the quantity and value of Canada's exports of green

fruit for the sixteen years 1868-83, grouped in periods of four years each, and the annual average for each period:—

FIRST PERIOD.		
Year.	Barrels.	Value.
1868	34,405	\$87,333
1869	11,310	30,150
1870	20,810	58,811
1871	45,920	98,857
Averages	28,111	\$68,788

SECOND PERIOD.		
Year.	Barrels.	Value.
1872	106,568	\$264,015
1873	61,243	183,348
1874	51,084	128,915
1875	63,397	176,295
Averages	70,573	\$188,143

THIRD PERIOD.		
Year.	Barrels.	Value.
1876	84,107	\$170,005
1877	77,888	194,942
1878	53,213	149,333
1879	87,101	157,618
Averages	75,577	\$167,974

FOURTH PERIOD.		
Year.	Barrels.	Value.
1880	146,548	\$347,166
1881	334,538	645,658
1882	212,526	540,404
1883	158,018	499,185
Averages	212,907	\$508,118

The progress of our fruit-growing industry which these figures clearly indicate is very gratifying, and there can be no doubt that the fruit-growers of Ontario deserve in large measure the credit for it. The climate of the Province—more especially that portion of it encircled by the three great lakes—is admirably adapted for the maturing of the finest qualities of fruits; and possessing the natural conditions for the production of fruit that has an established reputation in foreign markets, the energy and intelligence of our people may be depended on to make the