

# THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

VOL. XXI.

TORONTO,

1898.

MARCH.

NO. 3.



## THE ORCHARDS AND GARDENS OF ORILLIA.

**F**ORTY years ago, the district of country now known as East Simcoe was a *terra incognita* to most of the rest of the world.

Lumbermen were aware that there was still there a good deal of first-class pine, white oak, and other valuable timber; but it was generally supposed that the land was little fitted for agricultural, and not at all for horticultural purposes; therefore when, a few years ago, the Fruit Growers' Association annual meeting was held in the town of Orillia, a most agreeable surprise was awaiting the officers and visiting members, in the magnificent display of apples and other fruits which had been provided for the occasion by the local Horticultural Society, a display which had never before, nor has been since equalled at any winter meeting of the Association. There are now but few farmers in East Simcoe without their orchard of apple trees, varying in size from a half to five acres in extent, whilst in the vicinity of Orillia the apple crop has grown to be

one of commercial importance, and is yearly increasing in quantity and quality. All but the most tender varieties of apples are successfully grown, the hardier fall sorts, such as Duchess, always yielding heavy crops of most excellent fruit; the Wealthy is also proving a valuable variety, being hardy and productive; American Golden Russet, Snow and Pewaukee are also hardy and do well.

Of course, all the early apples, such as Red Astrachan, Yellow Transparent, etc., are suitable and give good returns.

A first-class hardy winter apple, to follow the Wealthy, would be a great boon. In some localities the Spy succeeds well, in others the Wagener (a grand dessert apple), King of Tompkins, etc. But none of them can be entirely relied upon. The Wolf River, lately introduced, has fruited pretty well during 1897, is a very handsome and fine apple, but belongs to a class already well filled—fall or early winter.

All the small fruits grow to perfection,