

showed that it took a deep interest in our welfare. We have reason to congratulate the Government on the success of their efforts to show the capabilities of our province, and we believe that our people will not be slow to avail themselves of the benefits which will accrue to them from the wide knowledge diffused with reference to the capabilities of our country. The past year has shown us more fully than any previous one something more of these capabilities. The crops of small fruits, with the exception of strawberries, were large in quantity and fine in quality. Strawberries gave early in the season good promise, but the scarcity of rain in the early summer caused a non-fulfilment of this promise. Plums, according to the reports I have received, were abundant through the whole peninsula, while in the Island of Cape Breton the crop was immense. Never before have so many apples been harvested by us; and as these form much the largest part of our fruit crop, and as the prices of superior fruit have been fair to good, a large sum will be received by growers.

It is a source of great gratification that the Dominion Government have made arrangements for the establishment of experimental farms, one of which is to be located in the Maritime Provinces. The whole matter has been placed in charge of Prof. William Saunders, of London, Ontario, than whom probably there is no more capable agriculturalist in the Dominion; and in his hands our fruit interests will be safe. As was anticipated, arrangements for the carrying of our fruit to Great Britain, at more favorable rates for the shipper, can now be made, and we may well hope that the high charges which have till recently prevailed, have quite passed away, never to return.

Allow me to reiterate the advice to our fruit growers, to take the greatest care in sorting and packing. The time has entirely passed by when it is possible to deceive the buyer by exposing the fine and fair fruit on the outside of the package, and filling up the centre with imperfect and spotted specimens. Buyers want fruit of good quality through and through, and he who attempts to deceive will soon find that his name will justly suffer reproach.

Bear in mind that the biennial meeting of the American Pomological Society is to be held in the City of Boston, in September of this year, and I urge you to make arrangements to have a full representation of our fruit growers at that meeting. It is especially desirable that any new fruit of good quality, not hitherto described, should be reported to that meeting, so that its merits may be made known.

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