

but depended wholly for his supply upon the annual clearing of his barnyard, be the stock sufficient for his crops or insufficient. He was a horticulturist, giving high culture to a small garden near the house, in which grew both the vegetables for the kitchen and the flowers for the parlor table. He was an apiarist and kept several hives of bees to furnish his own table with honey, and occasionally to furnish a surplus for the market. He was a dairyman and a stock breeder, having always a comfortable supply of butter and milk for home uses, and as much for market as, united with the eggs from his poultry department, could be exchanged for the prints and ribbons necessary for the adornment of his wife and daughters. He was also a carpenter, and when a new barn was needed he hewed the timber, constructed the frame, shingled the roof, and completed the building. He was a wagon and sleigh maker, and many an hour of winter leisure was well spent in making a woodsleigh, or in repairing his wagon. He made his own ropes, he tanned his own cow-skins, he made his own brine and butter tubs, he patched his own boots, and he even ground his own flour. In short the Canadian farmer of a hundred years ago knew little of the advantages of division of labor, but found it absolutely necessary to know a little about all the branches of work.

But now the circumstances have wholly changed. We have advanced in wealth and in culture. Specialties rule. A man of to-day must be a devotee of one idea if he would succeed. The post-office is no longer combined with the grocery, and the shoemaker has removed his bench from the dry-goods store.

Agriculture is the wide word; horticulture the narrow one. The former refers to the field, to the broad acres devoted to grain or stock; the latter to the garden, with its fruits, its flowers and its vegetables. So extended, however, has the culture of these become in the more favored portions of Ontario, that the word horticulture has become in some parts almost co-extensive with that of agriculture, and several large sections of the country are competing with each other for the title of "The Garden of Canada."

The aim of the writer of this paper is to indicate the pathway to practical success for the agriculturist who wishes to take up some horticultural specialty, and to engage for profit more or less, according to his means, in the culture of some kind of fruit, flower or vegetable in addition to his ordinary round of farm work. This he may do judiciously and make it serve his best interests; and in like manner might the fruit grower do a certain amount of farming, and make it serve to advance the profits of his proper business. But it is by no means necessary that the fruit grower should be also a farmer, nor that the farmer should also be a fruit grower, any more than it is essential to his success that he be a shoemaker, or a blacksmith. The day is passed when a man can profitably engage in many lines. Each of the subdivisions named above has grown into a science. Books and papers innumerable, written by men of practical experience, are now published on stock breeding, bee culture, horticulture, etc. Men are finding out in this year of 1889 that they must make a special study of that line of avocation which they intend to pursue, or others will surely surpass them in it. It has now become just as necessary for the gardener or the fruit grower to be trained to his profession if he would succeed as it is for the doctor or for the lawyer. I do not mean that he should be trained by the study of books alone, but by the study of books and journals relating to his life work, united with constant daily practical experience, under the guidance, if possible, of one who is himself a professional. In this way only can a man hope speedily to gain the acquirements needed for success. If it is too late in life for a man to become thus equipped himself, by all means have the boys thus prepared for their life work. The plan of living out for a year or two with a gardener, or a fruit grower, a stock breeder, or if he can afford it, at such a place as the Ontario Agricultural College, until the young man has learned the best methods of doing each thing, cannot be too highly commended.

At all events the time has come when our Canadian farmers must leave the old ruts if they would prosper, and turn their attention and thoughts and study to some one special branch. I do not say that horticulture surpasses every other and that it is the most profitable of any, but to me it is a charming pursuit, and I have faith in it as a reliable source of income, providing it is pursued with the same determination as that which characterises men in other lines of business.

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