

Papers for Amateur Fruit Growers.

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No. VI.

THE APPLE—(CONTINUED)—VARIETIES FOR MIDDLE ONTARIO.

As we advance southward the number of varieties which succeed will rapidly increase. A large part of middle Ontario, using the latitude of Peterborough as a centre, is adapted to apple culture.

But even where a large number of varieties may be successfully grown, there is no advantage in growing many of them, either for home use or for market. Indeed a few of the very best for each season are all that should be planted, unless by the connoisseur who wishes to make a study of kinds.

Mr. Thos. Beal, who represents Agricultural Division No. 5, or the counties of Victoria, Peterborough, Durham and Northumberland in the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario, speaking perhaps more particularly of the vicinity of Lindsay, recommends the following list of kinds for that section for succession, viz.:—*Duchess, Red Astracan, St. Lawrence, Wealthy, Grimes Golden, Northern Spy, Golden Russet and Tolman Sweet.*

Of these the *Duchess* and the *Red Astracan* are competing for the first place among summer apples, and the former seems to have the preference, being as early as the latter in the section above referred to, and a better market apple.

The *Grimes Golden* is so named from its rich yellow color when ripe. Its season is December to April, and its quality is the best. It is a very promising apple for exportation.

The *St. Lawrence* is a red-striped apple, a little larger than the *Fameuse*, of which it is probably a seedling. It ripens in September, and the tree is very hardy. The apple is highly prized by growers about Montreal, but a writer from Vermont says it is unprofitable there owing to cracks and spots.

The *Fameuse* has been left out of the list because of spotting. Reports from Huron, Simcoe and parts of Bruce speak of it as often worthless for this reason; but Mr. Francis Peck, of Hastings, stated at one of the meetings of the Fruit Growers' Association that he had an orchard of five hundred trees of this variety, and that he considered it the most profitable apple he could grow. It is also most favorably reported by growers in Dundas and Stormont, and is most popular among the orchardists about Montreal.

The *Baldwin*, *Greening*, *Rox Russet*, *King*, and even the *Spy*, need to be planted very sparingly in the middle portions of Ontario, as they are all too tender for most localities, unless under very favorable conditions.

The *Ribston Pippin* succeeds fairly well in the region under consideration. It is one of the most valuable early winter apples grown, and is highly prized in the English market. Mr. Donald's Seedling, the *Ontario*, is also highly spoken of in Huron County, as an apple for export.

The *Yellow Transparent* should not be omitted for very early, to take the place of the old *Early Harvest*, which is now a failure in so many places; and the *Wealthy* for one of the winter varieties, especially in exposed sections, where hardiness is required. The quality of

the *Tetofsky* is too poor, and the size too small, to make it desirable in middle or Southern Ontario.

VARIETIES FOR SOUTHERN ONTARIO.

We now come to Southern Ontario, or that part of the Province which is partially surrounded by Lakes Ontario, Erie, and the Southern part of Lake Huron. This is the natural home of the apple. Here almost every variety may be grown, and the planter has only to consider the beauty and excellence of each in setting out an orchard. As a consequence, apple orchards here abound on almost every farm, and in some instances horticulture forms a more important branch of husbandry than agriculture.

The apples grown in this part of Canada are justly famous, the world over, for their fine size, beautiful rich colors, and superior excellence of flavor.

From his own experience as a fruit grower in the Niagara Peninsula, the writer would recommend a selection from the list of varieties enumerated below.

Among summer apples, the *Early Harvest* must be discarded, if it persists in spotting; but last season it was comparatively clear again, and may be sparingly planted. No apple is more desirable for dessert at home, and, when clear, no apple of its season is more profitable for market. It may be used for cooking in July, while still green, and it is excellent for eating early in August, when it becomes a bright straw colored; but it is then too soft for shipping, unless in baskets. The tree is rather small, and yields only about three or four barrels every other year, but the price for good clean fruit is usually sufficient to more than make up the quantity.

