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## The Future of the Apple in Ontario\*

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THE future of the apple trade in Ontario rests upon several natural conditions, soil, climate, markets, transportation and the trend of trade, as well as upon the character of the men who are growing the fruit and the character of the men who are handling it. I will also assume that men will do what is for their best interests, although I am perfectly well aware that not infrequently this rule of action is violated. On the whole it would be more correct, perhaps, to say that I am endeavoring to show the lines along which the apple industry should develop rather than the actual development that will take place.

Of the various elements that enter into this problem I propose to select a few, the importance of which has been overlooked, or which are not likely to be handled by others. Some of the most important I will pass over with just a simple reference. Transportation, for instance, is a most important element in connection with the future development of the apple industry. Soil is also another important element. Fortunately here I need say little, inasmuch as there are few parts of Ontario where the soil is unsuitable for the culture of apples. Some parts may be slightly better than others, but on the other hand the conditions are so uniform and the question so local that it may fairly well be omitted in an investigation of this kind.

### GEOGRAPHY, TOPOGRAPHY AND VARIETIES

I shall confine myself more particularly to questions of climate and the selection of suitable varieties for local conditions and the trend of trade with special reference to the markets. For the purpose of developing these points, I have drawn a map marking the various portions of it to suit the conditions which I believe prevail with reference to temperature and climate generally. I will use this map for the purpose of drawing your attention to certain physical features that have a most important bearing on the development of apples, a bearing that has been entirely overlooked in the planting of the orchards of Ontario. Nevertheless, by a process of the survival of the fittest, the

trend of apple orcharding is shaping itself very nearly as the physical features of the province would dictate. In any case, the development of markets and the distribution of population has proceeded so rapidly within the last quarter of a century that those who planted the orchards 25 years ago can scarcely be blamed if they did not foresee some of the results that were inevitable now that their orchards should be in full bearing.

### APPLES AND ALTITUDES

I would first draw attention to the heights of land. This element in the determination of climate is not a striking one in Ontario. Nevertheless, the net results of height above the sea level

### Ranks High

The last issue of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST is most creditable to the publishers. It takes rank high up among the outdoor magazines.—*The Busy Man's Magazine.*

are just as definite and just as effective as in mountainous districts such as British Columbia. The traveller in British Columbia can stand at the foot of a slope and pick tender flowers, but raising his eyes but a few hundred feet, he can see the whole mountain top covered with snow and, perhaps, even with glaciers that never disappear. The result is brought about solely by the differences in the height between the base of the mountain and its top.

The slopes in Ontario are so gradual that we are not aware of the heights we reach. I would, therefore, play the schoolmaster to the extent of noting that Lake Huron is 575 feet above the sea level, Lake Erie 565, and Lake Ontario 262 feet. Compared with this we have: Chatham, 589 feet, London 805, Brantford 705, Stratford 1,189, Durham 1,687, Walkerton 931, Mount Forest 1,348, Orangeville 1,557, Lindsay 854, Peterboro 649, Ottawa 215, Montreal 47.

### FOUR FRUIT DISTRICTS

The accompanying map of Ontario divides the province into four divisions for apple culture. District No. 1 grows

all the tender fruits, such as peaches, apricots, dwarf pears of all varieties, tender and all varieties of apples, plums, pears, cherries, etc. This region is specially adapted to early fruits and vegetables, being from ten days to two weeks ahead of the districts surrounding the large markets.

District No. 2 grows excellent winter apples of all varieties to perfection. It is characterized by a large number of comparatively small orchards containing numerous varieties of fruit. Many portions are excellently adapted for plum and pear culture.

District No. 3 is specially adapted for winter apples. There are many large orchards especially on the shore of Lake Ontario. The farmers here are making a specialty of orcharding. A district on the Nottawasaga Bay should be classed with District 3, having large orchards of comparatively few varieties of winter fruit.

In district No. 4 the ordinary winter varieties are not hardy. This district, however, grows Fameuse, McIntosh Red, Wealthy and Wolf River to perfection. The first two are dessert apples that, if properly packed, should command the very highest prices as dessert apples. The midland counties of western Ontario, on account of their altitude, must be classed with district No. 4. In this district the ordinary winter varieties grown in the adjacent counties are not hardy.

The height of land embracing the counties of Dufferin, Wellington, Perth, and Waterloo, renders the winter climate frequently so severe as to make it impossible to grow the tenderer varieties of apple trees. We are, therefore, obliged to put these counties in the same apple district as the northern portion of the province, which I have designated as district No. 4, and which includes the valley of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Valley, roughly as far as Kingston. For the purpose of the apple industry I need only consider the more favored portions of this district No. 4, where they grow the Fameuse and McIntosh Red, the Wolf River, Duchess and Wealthy. Such varieties as the Spy, Baldwin, Cranberry Pippin, King, etc., are altogether too tender for this.

\*An address delivered before the recent convention of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association.