

The Fruit Year in Nova Scotia.

A MEMORABLE SEASON IN THE HISTORY OF A
FLOURISHING INDUSTRY.
(BY PROF. E. E. FAVILLE.)

The past year has been a most prosperous one for the land of the "Bluenoses." Especially is this true in all the farming districts. In spite of the backward fall, beset with wet weather, the barns, cellars, and granaries are all well filled, bespeaking the possibilities of the "Province by the Sea." In all lines the common word has been "a bountiful harvest." Nature has been busy during the past year on every side, but she has not done it all, for the Nova Scotian farmer has not been idle. His brain, as well as his brawn, has been actively engaged in making the best of his opportunities. As a result, improved methods are noticed and a healthy growth observed all alone the line, more so during 1896 than ever before. During the year about to end, more meetings of Farmers' Institutes have been held, with a better feeling of co-operation, than in other years—a good sign. The development of fruit culture has eclipsed that of any other branch of farming, bringing larger revenues to the Province than any other two agricultural industries. This has been due largely to the efforts of the N. S. Fruit-Growers' Association, which

being opened up and planted. The "Gravenstein apple" of N. S. is celebrated the world over for its delicious flavor and color. Trees have been known to bear as high as twenty-five barrels of apples per tree. The principal farms in the Annapolis Valley are fruit farms. These farms are usually from twenty to thirty acres in extent.

The accompanying engraving shows a glimpse of "Willow Bank" fruit farm, near Wolfville, N. S. This is a typical fruit farm, the property of Mr. C. R. H. Starr, a leading fruit-grower. The cut shows a group of Gravenstein trees at packing time in September. There are about twenty acres of bearing orchard in this block. Some of the trees are not in full bearing; a portion of the trees are home-grown stock, which is always best, making hardier and healthier trees. Mr. Starr has the following varieties planted, viz.: Gravensteins, Ribstons, Kings, Golden Russets, Nonpareils, Baldwins, Blenheim, Pippin, and Northern Spy. The soil is a clay loam, well tile-drained. The orchard has been fertilized chiefly with stable manure and marsh mud (the latter being easy to obtain), supplemented with small quantities of bone meal, muriate of potash, and nitrate of soda. Young trees are all cultivated with hoed crops, while the older portion of the orchard is cultivated thoroughly in the spring and sown with buckwheat, plowing it under in the fall. "Willow Bank" has been made to pay every year

British Agriculture in 1896.

A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW FROM WHICH THE
CANADIAN FARMER CAN DRAW VALU-
ABLE LESSONS.

(BY ARCHIBALD McNEILAGE, EDITOR OF THE "SCOTTISH
FARMER" AND SECRETARY OF THE GLYDESDALE
SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.)

In some respects 1896 has been memorable in the history of British agriculture. It has witnessed a distinct revival in cattle breeding, a recovery in the dairy industry, a notable advance in the price of wheat, and an unusual activity in the sphere of legislation. These may be said to exhaust the favorable elements in the agricultural world. On the wrong side of the account we have had an uncertain, not to say bad harvest, a fall in the prices of sheep, and no revival worthy of the name in the realm of horse breeding. This applies to the general horse trade of the kingdom, but there have been notable sales in England of Shire horses when quite exceptional prices have been realized, and Irish hunting horses continue as of yore to hold the first place in the affections of gentlemen who follow the hounds. Times, taking the average all through, have not improved; money, with the average farmer, is a scarce commodity, and for the cattle feeder and grain grower in the Scottish Midlands the years 1895 and 1896 have probably been the worst he has ever experienced. This rapid summary of the situation must suffice by way of



HARVESTING GRAVENSTEIN APPLES ON "WILLOW BANK" FRUIT FARM, THE PROPERTY OF
MR. C. R. H. STARR, NEAR WOLFVILLE, NOVA SCOTIA.

each year extends the scope of its work, having, by the aid of the Provincial Government, established the aid of the Provincial Government, established and equipped a free school of horticulture, the only one on this Continent. The school is fitted for the education of the fruit-growers, and for the study of the many orchard problems, supplemented by a series of lectures given during the year in the fruit sections throughout the Province. The fruit industry is still in its infancy, having only during the last decade and a half claimed the general attention of the agriculturists, especially in the far-famed "Annapolis Valley," planted as it now is with thousands of apple, pear, plum, apricot, cherry, and peach trees, with acres of small fruits besides, including the development of large cranberry bogs. The past season shows a product in apples alone of over half a million barrels, the bulk of which find their way into the English markets at a profit to the grower. Although the crop has been large all over this Continent, the abundant yield and high grade of fruit make up in a great measure the decrease in price. The nearness to market makes Nova Scotia an easy com- petitor in the markets of the world, as she has a fine seaboard. The intensive system of planting is being carried on quite largely throughout the Province; a number of large plantations are owned and operated by stock companies. It is estimated that during the past year over 2,000 acres of large and small fruits were planted in Nova Scotia. In addition to the Annapolis Valley, there are many other localities equally as favorable to apple-growing now

large profits. This is only an example of hundreds of other similar cases.

A large portion of the orchards are fertilized wholly with commercial fertilizers. During the past few months a large apple-shipping company has been formed, with fruit-growers as stockholders, and promises to be the largest of its kind on the Continent. In connection with this work is the cold storage movement, now under full headway. The work has not rested in Nova Scotia alone, but has extended to the Provinces of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, a great impetus having been given to fruit-growing there during the past year. The year about to end has been a memorable one to the fruit-growers. The new year is welcomed with bright prospects for the future, as judged by the past. Proud of the country in which we live, we can but say with the poet—

"Lives there a man with soul so dead
Who never to himself has said,
This is my own, my native land."

A Cure for Hog Cholera.

Mr. Golligly, Lampton Co., Ont., has had a good opportunity of testing the virtues of the following mixture for hog cholera: Half a teacup each of mixture for hog cholera: Half a teacup each of copperas and sulphur added to half a bushel of fresh wood ashes. This mixture was left standing in troughs where the hog had free access to it. Mr. Golligly reports raising a large number of hogs this summer, surrounded by hog cholera infected farms on all sides, and his pigs entirely escaped the malady.

preface, and we proceed now within the narrow limits at our disposal to indicate, in the order named, the salient features of each department.

A REVIVAL IN CATTLE BREEDING.

Particulars have so recently been given of the prices recorded at the Shorthorn sales in the North of Scotland that it is unnecessary to recapitulate. All the breeds have shared in the revival, and it is long since the breeders of cattle had as good a time as they have had during the year now closing. The enhanced values are due to two causes: the extreme demand from the Argentine Republic for breeding bulls, especially of the Shorthorn and Aberdeen-Angus breeds; the active demand for Ayrshires from Sweden; and the growth of breeding, begotten of confidence from the passing of the Cattle Diseases Bill making slaughter at the port compulsory in the case of foreign cattle. In the ordinary commercial cattle trade Ireland has shared to an uncommon extent, and it is commonly reported amongst implement makers that it is much easier collecting money from Irish farmers than from farmers in other parts of the kingdom. It is generally admitted that store cattle from Ireland have greatly increased in quality in recent years, and this is generally, and we believe correctly, attributed to the use of improved Shorthorn bulls. The Shorthorn and the Shorthorn cross are favorites in Ireland, and this largely because the farmers there combine dairy farming with the breeding of store cattle for the British market.