The *Red Astracan* pretty closely succeeds the *Early Harvest*, but it ripens so unevenly that its season of harvesting may be much prolonged. I shipped them last season, almost daily, from the first of August until the first of September, gathering them just as fast as they reached their full color. This apple attains its greatest perfection in Southern Ontario, growing to a fine large size, and acquiring a deep crimson color, overspread with an exquisite bloom, like that of the plum. In quality, it is a cooking apple, but its beauty makes it a most showy table apple.

The *Duchess of Oldenburg*, a showy, red-streaked apple, ripens early in September, and therefore keeps up the supply of fancy fruit during that month. No apple of its season can compare with it in beauty, and being firmer than the *Red Astracan*, it will bear shipping to a much more distant market.

Of fall apples, one of the most desirable is the *Gravenstein*, a large German apple, beautifully dashed and marbled with red and orange, which ripens in October.

The *Ribston Pippin*, which, in the northern sections, may be classed as an early winter apple, is here a fall apple, unless in exceptional seasons. Shipped to the English market very early, even before it has attained its full color, it is very profitable, notwithstanding the small size of the tree.

The *Calcott* grows here to a remarkably fine size, and becomes well shaded with dull red on the sunny side. It is a fine cooking apple, and very desirable for home use or market.

The *Maiden's Blush* is the most beautiful fall apple we have, rivaling in appearance even

the famous *Lady apple*. Here in the Niagara Peninsula it reaches its highest perfection, and when shipped to foreign markets it brings the very best prices.

The *Fall Pippin* is perhaps the best fall apple for home use in existence, but of late years it has been quite worthless in the Niagara district as a market apple, on account of ugly spots which completely ruin its appearance.

(Concluded in the next number.)

Ontario Fruit Growers' Association.

The winter meeting of this Association was held in Stratford on the 10th and 11th ult. Stratford is the newest city in the Province, and possesses some interesting features as a fruit centre. It is near one of the highest elevations in the Province; the soil is mainly stiff clay, and many of the old pioneers of the city are passionately devoted to fruit growing, although the surrounding farmers, with a few exceptions, are deplorably behind the times in this important branch of our agricultural industry. Stratford has a large and flourishing Horticultural Society, and is noted for its enthusiastic Arbor Day.

The Association is becoming very conservative and its meetings are very monotonous. The discussions are not as profitable as they should be. The local fruit authorities go to learn, not to impart knowledge, and their statements are void of accuracy. As a rule, they know very little about the names of the varieties of fruits and vegetables which they grow, and we often hear of names which are unknown to the best authorities. Many of them appear to have secrets about cultivation, bug destruction, etc., which they do not wish to impart for fear of their neighbors stealing a march on them at the exhibitions. Others only know what their wives and daughters tell them, and by the time their information gets into the report, it is a jumbled mass of inaccuracy and obscurity. Some of the higher dignitaries assert that they would be able to impart valuable information providing their books or their foremen were at their elbow while they are haranguing the meeting. This system would not be so wicked if the reports of the meetings were not published at the public expense, and broadcasted all over the Province for the confusion of fruit-growers, farmers and gardeners who are unable to attend the meetings.

The Association is aggressive. This is exemplified by their discussion on fences. They would unceremoniously eradicate the fence "abomination" without consulting the farmers in the matter. They go on the presumption that fences are of no use except to keep out one's neighbor's stock. A fruit man who has no stock himself would be glad to have all fences abolished; but the farmer, who wants to fence in his own stock as well as fence out his neighbor's, would not vote for converting his rails and posts into bon fires. Figures, named a "self-imposed tax," have been paraded to show the enormous cost of keeping up fences, but the credit side of the account was not even mentioned. If no fences existed the arguments would have been sound, but it is cheap to let a fence alone than to engage a herd boy to look after the stock. The abolition of fences must take place slowly, commencing with the older localities, and the matter should be left entirely to the option of the respective municipalities. Mr. J. A. Morton (Wingham) expounded the fence law, saying