

FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE COUNTY OF SHEFFORD.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.

The beginning of a new year is a fit time to take a retrospective view of the year that has so recently been rolled up in the scroll of the past. This course of procedure might, with much propriety, be voluntarily pursued in all the affairs of public and private life; but, it is rendered obligatory upon us as an Association, as the Council of Agriculture has wisely prescribed and enforces its observance.

As you are aware, our Association was organized in the year 1881, and in its earliest childhood was recognized by the Council of Agriculture, and awarded a grant of fifty dollars. In September 1881, we held, with official sanction, a joint exhibition with the Abbotsford Fruit Growers' Association, in the Town Hall, Granby, the details of which have been submitted to you in the report last year. Contrasting the number of entries in the year 1881, when united with Abbotsford, with the number of entries in 1882, when we stood alone, we think you will find unmistakable evidence of expansion and of a growing public interest. In 1881 the entries in the three departments, Fruits, Vegetables and Pot Plants and Flowers were respectively 199, 188, and 75, making a total of 462, whilst in 1882 the numbers in the three departments were respectively 159, 216 and 105, making a total of 480.

Our entries in fruit last year were less than in the year preceding, but you must remember that we had a year exceptionally bad for fruit culture, and most disastrous to the orchardist. Notwithstanding this untoward circumstance, we had upon the tables 337 plates of apples, including crabs and hybrids, and in the two sections of single plates—"Duchess" and "Alexander" we had