

and growing seedlings from them and propagating these by layers and distributing them among the people, we are doing a work which is much appreciated. Should the experiments now being tried on the *Pyrus Baccata* prove successful, and the further work of producing good varieties from the wild plum and the Sand Cherry by careful selection meet with good results, we have along these three lines of work some promise of useful fruits for this western country in the near future.

SOME NATIVE FRUITS.—In some districts wild strawberries are found, but not to any extent—the wild raspberry is much commoner. The fruit of the wild black currant is also common, and is used very generally, though it is rather strong in flavor. The Saskatoon berry is another favorite fruit in that country, and in plentiful years it is collected in large quantities and dried. The fruit is very much like what we know in the east as the Shad bush or June berry, and reminds one somewhat of the Blueberry in its flavor, and is a very good berry, especially if you are fruit hungry and cannot get anything else of that sort to eat. The Pin Cherry, *Prunus Pennsylvanica*, which grows in the east also has a very small fruit, yet it is regarded there with favor by many people, who gather it and make jams and jellies from the little pulp there is over the stone; and by gathering plenty of the fruit one can succeed in getting a reasonable amount of jelly. These smaller fruits, with the wild plum, the Sand Cherry, and further east down towards Rat Portage the Blueberry, make rather a meagre bill of fare. Hence there is a very large demand for good fruit, most of which Ontario and British Columbia could supply, but up to the present time about eighty per cent. of it has been supplied by the United States, some of it coming from California, some from Oregon and Washington, and some from the Western States of Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota. It seems scarcely creditable to the enterprise of our fruit growers that four-fifths of all the fruit that is at present used over this whole stretch of country, populated at present probably by nearly 250,000 people, is sent in from the United States. Here is a market that Ontario should do something to capture.

FRUIT GROWING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA—Let us see what British Columbia is doing, and what she can probably supply. Crossing the Rocky Mountains at a height about 5 000 or 6,000 feet you descend on the other side into what is known as the Columbia Valley, where the first crossing of the Columbia River occurs. In this valley, from Golden to Donald, which is at an altitude of about 2,530 feet, and much sheltered by high mountains, some experiments are being carried on in fruit growing, and although they have not been conducted long enough to demonstrate much, still there seems to be fair prospects of success with some of the hardier fruits in that valley. The Columbia River flows north at the first crossing, and makes a great bend above the base of the Selkirk range of mountains, and then flows south, so that after crossing the Selkirks, which form the second range of mountains at about the same altitude as that at which the Rockies are crossed, you descend into another valley where the Columbia is crossed the second time, and there the altitude is less. At that second crossing, at Revelstoke, it is only 1,475 feet—about 300 feet higher than we have at Brandon—and much more sheltered. There the climate is milder, and along that river valley from Revelstoke down to Rossland there have been within the last three or four years some very successful efforts made in the way of growing small fruits, and there are a few old-timers who have been there a number of years who have had apples and other trees which have been producing of late fairly good crops of fruit. Hence that may be taken as the beginning of the fruit growing district, or the eastern extremity of the fruit growing districts of British Columbia. After the third range of mountains known as the Gold range, is crossed, which is not nearly as high as either the Rockies or Selkirks, you strike another series of valleys at a point which you will find on the railway guide marked as Sycamous, a station which is 1,300 feet above the sea level, and stands at the head of what is called the Spulmacheen valley which extends south about 30 miles, and south of that lies the Okanagan valley, which most of you have heard of as a fruit growing district, where Lord Aberdeen has a large ranch, and has a 200 acre apple orchard which is coming into bearing very nicely. There is quite a large number of apples produced in that valley, but they get prices such as you would not dream of getting here. I travelled through that district in August last and visited Lord