

We hear of apple trees in 1633, when they are mentioned as growing on the banks of the Dauphin, the L'Equille, and the L'Original rivers and in the neighborhood of Basin des Mines, alongside the banks of the Riviere des Canards and of the Gaspereaux, where they had been planted by the early French settlers of Acadia.

Whether the early efforts of Champlain to introduce the apple on the banks of the St. Lawrence were as successful as his attempts to grow vegetables, we are unable to say.

Pierre Boucher, in 1664, twenty-nine years after Champlain's death, wrote: "The soil of Montreal is better than elsewhere and produces melons and onions in abundance." He remarks that in the country of the Iroquois (south of Lake Ontario) "one sees fruit trees in abundance."—negative evidence that they were not to be seen in any great numbers along the St. Lawrence further to the northward around Montreal and lower down the river. He describes the wild plums of Canada "as very good but not equal to those of France." "Two kinds of gooseberries are found in the woods." "There are red and white currants; also small red cherries of passable flavour." "The quantity of raspberries and strawberries is incredible, and they are larger and better flavoured than those in France; blackberries also are as good as in our gardens." "There are blueberries and many other small fruits whose names I do not know. Wild grapes, also, of which wine is made with much colour, very sour at first, but better after a year. Some persons have introduced grapes from France, which bear large and beautiful fruit." "Not many trees have been introduced from France except some apple trees which bear very fine fruit in large quantities, but there are not many trees yet."

Here we have a survey that fairly enough describes Canada at that stage in her development which marks increasing attention to fruit culture. In the Abenaki of the east, as the Indians called the Acadian land, the "land of the dawn," the experiment had passed beyond the tentative stage, and the valleys of the Annapolis and of the Cornwallis rivers were fringed with apple trees, while in the Valley of the St. Lawrence the possibilities of the future had begun to be dimly foreshadowed. The adaptability of the country to fruit culture seemed assured by the prolific results of nature's efforts and of man's skill.

Specimens of several of the classes of fruits are to be seen by an