

a much more successful career for the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association in the future than has taken place in the past, for the above mentioned reasons.

The annual grant from the Ontario Legislature is money well expended, and the legislators perform a good work when they appropriate that money for the use of the Association.

I was much delighted with the success of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association at the exhibition of fruits at the meeting of the American Pomological Society, in the City of Boston, in 1873. Should the season of 1876 prove favourable, the results which may be obtained for Ontario at the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia will probably equal or perhaps excel those just mentioned; whether or no, it will be of vast importance that the fruit growing capabilities of Ontario should be represented, seeing so many foreigners are likely to visit Philadelphia, and Ontario is particularly desirous of attracting immigrants to her shores. A few such successes as that attending the competition of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association in Boston in 1873 will have the effect of making emigration to this Province a much cheaper affair than at present, and emigration agents might refer to these results with very good effect in the old and densely populated countries of Europe.

Before closing this Report, I wish to suggest that the Fruit Growers' Association might very materially increase its usefulness by enlarging its sphere of action so as to take into consideration the cultivation of shade and ornamental trees, shrubs, &c., making itself as comprehensive as the State Horticultural Societies of the neighbouring Republic. It is unquestionably a matter of very great interest and importance. The cultivation of trees is not only attended with pleasure, but is beneficial in many ways. No home now-a-days can be said to be complete without being ornamented by a growth of trees. The beauty of a place is much augmented by a few well-selected shade or ornamental trees planted here and there, especially if they are planted according to the rules of ornamental or landscape gardening.

The beneficial results accompanying their culture are numerous; the cooling shade they afford is known and appreciated by all, the effect they have upon the temperature is appreciable, heat is constantly radiating from their surfaces, a matter of no small moment in such a climate as ours. This is especially the case with evergreens, and if these were interspersed in planting with our fruit trees, the process would be of much value to the less hardy kinds, besides the protection from high winds. Tree planting is of great consequence in the way of forming shelter belts on exposed places. Orchards and no doubt agricultural lands would be the better of being surrounded by such defenders from the prevailing winds of this country.

Then there is the fact of the present stock of timber becoming exhausted; it will be at a somewhat remote period no doubt, but the time will come when tree culture will become a necessity. In some countries, at the present time, owners of forest lands are compelled by law to plant a tree for every tree used, and what is now true of such countries will in time be true of this.

But the most important reason for the cultivation of trees is to be found in the fact that they are purifiers of the atmosphere. The recognition of this fact is more particularly of value to large cities and towns where the population is dense. One of the chief constituents of vegetable food is carbonic acid gas, found in the air; and being a poison, if allowed to accumulate in the air, would be destructive to animal life. The breathing of animals would very soon surcharge the atmosphere, as they emit carbonic acid gas at every expiration, thereby tending to render it unfit for the maintenance of animal life. It is also formed from decomposing animal and vegetable substances constantly going on and constantly pouring this poison into the air.

The injurious accumulation of this gas in the atmosphere is prevented by plants continually absorbing it for their own sustentation. A reciprocal action between the two kingdoms, animal and vegetable, is always in progress, whereby the life and welfare of each is promoted and sustained. It would be the duty of a Society thus constituted to guide the public mind to a right and proper understanding and appreciation of these and many other facts in connection with the subject under consideration. I am satisfied that hitherto this matter has not received that attention that its importance demands. The happiness, health and prosperity of the people will be increased as soon as this subject receives at their hands that consideration it deserves.

S. B. SMALE, M. B.

Wroxeter, Dec. 11th, 1875.

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