

advantage and be productive of better and greater results. At several of the meetings of farmers' institutes which I have attended I distributed such copies of our annual reports old and recent, as I had at my disposal and I was much astonished at the amount of ignorance prevalent concerning the veriest rudiments of fruit growing and much pleased with the eagerness exhibited by many to obtain information of a practical nature on the matters of horticulture.

One of the needs in our work is a manual or primer of fruit growing—not too large or elaborate a work—containing instruction of an elementary nature; a pamphlet written by thoroughly practical men in plain, simple and compendious language, entering into the details of each operation with sufficient minuteness to be of assistance to the beginner, and confined to the consideration of the production of our commoner fruits. Many works of a professedly rudimentary character have been published and let loose upon an unsuspecting public, but I have yet to find the one which does not mar its usefulness by at least two serious defects: 1st by the neglect to begin low enough down in the art, assuming the reader possessed of more information on the subject than he really possesses, too little of the “how-to-do-it,” and 2nd by the inconsiderate use of unnecessary verbiage, and the introduction into practical topics of extraneous though cognate subjects, in other words too much padding—disquisitions upon the ethics or æsthetics of horticulture are out of place in such a work. We want a concise, intelligible exposition purely practical in its character of the best methods in fruit growing.

We have no lack of practical men capable of preparing such a hand book, and the Government of this province is surely paternal enough to bear the expense of printing a sufficient number for distribution. A pamphlet of this nature, distributed among our people by means of farmers' institutes, would have a wonderful effect in encouraging and stimulating fruit growing in our province.

Our repeated remonstrances and publication of plain, stern facts in reference to the way in which the transportation of fruit has been conducted by the carrying trade of this country, have had their effect, and although all cause for complaint has not been removed, evident improvement has been made in the handling of fruit and in its protection from theft in transit, indicating a desire and attempt on the part of the carrying companies to remedy evils and correct the abuses complained of. There is much less pilfering and petty thieving from packages than formerly, several cases were however reported to me, in all of which communication was had with the carrying company concerned, who as usual replied promising investigation into the matter. Prompt and persistent report of every grievance will greatly assist—and I may add constrain—the companies to “spot” and dismiss dishonest and incapable employés.

The fruit crop of the past season has been in many sections discouraging, the more so as following a season also much below the average. As a rule, however, small fruits have been produced abundantly, the crop of grapes has been phenomenally great with prices correspondingly low, the prices of other small fruits have been well maintained considering the great output. We have been again visited with a short crop in apples and pears. Our sister province, Nova Scotia, has been blessed with an unusually large yield of apples, and a similar condition of prosperity has been enjoyed in many sections of the great

republic to the continent, upon the corresponding quantity of apples exported from Liverpool and from all sources sent are not been much markets in this year's short full information

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